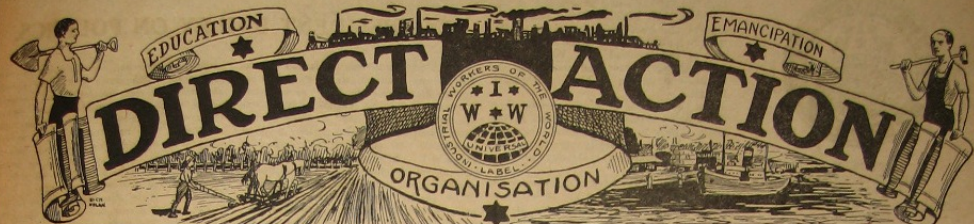


'An Injury to one an INJURY to All.'



VOL. 4, NO. 110. Registered at the General Post-office, Sydney, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper. SYDNEY, February 24 1917. ONE PENNY.

Release Demanded By Trades Union Big Meeting in Melbourne. Conference. THEIR LIBERTY

Good solid progress was the order of business last week. Results were much brighter than usual, and our activities were enlarged in scope. Yarra Bank meetings were successful. Mr. Westbrook made a fine public speech in Melbourne on the 25th and left for Sydney on the following Wednesday. In the evening a general discussion took place at the hall on the One Big Union, when ideas were exchanged on that important and vitally essential subject to the working class. Street meetings were held at South Melbourne, last Friday night, when Fellow Workers A. Wilson and S. Jeffrey, with F. W. C. Dham in the chair held forth to an interested and large audience. All "D.A.s." were sold and a successful meeting terminated with the crowd anxious for more of the good stuff. By far, however, the most significant event of the last few weeks was the Political Labor Council and Trades Hall Council meeting on the Yarra Bank, last Sunday, 4th February. It was the most representative gathering held yet to protest against the recent incarceration of the twelve I.W.W. men and the other victims of vindictiveness in Australia and New Zealand.

The speakers, among whom were some of the foremost public men in Victoria and Australia, were all to a militant mood, severely condemning the unfair tactics used by the "powers that be," in trying the I.W.W. men in Sydney.

The Chairman, Mr. Fraser, President of the Trades Hall Council, was in the chair, and introduced as first speaker, Mr. Fred Hallowsay, President of the Political Labor Council, who contended that the case of the men was hopelessly prejudiced before they had been given a chance to prove their innocence.

The same sentiments were uttered by Mr. Matthews, M.H.R., of Fort Melbourne. He claimed that Billy Hughes had endeavored and succeeded to influence public opinion before the trial by vilifying the twelve men who never had any chance to answer the statements of the Prime Minister. He concluded by moving the following resolution: "That this mass meeting of organized workers, expresses its strong conviction that the twelve members of the I.W.W. recently found guilty of conspiracy, were prejudiced in their defence by the statements on the conscription campaign by prominent public men, which influenced the public opinion against the prisoners, and emphatically protests against their continued imprisonment, and urges the Attorney-General of New South Wales to grant them their liberty pending the case being retried."

A Conference of Trade Unions was held at 403 Sussex street, Sydney, on February 10th, 1917, to discuss ways and means to bring about the release of the 12 I.W.W. men now in Long Bay prison.

The following organizations were represented, viz. Rockchoppers and Sewer Miners' Union, Gas Employees' Union, A.S.E., Lithgow Branch, Workers' Defence and Release Committee, Cullen, Bullen Miners' Lodge, Small Arms Factory Employees, Federated Clothing Trades Union, United Slaters' Society, United Operative Bricklayers' Society, Federated Builders' Labourers' Union, Coal Lumpers' Union, A.S.M., Sydney Branch No. 2, Federal Amalgamated Workers' Union, Sign Painters' Union, Caterers' and Waitresses' Union, Australian Coal and Shale Workers' Union, A.S.E. Branch, Federated Coopers' Union, A.M.A.—Broken Hill, and the industrial Workers of the World. It was resolved by delegates assembled that all Unions should be acquainted with the decision of conference, and should also be appealed to, in the name of the Congress, for assistance.

