

One Big Union For the International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

Sydney Activities

A record crowd attended at the Hall on Sunday evening, 19th inst., the attraction being a debate between a member of the Political Labor League, Mr. Leonard Green, and Fellow-worker J. B. King, of the I.W.W. Mr. Green affirmed: "That the principle of Parliamentary action as advocated by the P.L.L. is the quickest and shortest method for obtaining social reforms for the masses."

He spoke for thirty minutes at the outset, and put up an exceptionally good argument from his point of view. He contrasted the social condition of the people in Russia, Germany, and other continental countries, as well as in England and the United States, with the conditions prevailing in Australia, and asserted that the poverty of the masses in the older countries was due to limitations or lack of the franchise, and the fact that the machinery of government remained in the hands of the bourgeois class. Conditions in Australia were not all that could be desired, but, nevertheless, they were superior to those prevailing in older countries, which was attributable to the fact that adult suffrage was a reality in the Commonwealth. The workers were thereby enabled to give expression to their needs through the Parliamentary machinery, and if Parliament failed to achieve their desires, the franchise was the weapon by which Parliaments were made and unmade, and the workers could elect those who would agree to carry out their wishes.

King, in reply, created some laughter by drawing a picture of the workers every three years experimenting in electing a Parliament. At the end of half a dozen experiments they would be too old to worry much about the result, and it did not appeal to him personally as being the "quickest and shortest method." He said that while Labor Governments were in power, in the majority of States, as well as in the Federal House, the economic conditions of the workers were growing rapidly worse, worse even than under Liberal governments, and the conclusion of his opponent was unwarranted, therefore, that the material welfare of the worker depended upon their electing men to Parliament. Economic power was the ruling factor in capitalist society, and all Parliaments and Governments were necessarily subservient to that power, otherwise they would cease to exist. The Governor-General, for instance, was subservient to the power to dissolve Parliament when he so desired, and if the economic order of the capitalist class was seriously endangered, there is no doubt he would do so on behalf of the class to which he belonged. The only hope of the working class lay in building up a powerful industrial organization on international lines, so that the ruling class could not use the workers of one country to defeat those of other countries in their struggles.

Mr. Green replied with a ten-minute speech, in which he pointed to the achievements of the Labor Party through the Arbitration and Conciliation measures introduced by it. In all other countries workers were in a strike, which was due to the fact that the left political machinery is in the hands of their enemies. Everything could not be attained in a day. The Labor Party might be moving



"FATS" CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, 1915.

"WHAT! YOUR HUSBAND KILLED IN ACTION? THAT'S UNFORTUNATE. BUT WE CAN'T LET SENTIMENT INTERFERE WITH BUSINESS. NO RENT? YOU MUST GET IT"

slowly, but the I.W.W. method would take a thousand years. "Free education was something else for which the Labor party deserved credit. These were measures which put millions into the workers' pockets.

King, who had fifteen minutes to reply, criticised the Arbitration principle. His greatest achievement to date was that the workers were by law compelled to accept 5/6 per week less than what was admitted to be a fair living wage. Workers were also punished and goaded for striking under Labor governments. As for "free" education, it was farcical. The children of the workers had to be taken out of the schools at such an early age in order to assist their families in getting a livelihood, that to speak of education at all in connection with the majority of working-class children, was absurd. The "millions" which the advent had pocketed through the workers of the Labor party, according to his opponent, did not seem very apparent from their condition today. The "moving slow" policy of the Labor Party he described as crablike—moving backwards.

Mr. Green wound up the debate with a ten-minute address, impressing upon workers the need for both industrial and political action. One, he said, was the complement of the other.

In accordance with Mr. Green's

request, no vote was taken on the matter under debate, but to judge by the applause which punctuated the speakers' remarks, there was no doubt about its being another victory for industrialism, though Mr. Green undoubtedly had his supporters too.

There was not even standing room in the Hall during the debate, and Sydney Local must soon be on the look out for larger premises if its audiences continue to increase at this rate.

SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE NOTE.

Owing to the advent of the holidays and the difficulty of getting lines and other matters attended to at the proper time, there will be no issue of "Direct Action" next week. The next issue will appear on January 8th.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. J. Grant (Melbourne)—Too late for this issue.
R. Farrell—Report of Melbourne activities too late for this issue. Arriving later.
A. Wilson—Verres too hot for these patriotic days. You should read the War Precautions Act.

