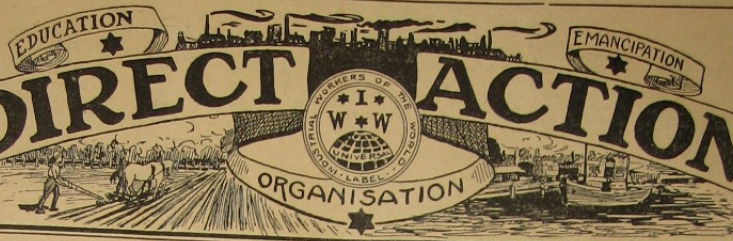


ONE UNION. ONE LABEL. ONE ENEMY.



VOL. 4., No. 127

SYDNEY.

June 23rd 1917. ONE PENNY

Queensland Organisers at Work.

Following upon the incidents as related in this article under "Direct Action," it was outlined that Brown and Jackson, last Tuesday night addressed a huge concourse of workers at Alligator Creek Meat Works. A magnificent reception was accorded the speaker their talk being punctuated frequently with applause.

The small supply of literature was readily snapped up by eager buyers.

Last Sunday night saw one of the greatest stunts ever enacted in this burg. Great excitement prevailed during the time in anticipation of something extraordinary happening on Sunday. On the Thursday evening previous, a meeting was advertised to take place on the Beach near the band stand. A heavy-weight John, acting under his ruse as the Mayor, had the name changed to the edge of the sea. This action being mooted abroad and not knowing what counter-action we intended, the minds of the workers, police, municipal councillors and Harbour and River Board members were much agitated.

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consequently an enormous crowd assembled on Sunday night. Readers must understand that the band plays on the beach from 8.45 p.m. until 10 p.m., and the only chance for us was to commence at 7.30 and finish at 8.45 p.m. We received the office that did we speak near the stand the arm of the law would embrace us. However, just to attract the crowd we placed a hurricane lamp in a prominent position near the regular form.

A huge crowd gathered in the vicinity. Promptly at 8 o'clock Jackson picked up the light, and the procession commenced its journey seawards. Stately West, like the Gallies of old, spoke to the multitude from the water. Dressed as a parson and declaiming in parsonic style, West administered the ethics with telling effect. Even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to laugh.

Harvey was the next speaker, and had barely spoken five minutes when an inspector with a bodyguard of husky uniformed assistants pushed through the crowd and demanded a cessation of hostilities under a pain of instant arrest. Harvey left the stump, and Jackson announced that the meeting would be continued at a spot some quarter of a mile further up the beach, outside the enclosure.

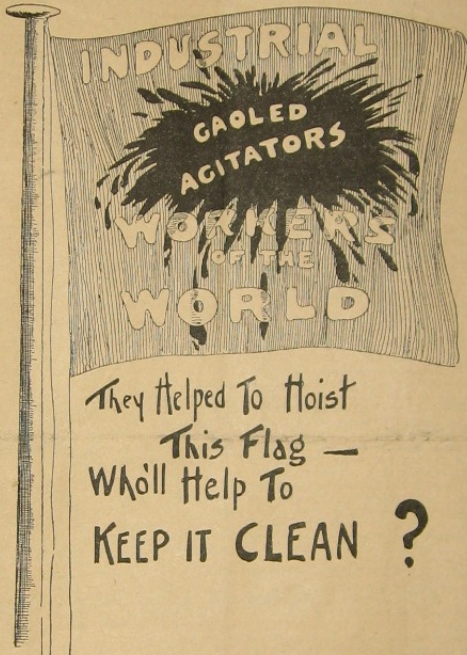
Then commenced a second procession. The crowd still followed the light, headed by Jackson. A halt was called, and the operations re-started to the tune of a mighty cheer. Jackson, Harvey, and Brown spoke with such telling effect that our friends the enemy, reinforced the police, a motor car was requisitioned, but fortunately was not used, no one being arrested.

The appeal for the collection brought in £4 11s 1d, 112 song books, and 150 "Direct Action" were sold. Next Sunday afternoon Jackson is billed to lecture in the Theatre Royal. The Mayor in his infinite wisdom has decided to prevent it. A grand note is sure to roll up, as tickets are selling rapidly. The Mayor has ordered a stirring up, and they are so agitated, because of police and Mayoral oppression, that a demonstration which will live long in the memory of Townsville is due Sunday.