The decisions arrived at were as follows—

1st.—That literature, giving summary of evidence against each of the men be prepared, and that all trades union representatives be asked to assist in the distribution of same. Also that all unions be asked to convene a Special Mass Meeting to hear a statement of case on behalf of the twelve I.W.W. men imprisoned in Sydney, and also other Labor agitators in goal throughout Australia and New Zealand.

2nd.—That the Defence and Release Committee be instructed in the name of the Conference, to ask for funds for appeal, and a new trial.

3rd.—That this Conference call upon all Unions to be represented at the next Congress, which will be held on March 3rd (Saturday) at 2 p.m. at 403 Sussex-street, Sydney.

Fellow Workers, these are the decisions of the Conference, and you are asked to consider them and assist. Will you do so? The men in goal are innocent, and the victims of class bias and prejudice. Their imprisonment is the aftermath of the Conscription Campaign, and nothing else.

A start has been made. The minions of Australia are now getting into line. The truth is beginning to dawn, and the people are beginning to see through the huge conspiracy which has been perpetrated against the working class.

Members of the working class, investigate this case. Find out the real facts. Enquire for yourselves. If you are impartial you will come to the conclusion that these men have been unjustly denied.

For the sake of organized labor; for the sake of our hard won traditions; for the sake of fair play, honour, and justice, stand together and demand their release.

Workers' Union, who made a powerful plea for the I.W.W. men, claiming that the men were never given a chance, because of the vile tactics employed by the sworn enemies of labor. Supplementing a previous speaker's remarks about the parallel case of the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone trial, he predicted that one would show and prove conclusively that just as Harry Orchard, the chief witness against the American rebels had, on the second trial be granted to the men, being proven to be the guilty one, so would Scully, the chemist, be likewise found out to be guilty, if indeed anybody was guilty in the case at all, when a proper trial was given to our twelve fellow-workers. At the conclusion of his address he was heartily applauded by the big crowd present.

George Pronderrast, M.L.A., and an ex-leader of the Labor Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, spoke next, and eloquently urged everybody to leave no stone unturned until the men were given a fair trial. He strongly condemned the action of the Government in adopting such unfair methods in trying the men. Joining in the common cry, he asked for justice and nothing else.

Frank Anster, M.H.R., was the last speaker and gave a detailed review of the case, and clearly explained the hollowness of the evidence against the men, the humorous aspect of the trial being explicated by him. The ridicule and satire that he heaped upon the press called "clear and conclusive evidence" for justice and nothing else. His words, "I'll send the audience into uproarious laughter." The general opinion at the end of his speech was that the edifice built

up against the boys in jail was completely shattered by his clear-cut analysis of the evidence for the Crown.

The meeting concluded by three rousing cheers being given for the jailed rebels.

On the Monday morning the "Argus" went into hysterics over what it called "the alliance of prominent public men with a gang of criminals and conspirators," devoting a sub-leader to a condemnation of the action of Mr. Bilson and others in taking part in the mass meeting. It only goes to show, however, how vindictive are the declared enemies of labor, when they see their case with its props of falsehoods and calumny completely refuted by men who have at least some conception of fair play and justice. Altogether, the past week has been a week of progress for the agitation for the release and fair trial of the twelve victims of political and capitalist conspiracy.

NOIMAN JEFFREY.

A CONSCIENTIOUS JUROR.

In a wayback court a juror was about to be sworn in, when the Judge beckoned himself to say—

"I trust, sir, that you fully understand the duties and responsibilities of a juror?"

Whereupon the man drew himself up and answered—

"Your Honor, I am a plain man, and believe in being fair to all. I don't go by what the lawyers say, and I don't go by what the judge says, but I look carefully at the defendant in the dock, and I say to myself: 'That fellow must have done something, or he wouldn't be here!' So I bring 'em all in guilty!"

Oh, who can idly stand
While human hearts demand
Their liberty.

Humanity our only plea;
Justice our only cry;
We'll strive until we die
For their liberty.

Their liberty to stand
With all men hand in hand
As man to man.

'Tis but their right we claim,
Down with these laws of shame.
Let this be our only aim—
Their Liberty.

Our brothers must be free
From jails and tyranny
Ere peace abounds.