The cessation of work by the Engineers at the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Newcastle, has brought about a stoppage of munition making in New South Wales. The bosses, the capitalist press and so-called "organised labor," as represented by the Sydney Labor Council, have united in a chorus of denunciation, "disloyalists," "traitors," "Pro-Germans," are some of the milder terms used. Just a little question for the "loyal patriots": What percentage of German capital is directly or indirectly represented in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company?

At time of writing wharf laborers are out on strike at Darling Island for an increase of 3d per hour for loading "special cargo." Secretary Wood, of the Wharf Laborers' Union, previous to his departure for Melbourne, advised the men to remain at work. Assistant Secretary Hunt condemns their action through the columns of the capitalist press, and says that they are only a minority of the union—which means that the are scabbing. President Kelly also is perturbed over the fact that the Christ of the union were not content. What a god-damn union officialdom is to the bosses.

"The Call"

Fifty thousand men are required from Australia for the trenches in Europe. "The Call" has gone forth, and the men must be supplied. This is the final test of the voluntary (if) system of enlistment. Men must decide whether they are prepared to obey, and if they refuse to answer they must be made to, or punished. So we are informed by the capitalist press.

Ninety per cent of the fifty thousand, as a matter of course, must come from the ranks of the working class. The workers, concerned are denied any expression of their own opinion in the matter. "Must" is the invisible word running through the whole murderous scheme.

It would be useless to comment on "The Great Betrayal" of the so-called labor leaders who have brought the workers, whom they pretended to serve, into this dire predicament.

They, the workers, have only themselves to blame. Lack of organization leaves them at the mercy of the powers that now use the "categorical imperative" for their own vile purposes.

The ruling class of Australia fears competition from its more far-seeing German fellow exploiters. If the exploited should doubt the efficacy of domestic slaves in robbing them of the product of their toil—why, they must be made to see that vampires prosper better under the folds of the British flag than under the German.

What right have slaves to choose the flag under which they shall be robbed? "There is not to reason why: There is but to do and die." Why should modern slaves dare question the right of their masters to demand their blood? Their forefathers have made this sacrifice down through the centuries. Poverty, starvation and bloodshed have always been their portion. Subjection and blind obedience to their masters' dictates are the milestones of history; and Labor Leader Hughes, in whom the slaves have placed their confidence, is right in punishing any departure from the historical rule.

"Right" because might is the deciding factor in this as in all other social questions under present day conditions.

Miseducated and fooled; divided, disorganized and betrayed, the workers today have no might which cannot be brushed aside by a mere tap of the military drum.

So bow your heads, you slaves; obey your masters, and do as you are told with the good things which the God of War and Billy Hughes provide for you.

In an interview with a press correspondent on the question of supplying drink to soldiers, Archbishop Kelly says he believes "a little solace is due to the boys if they take it in safety." The difficulty was "that a man drawing 8s or 9s a day was in danger when he got his pay. When people knew he had money they pursued him and tramped him into evil." The temptations bestrewing the path of Bishops and other high-paid people must, according to this, be tremendous.

DIRECT ACTION



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**Heydon's Xmas
Homily**

To hear the capitalist press exult about the shortage of food, high prices, etc. in Germany, one would think that there were plagues common to almost unknown to Australia. Yet the fact is undeniable that there will be no Xmas Day in Sydney thousands of workers, men, women and children, who will either be compelled to go without their Xmas dinner or have to depend on charity therefor. The applicants for relief to the Industrial Society in Sydney alone as increased by 200 per cent since the beginning of the war, and who can compute the number who suffer in silence, or are depending upon the aid of a crust, rather than accept the degraded and degrading duties handed out by charitable institutions. Even to those workers whose employment is more or less of a permanent character, their Xmas dinner table, in view of the fearful rise in prices, can present anything but a bounteous appearance. Many there are, indeed, in this boasted land of plenty, whose wants will be only supplied by "mortgaging" their wages to the butcher, baker, and grocer.

In view of such facts, we had Judge Heydon delivering one of his periodical homilies from his comfortable £50 a week job (or is it £30?) on the Arbitration Court bench last week pointing out to workers that they must be prepared to make sacrifices for the "national welfare" and cease demanding higher wages. If we look up the reports of the financial, industrial, and commercial institutions, since the war began, we shall find that in nearly every case profits and dividends are constantly increasing—increase at such a rate, in fact, that the Federal Government has found it necessary to follow the example of the Government in Great Britain, and make a pretence of placating the worker by imposing a 50 per cent tax on excess profits accruing from the war.