Jackson attended the Theatre Royal on Sunday morning for the purpose of addressing the Waterside workers on behalf of the Defence and Release Committee. The Chairman told the workers present that the Mayor had intimated that in the event of Jackson being admitted, they would be debarred from holding their meetings in the Theatre Royal. As a consequence, Jackson was turned down, but will be at the pay office along with Brown on Tuesday and Wednesday, to raise funds from the Waterside workers.

The Sunday next, if turned down at the Theatre Royal, we intend having a procession to a spot to be selected where Jackson will deliver his lecture. Future progress will show that W. W. W. Organisation is receiving a great boost, and future prospects are bright.

Yours in action, GEE BEE.



LATER. JUNE 27th.

Tuesday and Wednesday being pay-day at the various shipping companies, Jackson and Brown attended to receive subscriptions from the many Waterside workers. A few more donations are expected, and the amount should easily reach the £14 mark.

While Brown was collecting down the Adelaide wharf, Jackson made his way to the Railway Workshops for the purpose of addressing the men there. The germ of an idea had evidently made a virulent attack upon the Railway officials, for immediately Jackson showed himself at the gate, an abject slave, who had gone without his dinner in order to do his master's bidding, barred the way. The slave, growing white about the gills, and attempting a show of firmness, ordered Jackson to remain outside. Jackson told him to go and get his stomach filled with a feast, as possibly he'd be in a better humor. At this juncture a message came through for Jackson to make a flanking movement and attack the enemy in the rear. A river runs close to the works, and a boat was needed to insure success. A boat was found, but no one. Meanwhile, the slaves behind the barrier were excitedly watching events, and the officials, fearing for their entitlement, rang up the police. Jackson made a detour of 300 yards, rounded through, ankle-deep in mud and at last reached a heap of ashes, from which he delivered a stirring address to his interested auditors. "John," carrying out his master's orders, and looking decidedly sheepish and uncomfortable, came hopping through the mud to take up a stand near the speakers. Why the action was known. Possibly, he wanted to act as chairman. The whole incident shows to what extent the toiling, narrow-minded, biased slaves will go in order to stop their slaves from hearing the truth.

Their action, however, is not unwelcome, for it only goes to advertise the movement, and develop a keen interest in the good work being done. It also impresses the mind of the working plugs with the fact that they are living in the most free and enlightened democracy the world has ever seen. Glory be!

On Tuesday evening Brown and Jackson had an engagement at Alligator Creek. Being busy on the wharves, it was impossible to catch the mid-day train. Not to be outdone a pony and sulky were hired, and the Creek made in record time. Many of the boys had retired for the night, but the vigorous banging of the gong brought them from their beds to the usual forum. It is a real pleasure to address the men at the Creeks as a result of the propaganda the movement will be strengthened by the addition of some fine sturdy militarians. Song books have been eagerly bought, and on our arrival the Alligator Creek Choir was busy singing "wobbly songs with great gusto. Being convinced that an organised effort to win the right of free expression throughout Queensland will shortly be made, and knowing the necessity for publicity, a free-tilde column article was sent to the "Standard" and "Truth" (Brisbane), set forth an account of the disabilities encountered in Townsville. If some of our "viridly democratic" (?) remain obdurate and insist on "democratically" destroying free speech, they'll be right up against a doxose snag immediately the sugar season is over.

VERB SAP

P.S. - The Alligator Creek workers at the meeting described above donated 2% in order to cover cost of hire of pony and sulky which amounted to 10s. To therefore will be accounted as collection.

G. B.

MELBOURNE.

On June 10th, F. W. Wilson lectured on "Imperialism" in a lecture gave a masterly outline of the causes that led up to the present war, showing the subtleties of "dollar" diplomacy and high finance. Germany's quest for territorial expansion was touched upon and in conclusion the lecturer emphasized the necessity for a mutual understanding between workers of different countries. Interesting discussion revealed strong sentiments in favor of the repudiation of national debt.

The meeting on the Bank was large and enthusiastic and the singing of "Love Harrod Preachers" evoked much amusement. Fellow Workers here are full of enthusiasm, and a fine spirit of optimism prevails as to the future of Industrial Unionism.

A. E. D.

FOREIGNER OR I.W.W.

A bald-headed man, answering the name of Benjamin Goldberg, who was born at Leeds, England, served seven years in the British Army won through the South African war; was an honest and having several years' outdaze, was arrested in Townsville, N. Queensland, last week for being a foreigner.

Goldberg interrupted at a recruiting meeting and even went so far as to ask the speaker if he had ever been a soldier. He said that he had, got fitted, and was afterwards arrested. When it was discovered who Ben was, and that the alien charge would not hold good, he was immediately charged with being a member of the I.W.W. This charge in the opinion of the "beak" was infinitely worse than being a foreigner, as was later shown.