Help us to cause defend;
Oh, who a hand will lend,
And unto these extend
Their Liberty.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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 organize as a class, this possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering 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 war. 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 organization 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 absolute of the wage system.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary and radical slogan, "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 organized not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalist shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

"You say you are a pacifist?"
"Yes," replied the indignant person, "and let me tell you, sir—"
"Hold on a minute!"
"Wait!"
"If you are a pacifist, don't shake your fist at me."

DIRECT ACTION.

Direct Action



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.

ETHICS AND THE I.W.W.

During the few years the I.W.W. has been alive, many charges have been hurled at its head. The latest to hand is of an entirely different nature from all others. It is leveled at us in a sympathetic tone and tendered in the way of advice.

The author of the new charge is a revered gentleman of a Sydney suburb. In a long and interesting epistle addressed to the editor he offers many suggestions.

After troubling the authorities for their persucution of the I.W.W. our friend says: "The I.W.W. will never achieve any great reforms in the world while it neglects the ethical side of its agitate."

Although the I.W.W. is a material organisation, fighting a grim, fierce, material struggle in an attempt to get some of the material goods of this life, it at the same time has ethics as great, and ideals as beautiful, as any other organisation in existence.

But dreams of love and rapture, peace and plenty, beauty and song do not fill an empty stomach nor clothe a shivering child.

The ideal state of which our Christian socialist friend speaks is all very nice, and we can go all the way with him in paying attention to the material and too "far, far away" for the exploited millions to worry about today.

What we want is SOMETHING NOW. Tomorrow we might be crushed and mangled in some industrial hell.

The I.W.W. in fighting to get more of what its labour produces has brought down the wrath of the master class upon its head.

Because the I.W.W. dared to challenge the right of the master class to all the good things of life, it is now being maligned and persecuted.

Anyone who understands the principles of the I.W.W. cannot accuse it of not having shaird out to the future. Anyone who has shaird our literature knows full well that we are not devoid of ethics.

We look forward to the day when the workers will get the FULL PRODUCT OF THEIR TOIL and they will work together in harmony for the common good of all.

We believe that by organising on the lines laid down by the I.W.W. we are helping to bring nearer the day when slaves, squalor, misery, poverty, and the whole innumerable and varied, and glorious benefits of a world set free where there will be neither master nor slave.

We have visions of the future when the world will be one huge co-operative Commonwealth—an Industrial Republic DESTROYED. When that day arrives there will be no room for lords and rulers, Kings, popes, monarchs, statesmen, upon as relics of a cruel and barbarous past.

Yes, my dear friend, the I.W.W. has ideals. High, sound and inspiring ideals. Ethics that can transcend the stars. Ideals

which help to bring out all that is noblest and best in mankind. We believe the poet when he says: "Man needs must love the highest when he sees it."

The I.W.W. endeavours to place the highest and best before mankind. We wish to pull down the shams and build a city of beauty and joy. We wish to banish hunger, want and crime, and inaugurate a system of peace and plenty for all.

But the bone of contention arises when the I.W.W. refuses to lose itself in the misty realms of a far-off future, and commences to systematically lay down the plans of a practical every-day working programme.

We refuse to lay back and dream sweet dreams of the days that are to be in the hands of the master class as at our throats, and intensified industrial slavery drains our blood and breaks our bones. We refuse to forget the present while thinking of the future.

We are living to-day - it is TO-DAY we need help. It is to-day that men and women are dying of hunger, and little children groan in the night.

It is to-day that gaunt famine stalks abroad, and shame, disease, and crime pollute the land.

It is TO-DAY WE MUST ACT. To-day we must wage a persistent fight against this corrupt system. "Procrastinate, and you challenge fate."

The I.W.W. is organising the working class into One Big Union for the purpose of forcing better wages and hours from the rapacious industrial kings RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

In laying the foundation of a scientific industrial organisation and fighting the every day battle with the working class, we are making it easier and lighter for the future generation.

The more we fight now and the better conditions we get, the easier it will be for them to come after us.

Our preamble is for organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old."

"Come, let us act with all fooling, and cast off case and root."

For the Cause alone is worthy

"Till the good days being the best."

—N.R.

A Challenge.

A challenge has been issued by the Everett Prisoners' Publicity Department to the press of America.