Result: One month's free board and lodging at the State expense.

Ben is at last rewarded for all his scrags for the Empire, and is to be the guest of His Majesty for one month.

How Like Australia (?)

BANQUETED IN JAIL.

On Sunday, April 22nd, the rebel women of Seattle gave a banquet to the Everett prisoners in the County Jail. A long table was placed in the corridor of the jail, and after this was set the boys came from their tank and were forced to run the gauntlet of the women who prepared the feast, but in this instance they came thru smiling, and if there were any ill-effects they were due to too much hand-banking. The feast lasted two and one-half hours, and was very much enjoyed by the boys and more so by those who had the pleasure of serving them.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn pronounced a benediction in the true Flynn style. When her appetites had been partially appeased Fellow Worker Flynn made a short talk, telling the boys of the activities on the outside, and also gave them the best of developments of the Mooney case. Caroline Love was then asked to speak, but she requested that the programme be turned over to the boys, who then sang "Hold the fort" and "Fellow Worker songs."

Just as the ice cream and cake were being served, Fellow Workers Thos. H. Tracy, who had taken his deputy out for a long walk, returned to the jail. He was accompanied by cheerers, and then invited to join the party as a thering. The boys were greatly pleased to have Tracy among them, even for a short time, as they had not seen him since the trial started.

A general social time was then had until the boys went back to their tank, when the hope was expressed that the boys next banquet might be held at Desmond Link.

"Where is it written in the Constitution, that you may take children from their parents?" was the question that night the bastards of the law, who with the full consciousness of government, say against Daniel Webster.

Direct Action

LA AND ORDER.

(By Harry Melrose.)



WEEKLY

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of the

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"Herald" Economics.

There is nothing gets the boss so much as the demand for a shorter work day. The agitation for shorter hours which has been spreading in New South Wales has been causing some stir amongst the employers of labor.

Even the "Sydney Morning Herald" has blundered into the discussion, and a nice mess it has made of things. In its issue of June 11th, in an editorial, this journal of bosson attempt to show the "fallacy of shorter hours."

After a few spasms in an attempt to find his level, the "Herald" scribe, who seems to have been dug up from some antique show, says: "If the hours were reduced from eight to six the opportunities for pleasure would be increased. But would the workers make use of these opportunities rationally? Men are not all built in the same mould, nor are they all saints." What profound reasoning!

The "Herald" economist is afraid that if the toilers got two hours a day less toil they might become irrational. How monstrous a thing! The interests of the master class will be termed irrational. But we will look at it from a broader viewpoint. Does the "Herald" scribe know that what is called rational by one man is very un-rational to another; what is health giving to one will mean death to another; what is good and moral to one might be bad and immoral to another. One man might spend his time at the sports ground or the athletic club, another will prefer the library and the lecture hall; one will spend his time in his garden and his house, another will be found at a vaudeville show. But who is to our view is rational and what is not; which is a natural question and is not.

But perhaps the "wise guy" on the "Herald" staff believes that the time of some men would be spent in the drinking saloons, gambling dens, and other places of evil. We admit that that might be so, but we want to know, Mr. Leader Wright, how can that argument be used against the shorter work day? Why should thousands of workers be condemned to long and excessive hours because some toil stunted slaves cannot follow the path of rectitude?

If one "wise economist" had lived in the days when 12 hours constituted a day's work, and he suggested to reduce the hours to ten, he would no doubt have raved about the impracticability of the thing. He would have spoken about the immoral effects that any ex-cess would have upon the

unemployed, who have plenty of spare time, have acted "irrationally," or become degenerates. The unemployed is supposed largely of unskilled workers, and they seem to be the people our "virtuous" friend on the "Herald" seems afraid of, but they have given no cause for the line of "reason" this confused economist trots out.

The next "weighty" thrust is that less

hours a day would not absorb the unemployed. No argument is advanced as to why the unemployed would not be absorbed, but we will suppose that he had some idea at the back of his mind, some where, that new absorbing appliances and speeding up would be introduced. The installation of labor displacing machinery is the natural sequence to a shorter work day, but it will take years before all the industries can be equipped with the new machines that will do the work in six hours that was previously done in eight hours. In the meantime, thousands of our workers get a job.

It should be plain to all that if two hours a day less was worked on every job, thousands more men would be needed to meet the demands and keep up the output.

The worker is always justified in reducing his hours of toil while there is a profit being made out of his labor.