It calls upon the press representative to visit Everett and investigate the whole of the happenings at Everett on October 30th, when members of the I.W.W. were November 5th, when the massacre by the gun-men took place.

The gist of the challenge is as follows: "Send one of your best special writers to Everett and Seattle. Let him representative investigate full details of the Everett massacre. Let him go to both sides in the controversy. Let him record faithfully the facts of the kidnaping and assaults of October 30th. Let him be free to question all and sundry before the shooting affay of November 5th, 1916.

Let our investigator be as impartial as possible, and neither a labor agitator nor an upholder of Criminal Codes and Manufacturers' Associations. Tell him the whole truth and nothing but the truth to us. And print faithfully what he reports to us.

If any magazine in America will do this, then my dwindling faith in the inviv. If American journalism will stand condemned in the eyes of the publgers as the palsied tools of the class that it serves, your advertising.

This is our challenge, gentlemen of the press. Will any of you accept it?

We have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the challenge put out by our fellow workers in America will not be accepted.

The press of America, like the press of get any thing, is always very loath to investing to be in the right, and accept it.

The capitalist press of all lands has a about the way that day arrives there is never devoting any time. But it is never atrocities which are perpetrated upon the working class almost every day.

The challenge which the I.W.W. of never been accepted, and we have not the slightest doubt that it never will. The truth is a thing that capitalist press knows very little about.

A.W.U. CONFERENCE EX-PRESIDENT BAILEY ON POLITICS.

The A.W.U. Conference is now in session. The retiring president, Mr. J. Bailey, in delivering his address, touched upon several matters, including the ingenuous I.W.W. who are as unappealing from a glorified-craft union standpoint as from a purely capitalist standpoint. He also said that members of the A.W.U. should take a more prominent part in the selection of the Parliamentary candidates, and thus obtain industrial control of the political machine. The A.W.U. was not a pastoral and shearer's organisation, but an industrial one. The principle of one big union was rapidly supplanting the old system of craft unions. The miners and other organisations were considering amalgamation, and there was little doubt but that these organisations would come in.

Mr. Bailey, in referring to the recent shearer's and shed-workers' strikes blamed the matter on the I.W.W. The long and short of the matter is that the strike would have occurred even if the I.W.W. had never been founded in Australia. Does Mr. Bailey say that the men were wrong in fighting for 30s per hundred? They were not violating the agreement, which distinguished the old system. The minimum rates should be 25s. And if the I.W.W. aided them to obtain wages, which would compensate the shearers for the greatly increased cost of living, who of the working class shall blame them? The officials of the A.W.U. could not help them, because they were afraid of their registration at the capitalist arbitration court being cancelled. And we say, quite dispassionately, and without malice, that if the A.W.U. continues hindering its membership from taking advantage of the best conditions and more wages, that "disruption" will become widespread and general. And there seems to be a very discernible flaw in the "one big unionism" that signs an agreement for 28s, when the men have already established 30s per hundred. And more than I.W.W. men will see his shortcoming.

Of course, it is natural that Mr. Bailey should be in favor of plenty of politics for the A.W.U. But the facts are that industrial candidates do not shine from a proletarian standpoint in Parliament, any more than do middle class lawyers, who use the Labor Party for their own ends. Take the illuminating instance of Mr. Spence or Senator Robert Guthrie, of the Seaman's Union, or Mr. J. Morris, of the Hotel Employees; or, the greatest of all, Mr. W. M. Hughes, of the Waterside Workers. These are more reactionary and repressive than Cook, Irvine and the whole school of self-confessed Torydom. If one thing more than another has stagnated industrial organisation in this country, it has been the two years of labor politics. But Mr. Bailey has asked the A.W.U. to continue the business, and a long-winded business of trying to lead a sincere politician. Politics emancipates politicians, and promotes spineless leaders into union circles. The motto should be "Lead us not into politics next year. Last year it was, 'Leave it to Dad Spence.' And if you don't 'leave it to George, Jack, Pat, or Higgins' you are a disrupter, an I.W.W. or both. The object of politics is a compromise. And there is nothing from an A.W.U. or a working class standpoint, in economic servitude to compromise ever. And we say that Mr. Bailey, M.L.A., cannot serve two masters, the workers' union and the State. And we know which he will swear to serve before he takes his seat in the House.