Yes, a shorter work day will absorb the unemployed for the time being, and it is the duty of the working class to fight for less hours, not only as a temporary benefit, but because it is a big step along the road to a shorter work day.

The master class apologist continues: "If it is continued indefinitely we would come down to a one hour day, which has only to be stated to show its ridiculousness."

Since this "intellectual giant" has mentioned it, we might ask: Why would a one hour day be ridiculous? If all the necessities of life could be produced in one hour with everybody working, how is it ridiculous?

It is the "Herald" scribbler and his ideas that are ridiculous.

We must either work eight hours a day or be out of work is the way some benighted slaves reason and it is this ignorance that the "Herald" guy is pandering.

A one hour work day seems strange to some people because they have not experienced it. Anything new is repulsive to some people.

The aboriginal in the bush will not believe that there are oceans with thousands of miles of water in the world. A child from the stumps can hardly believe the grandeur inside a palace. Motor cars and aeroplanes were once thought of as being ridiculous, and the dreams of some madman, but it became true, and has never been seen. Anything that has not been tried at first seems strange, but it only needs familiarity and experience to know that it is right.

A one hour work day sounds a bit out of place to some people, because they do not see how it would be possible, but it is far from being "ridiculous."

Every industry is properly organized, and machinery is greatly improved, and the wages of a child could produce a useful work one hour work day is quite feasible.

But we do not intend to go so far at this moment, we were only following out the "Herald" scribe's argument. We will be very pleased if we can only get a six hour day for the time being.

We now come to the pet argument of all opponents to the shorter work day. It is: "Less work, less wages." This argument has been flung around for years by all the believers in exploitation. The "Herald's" economist makes a very good attempt to imitate men who have gone before, but because they are not reduced in proportion to the reduced cost, the cost of the commodity produced would be increased. Bread would be increased, meat would be dearer, and so on. But our clothes, additions would be made in railway fares and freights. In short all departments of life and living would be affected.

There is no doubt that a shorter work day would affect the life and living of the working class, but the effect would be highly beneficial.

It does not seem much study to find out how wages are determined. Wherever men have worked for wages, the employers have been forced, through economic necessity, to give their slaves enough to live on. The wages of the working class are regulated according to the price of the necessities of life. The boss is forced to pay his slaves enough in wages to enable them to live on in the physical and mental standard so they may be able to perform their daily tasks.

If the boss wants efficient workmen he must pay an efficient wage. As matter of high prices may soar, wages must necessarily rise, too, or the workers would deteriorate, and that is against the boss's interest.

With less men competing for jobs, the workers would be in a position to demand

"The social crimes of one age become the relief of the next." The truth of this utterance has been proved in cases innumerable. Men who have been persecuted and condemned for violating existing laws, have a decade later been exalted as heroes.

Knowing this to be true, it is wonderful the way in which the proletarian mind, bulldozed as it is by capitalist institutions, political, clerical, judicial, etc., clings tenaciously to existing social institutions. The highest ideal of animals is to secure food and shelter for themselves; but surely that of man, the ruler of the universe, should soar higher. Knowing as we do that when placed beneath the unerring and relentless rays of scientific investigation, these puny, man-made laws lose their vaunted "holiness," it sets one wondering whether the average wage slave should be pitied for his seeming ignorance, or treated with contempt for his blind conviction. It is a matter of sympathy, in submitting so quietly to the thongs that bind him, for most assuredly he is bound by the manacles of law and authority. But why this snivelling servility to the greatest curse of mankind?

One writer says: "To get rid of the superstitiousness of law, it is but necessary to examine it in all its aspects, to trace its origin and development, to study its results in operation."

Let us see: The necessity for law arose with the inauguration of slavery, and the institution of private property. Previous to the institution of law, there was the inviolable custom of the victors to eat the prisoners of war. But after years of cannibalism, man discovered that it was more profitable to eat the prisoners of war to fill the soil and perform other useful labor for him, than to eat him, and thus slavery arose. As the most powerful warrior usually captured the most slaves, it was natural that he was given grants of land on which to work his slaves, for it was by common sense of the people that the slave, if he must live, must work for his owner. The right of inheritance coming about this time, we have this wealth and power, concentrated into a few hands. But how to guard these properties gained by murder and plunder, from either the less fortunate or perhaps jealous members of the tribe, or from the unfortunate slaves themselves. The institution of law arose. Laws were passed by the industrial and powerful few, and received the blessing of the priests or fetishes of the day, in return for concessions from these powerful warriors. It was not difficult to make the people believe in these laws, for the priests had long been at work over their minds before the institution of slavery, and steeped as they were in ignorance, superstition, and bigotry, they were quickly made to see and believe in this sort of alliance between the law and the laws. Thus were laws made "holy."