And, further, in dealing with the question of craft and industrial unionism, we must advise Mr. Bailey to read something as a primer. Amalgamation "one big unionism" does not constitute industrial unionism. It is merely the logical outcome of craft organisation. The basis of industrial unionism implies sound education in economics and working-class history. Industrial unionism does not mean

unions roped together, working under secret agreements which expire at different times, and which prevents solidarity among the unions, which are essential to the success of the Unionism. Amalgamation is just craft glorified. "One Big Union" are mere cover-terms, but they do not mean anything. Just because they fail to understand that the workers must educate themselves in economics and the social struggle of the 'Big Union' of the Amalgamation type is trying to put a roof on before the beams are built. The basis of craft unionism has been determined by two important factors: industrial education and the machine process. You can't build a machine out of slum tenements, and you cannot have industrial union by merely amalgamating sole and outgrown craft unions.

The very constitutional nature and character of the A.W.U., and its character, and large conservative members, makes it impossible to accomplish radical change in the structure of the union. It cannot propagate virile and uncontrollable ideas without clashing with the constitutional powers that be. And the disappointments that have been the portion of the millions of workers 'within' in other parts of the world, in the "New Zealand Federation of Labor, the A. F. of L. in the U.S.A., C.G.T. in France, and in the large constitutional bodies in continental Europe, has determined that propaganda is more effective from the outside. Hence the I.W.W.

The A.W.U. and Mr. Bailey must remember this—that all action that will give workers a better life, and that will not encroach upon the Dominion of Capital, must be unconstititutional. That was why the shearers were unconstititutional from the standpoint of capital, and their own organisation when they successfully tried to organize themselves for the increased cost of living. And unconstititutional acts within the A.W.U. will increase, not fundamentally, because of the presence of the I.W.W., because of the rapid and revolutionary change in the economic world, and in the product of wealth.

Ideas are begotten and changed by change in production. Ideas are better volunteered in a changing world. People who were mentally stagnant of a moment yesterday are starting to think. Ideas, like conditions, are in the melting pot. Like ideas, like organisations. If the A.W.U. account of its natural conservatism, and its unwillingness to work on a new line with awakened conditions, and that it will go the way of all that is old and unscientific. And not all the cries of "disruption" or "I.W.W." will alter or change this truth.

The size of the organisation will not matter. An army that fights the common cause of capital cannot prevail if it fights in slum holes. And it cannot do otherwise at all.

Politics, amalgamation, and arbitration proved time and again to be useless. Worse. And men who advocate these either deliberately misleading their membership or woefully ignorant as to the consequences, many of which have occurred.

One Big Union will come to the workers' Union. But now call it what you will, when neither the workers nor the leadership know. It is the mission and the only hope of the I.W.W. to let them know. When the I.W.W. has no need of industrial or political unionism. Their class interests and their anti-capitalist education will accomplish the mastery of the abolition of masterdom, and the inauguration of Society Without Class.

TOM BARKER

Fact v. Fancy.—A good story is being told of a reply given by a student to a question set in an examination paper:

"If twenty men reap a field in eight hours," ran the question, "how long will it take fifteen men to reap the same field?"

The student thought long and carefully before setting down the answer, and when he handed in his paper, this was what the examiner

"The field having already been reaped by the twenty men could not be reaped by the fifteen."—"Oh-Bite."

"Thank God, we have a system of labor where there can be strikes"—Abu Lincoln

No agitator or writer can lead the workers out of bondage. The mob can do it help to arouse them to free themselves.

New Minister: "They tell me, despatcher, do not believe you are sufficient to be asked here on earth for their benefits."

Deacon Jones: "Well, parish, that was belief before I heard you preach."

If you want better laws, you don't have to waste any time expecting your constituents to write them.

Others' Views.

THEN THE A.W.U.; NOW THE I.W.W. "HOWLING JOURNALISTIC PIMPS."

Any old member of the A.W.U. knows that the charges now launched against members of the I.W.W. were in the past faked affairs of the A.W.U. There are farmers in Western Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland who were dragged from court to court so that under squatter management they might be convicted and hanged on evidence which was faked, and the circumstances detailed, early members of the A.W.U. got terms in goal—some, of course, managed to escape by the "skin of their teeth." Against those men the charges were faked, and conspiring, damaging property, and attempting to take life. Laws are ancient almost as those of Hammurabi were invoked to secure convictions. The brutality of capitalists rose against the A.W.U. men were extolled and even rewarded.

McLean, a unionist, was brutally shot by a squatter's pimp, and from the effect of the wound eventually died. The murderer was not punished by justice, but a reward for values received from squatter admirers a gold cross and a sum of money. McLean, although wounded and suffering, was sent to jail, and afterwards was released, and got back to his mother's place, near Kororo, in time to die.

He lies in the cemetery at Ilwona, and above his grave the members of the A.W.U. have erected a noble monument. McLean was hatched to gratify the bosses of his day and to justify the howling journalistic pimps who made a virtue of wage expropriation and robbery.

Just as McLean and members of the A.W.U. were persecuted by the bosses of the day, the machinations of Bossford and the official pimps of bossdom, so, today, Donald Grant and his mates have been savagely martyred before the law to appease the hatred of a certain class of the ruling class. The profits and perks only come surely to them so long as the workers grind unrelentingly at the mills of industry, in ignorance of the fact that the surplus value of their toil is being taken to make fortunes for others.

A most scandalous feature of the arrest and trial of Donald Grant and his mates was the fact that these men, without public protest, were prejudged and condemned by the pulp papers of Capitalism and a handful of cowardly politicians, kicked out of their own party, and to politically unsavory to be taken into any form of our time.

While the people are being fooled by a bogus farce about the villainies of I.W.W.-ism, the nation is being robbed before its face by the most unscrupulous band of rascals who ever raided the food of constitutions of any country in the history of the world. And this robbery and filibustering calls forth no journalistic outcry or Ministerial condemnation, "no outcry, flourish" is the playing motto of our time.

There are associations of persons plundering the people of the nation for private profit, and yet Billy Hughes is in the days of his wrath against them as in the days of his wrath against persons are not members of the I.W.W., and, therefore, although they are financially throbbing the workers and producers of the nation in the time of crisis, it is not thought necessary to prosecute them under the War Precautions Act, nor yet to provide fresh legislation to punish them for being in goal and to restrain their predatory operations at the expense of the public.

The atmosphere in which trusts and companies extend themselves most in comprehensive assembly and develop the greatest velocity and volume of robbery is now divine in the opinion of politicians who, not many years ago, foamed at the lips in their denunciation of such concerns, their works, and all associated with them—J. K. McDougall, "Labor Call."

UNIVERSITY ASKS FOR I.W.W. SPEAKER.

Follow-worser J. A. MacDonald, editor of the "Industrial Worker," has been announced to give a series of lectures at the Washington University.

The professors and students are anxious to hear all about the organisation which preaches the social ideals for which men and women die willingly with a song on their lips and the dream of labor triumphant in their hearts.

AN APPEAL TO THE ELECTORS OF THE MANKIWANG DISTRICT.

ASPIRING M.L.A.

(By S. T. Ruth.)

Ladies and Gentlemen—

Our State has produced in its time hundreds of politicians, some successful, some otherwise. All those politicians can be placed in two categories, fools and knaves. There is possibly a much larger category of the former than the latter. Anyone who possesses intelligence worthy of the name recognises that politics is a grimy game played by grimy gentry for their grimy aggrandisement. And I candidly, ladies and gentlemen, am not without my share, for my own aggrandisement.

Now I stated that politicians have hitherto belonged to two schools. First, the knaves, who know that they can do nothing for the people, and yet claim before and after elections, before middle-headed and ignorant electors that they can do things for human betterment. They are knaves, hypocrites and liars. The second school of the genus politician is the fool. I recognise that he can do things, and need to Parliament to try. And the fool that he is, he does not fight for anyone, simply because he can naught. He becomes a general nuisance, a maggot brain, and a sleep producer for the people's porters, who lose constitutions of iron.

I, S. T. Ruth, now asking for your votes, am the sole member of a new political school. I am going to tell the truth. And my statements are unchallengeable. I recognise that he can do things, and need to Parliament to try. And the fool that he is, he does not fight for anyone, simply because he can naught. He becomes a general nuisance, a maggot brain, and a sleep producer for the people's porters, who lose constitutions of iron.