The soldiers and slaves of the masters, being ever at his service, and the penalties for disobedience to these laws being such a speedy and frightful nature, such penalties receiving the full sanction of the church, very few dared disobey. Thus the law enforced on a people whose minds were twisted by religious superstition, and eternal punishment hereafter, assiduously preached by the church, and whose bodies were owned and relentlessly controlled by their poverty, became from its inception the greatest curse ever inflicted upon humanity. After centuries of slavery and serfdom, during which latter the laws were administered with the same cruelty, the divine right of kings and priests lost their power, and this day we now form a halo round law and parliament.

But where is the difference in its administration? Merely this: Where they

The argument runs: Wars was an institution which had Divine sanction in the Old Testament, therefore, it cannot be morally wrong. This proves nothing, on the same basis one could logically prove the morality of slavery, polygamy, and theft, &c.

—REV. W. S. COLLINGS.

more wages. Shorter hours and higher pay always run together.

Tallow workers, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose by a shorter work day. Fight for it and work for it.

N.R.

were formerly few they are now many. His aims are the same, to guard the interests of the privileged few against the possible attacks of the vast propertyless masses. We find that law had its origin in force and blood, and covered its perpetuation to force, yea, and murder, and to the mental and bodily enslavement and degradation of the people.

Right through the pages of that bloody drama that men call history, we find that the laws of the suffering victim, the blood of the crushed and broken masses, crushed and broken in the interests of law and order, that the privileged few may satisfy their rapacious lust for gold and glory.

Instruments of the most horrible torture have been pressed into its service—the rack, the thumb-screw, the gullotine, the hangman's rope, etc., the most fiendish devices have been employed to find the guilty, and to reduce to the state of a limb torn from limb, the living flesh to the bones of the unhappy wretch who was unfortunate enough to come within its grasp.

Crimes of the most horrible nature have been committed by the state, with the full blessing and co-operation of the church.

Whether it be the tortures of the Middle Ages or the Inquisition, the massacre of Glencoe, the shooting of the miners at Featherstone, Carnegie's bull-pen outrages, or coming to more recent times, the murders of the miners at West Virginia, Colorado and Johannesburg, the clubbing of the workers of Dublin, the state as well as lawless institution has a lot to answer for. What are the crimes of the individual alongside crimes like these? How can a people be expected to respect a law which ostensibly erected to suppress crime commits such crimes as these?

It is the responsibility of the state, if it should receive the whole-hearted condemnation it deserves. The thumb-screw and rack are gone, but the soldier's rifle and bayonet, the policeman's club, and the hangman's rope are doing the work of suppression and murder.

While there is a class composed of a privileged few, and a huge majority of humanity composed of toiling, half-starved millions, torture must always go hand in hand with law.

When a body of workers dares to assert its manhood, when driven to desperation by inhuman conditions they decide to strike, the soldier and policeman are always immediately brought to shoot and fire, and the responsibility is there, no need of proof, as they are taking place in our present day and generation.

Witness the inhuman prison conditions of the present time. Witness the so-called "civilized" treatment, where youths, for a trivial breach of the law, are herded with criminals of the lowest type.

All laws are unjust, for if they were not why the necessity of a standing army of soldiers, policemen, and hired assassins to uphold them? It is true that what the sword has gained the sword must hold. While there is a privileged class in possession of the earth and a vast array of wage slaves to be kept in subjection, respect for a law of the law, are the workers realise this and throw off the thraldom of wage slavery, the damnable indignities of law and authority will be enforced.

The first act by which law or parliament function in the interests of all humanity, that act will be its last, for there will no longer be a class to be kept in subjection, the worker will have come into his own, and will stand erect in his might, recognising that all laws are rendered inoperative by the disobedience of the masses, and instead of the snivelling cry of respect for law and the powers that be, a mighty war will sound the slogan: Liberty for All!

Where is the perfect state,

Early most blessed of days,

Perfect and bright?

'Tis where no palace stands,

Scattered on shifting sands,

Morning and evening,

'Tis where the soil is free,

Where, far as eye can see,

Scattered o'er hill and sea,

Homesteads abound,

Where clean and broad and sweet,

Market, square, lane and street,

Blessed by legions of wheat.

Cities are found.

N. LUCHANAN