Having an hereditary hatred for hard work, and the uncertainty of ever getting a hard job on occasion, and possessing a wholesome antipathy for cheap and nasty food, shoddy and scanty clothes, and a bug-ridden shack, I lean to politics as a way out of my social and economic predicament.

I did not see as extravagant with my promises as my opponents, but I will pledge to accomplish as much as they do. They will do nothing for you, neither will I. I will attend Parliament House—on my day, and as few times as I can without losing the bill.

I say, if I feel inclined, tell you that you are a great democracy, and a noble people. But such words are empty. My watchword, I should probably tell you that you are a gang of meek-eyed working bullocks and bullockesses. In fact, by telling you the truth and calling you all

the names that — and I !!! stand for, you will return me at the head of the poll.

And at the end of my first month, I will draw £50 for the arduous business of saying "hear, hear," twice and "Question" once. And you, Mr. Bonehead, worthless and hungry you may be, but you will still have the pleasure of returning a truthful and candid man to Parliament. And your wife will comfort an empty stomach and soothe the baby with the thoughts of MY job, MY nice villa, MY well-learned wife, and MY blissful and regular job, representing myself.

I will promise my hardworking and beneheaded constituents that they will not see me until a fortnight before the next election. I won't call professional meetings to skate about what I said upon the floor of the House. I will know when to change my coat and when to fall off the fence. And upon your votes, ladies and gentlemen of Mankiwang, I will secure a great statement, get well paid, well fed, be well groomed. I will dabble in afforestation, baby clinics, cheap fish and other bunk that I don't understand, and that you in your sublime beneheadedness don't understand. It will kill time between the pays.

Vote for me. Work for me. Put me in. It's a good job. Well paid. Nothing to do. No headaches. You will relieve the unemployed market of one. That one will be me. Put me in. Easy chairs are nice. The liquor and the smokes are magnificent. Life is joy—for me.

If you put me in I will promise—

1. To kill the I.W.W. and the slow-downers.
 2. Stagnate while the world's awirling.
 3. Develop a bow window, result of heavy thinking.
 4. Howl against conscription and then shout for recruits.
 5. Put my sacred, holy, beautiful job before my thinking.
 6. Guarantee two eclipses of the sun in my first year of office.
 7. Declare a close season for blow-flies.
 8. Get an act passed making the job a perpetual one. Put myself in for life.
 9. Hand it on to my eldest.
- Citizens, proletarians, kamrads, vote for me. Put me in, and I'll stay in. It is better to emaciate one than none. S. T. Ruth for Wankiwang.

"Cobar" "Riot"

The press of Sydney had much to say about the disturbances which took place at Cobar a fortnight ago. It went so far as to say that "the democrats of Cobar, full up of the I.W.W. methods, chased them out of the town. Cobar is now free from the poison of I.W.W.-ism."

Mr. H. C. Prince, A.W.U. representative, writes as follows:

"The uproar about the I.W.W. as printed in the daily press is a long way out as far as the facts are concerned. There were no shooters concerned in it, and only two (2) members of the F.M.E.A. The trouble was caused by the horses, backed up by some members of the A.S.E. Only four (4) I.W.W. men were hit. Instead of hunting the I.W.W. out of the town they got seventy-five (75) new members the next day.

The Mayor stopped street speaking, and the F.M.E.A. came to the assistance, and lent a piece of vacant land to hold an I.W.W. meeting on.

A splendid meeting was held last night, and no disturbance occurred.

The secretary of the F.M.E.A., Mr. Jenkins, has written to the Sydney papers stating the true facts, and that he can tell you that those who took part in the trouble are now sorry looking things, and would give £100 each to have had nothing to do with it. Yours in unity, H. C. PRINCE."

Mr. J. Jenkins, secretary of the Cobar branch of the F.M.E.A., has written to the Sydney papers denying the statements they published.

Amongst other things Mr. Jenkins says: "No trouble exists now, or has ever existed, between the F.M.E.A. and the I.W.W.; the latter being to a man members of our federation. The unseemly and regrettable occurrence on the night of the 3rd inst., when several members of the I.W.W. were assaulted, cannot be laid at the door of the F.M.E.A. of Cobar, there having existed, and still exists between the persons of the two lodges mutual comradeship and goodwill."

From the foregoing letters one can easily see that the press is keeping up its reputation as a purveyor of lies and abuse, filth and infamy.

Everything possible is done to try and prejudice the minds and poison the hearts of the toilers against the I.W.W., but the enemies of labor are at last being found out and their cowardly attacks are beginning to fall flat.

THE ANSWER OF WOMEN TO MEN WHO MAKE WAR

You men! Oh, you kings and traders! The women you have bereft Will answer your age-old challenge. Come, look on the land you've left. Come look on the stricken cities your Soldiers like beasts gone wild Have ravaged, Our children hunger; our Daughters have been denied Our babes are starved in their cradles. The streets are abed with the dead. The loving cattle are heavy with milk which they scab to yield. The wheels in the roads cease turning; The all silent shop and mill. The Patient halls are empty; the whirl of the press is still.

The fields we have sowed from famine, The harvest which our labor did, The homes, the re-bulld cities, the factories, mines and mills, The schools where the world is learning, The halls where our laws are made, Will be ours; we will claim and hold them. We have banded and bought and paid.

We will marry our splendid daughters to the weakened and wrecks of men Who are left from war, and in patience we will people the world again; And the race who shall live and endure, our children so dearly bought, We will give them peace and labor, for they shall be woman-taught.

We wait and desolation, we are dumb in the world of despair; But our hearts hold the hope of peace; We shall rise and our laws are made, We dream of a new creation; we see it through blinding tears; We will build a new world, we witness, in the peace of our own hearts.

MARY BOYLE O'REILLY.

THE FAIR RENTS' COURT. Showing Promise.

The readiness with which sections of the general public follow the trail of the most obvious "red herring" drawn by capitalism over the track of its villainy, would be amusing if it were not so pitiful. The way in which the Rentpayers' Association is jubilating over their successful attacks of the landlords nor medium of the Fair Rents Court, makes one think of the "advantage" that tenants must have taken a wrong turning. The thought that any worker could be so simple as to believe that he can beat the capitalist in capitalist courts was always a depressing. What loquacious, cross-eyed views some of our fellows must take of their economic position and the ruling impulse of those who flex their muscles. Do they think that it is a benevolent impulse that prompts the wolf to eat the lamb? It would appear so, when we hear them boasting of benefits conferred by laws made by their masters. It must have been a sarcastic impulse that made the ancient oracle say that "God helps them that help themselves" or else God wants to get out of our hands anything for anything for this. It is undoubtedly the policy of our masters to provide blind alleys for the workers to waste time and energy in traversing, and until the majority learn to tell the difference between the crooked paths, capitalism would have us follow, and the straight road to economic freedom, we have little hope for any improvement in our conditions.

—J. J. JONES.

"DIRECT ACTION."

English Weekly. 4/ per year, 2/ per half year, 1d copy. 403 Sussex St., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Although I am of a somewhat argumentative character, I object to a drunken man going to sleep in my back yard, from which the inhabitants of the outer world were excluded by a wooden fence nearly four feet high. So, when my next door neighbor drank himself into a state of intoxication, and somehow or other got himself on my side of the fence, where he had gone to sleep with his muddled head pillowed on the ashbin, a strong sense of sarcasm of private property stirred through my soul. I proceeded to put him back again. Now, he was very drunk, and six feet high. I was near a foot shorter and sober. After many struggles I got his head and arms over the fence, and he was hanging on the fence, bent in the middle. Being now somewhat fatigued, I sat down and looked at him. He breathed peacefully, and seemed strangely contented for one so awkward a position.

Then it dawned on me. Here was a great man indeed, a man who would scale the long reaches to the heights of political greatness. I must have him back again.

Try as I could, he would not budge. I called on the Missus, and then the kids, but they could not be prevailed upon to assist. I procured an axe and chopped the fence from under him. Between us we got him to a perpendicular position, and hauled and shoved him towards the top of the fence. He was taking him. "Come along to Billy the Shutter," I said to him, gruffly. "A man who can hang on to both sides of a fence is as good as dead. You can't hang on to both sides to be outside Parliament. Come along to Macquarie Street!"

A. J. W.