No tax imposed on profits by governments can raise the economic position of the worker one iota. Taxes were never imposed, and are certainly never applied for such a purpose. Such taxes represent nothing but portion of the unpaid product of labor, and to ask the worker to share in

Follow the King.

The following cable appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of the 1st inst.—

LONDON, Tuesday.—The Press Bureau has issued a medical bulletin, which states: "The King is so far recovered from his grave accident as to be able to resume work within certain limitations. The King has lost seriously in weight, and until a normal state of health has been attained it is essential to avoid fatigue. It has been necessary, on medical grounds, to take a little stimulant daily during convalescence. When His Majesty's health has been restored he will resume total abstinence, which was self-imposed for public reasons."

We are informed from a reliable source that the following comment by the "Herald" on the above cable was, for some reason, censored:—"The Herald" hopes that His Majesty's medical advisers will adhere to their resolution to prevent his Majesty undergoing unnecessary fatigue during the period of convalescence. Having "errors of it" ourselves, however, in our loyal desire to "follow the King," we regret that His Majesty's anxiety to resume work has induced him to depart from the previous strictly temperate habits. Such a course may have a demoralising effect upon munition workers, notwithstanding His Majesty's undoubted capacity for arduous labor, and may conceivably affect the outcome of the war."

What with the Christmas holidays and the King "on the sick," "Direct Action" has grave fears for the "Herald's" sobriety, and recommends Archdeacon Bryce and Walter Benty to keep an eye on the editor.

WARI WHAT FOR?

We have a limited supply of the above book, printed on superior paper, and attractively bound, which will be forwarded to any address on receipt of cash for 4s 6d. In conjunction with "Put Up The Sword," the two volumes will be forwarded upon receipt of cash for 7s. Address: Box 38, Haymarket P.O., N.S.W.

"sacrifices" of this kind is like asking a man who has been robbed to share in the exultation of the robber who spends the plunder for his own ends.

If the workers' standard of living is not to deteriorate more rapidly in the near future than it has done for the past few months, a difference of stand must taken towards Arbitration Courts. They were established, so we were told, to prevent strikes and secure to every worker a "living" wage. Arbitration has miserably failed to accomplish this purpose.

Strikes are inevitable while capitalist exploitation exists; and the statement "Liberal and Labor" would pretend to believe that a "crap of paper," a law on the statute book, could eliminate the class conflict embedded in the economic foundations of society, were merely footing the workers for their own purposes. As for the "living" wage it has never operated, and never will, while the workers depend upon others to procure it for them.

The remedy lies not in Arbitration, nor in law-making or taxation. The real champion of all Arbitration Courts is Economic Power; the only law worthy of the name from the workers' standpoint is the law made and enforced on the job; the only "satisfaction" that will benefit the working class is shorter hours and a living wage envelope. And until the workers organize industrially and internationally to wage war on the capitalist class, the ultimate object of overthrowing the system through those tactics, there will be destitution and poverty, crime and disease and scanty Xmas dinners, in Berlin as in Sydney, in London as in New York; and so also will they remain at the mercy of their exploiters, and be fooled, threatened and punished by the judicial lickspittles of capitalism.

Melbourne

Carter's Demands

Three thousand members of the above union demanded more of the good things of life. Their advertisement read: "Mass meeting to consider the advisability of taking Direct Action to secure higher wages and shorter hours. As the matter is extremely serious, every member is asked to attend."

The secretary said the time had arrived when the men should not only threaten strike, but should carry it out.

He may not know, but there are two kinds of strike, on and off the job. To withdraw your labor-power and leave the way open for scabs. To take a holiday at your expense may suit the boss, but to cause him all the trouble you can will suit you better. If you really want a holiday in order to go to Europe, I hope that the feeling will spontaneously overcome the members of your union when you are out with a load and far from the stables or garage. To obtain policemen to guard your masters' property, in case some vulgar people get busy helping themselves will cost the ruling class a few dismounted thras. To lose a couple of wheels and let the dear bosses' goods in the street would annoy the old "Argosies" and her fossilised supporters.

If you are a motor lorry driver, motors are very delicate, and the least draught of emery powder is a wonderful stimulant. To mix up the names and addresses or labels on the goods, and take a little more time taking them to the wrong people, will give the boss a syncope, and compel him to think a great deal more of you. A little acid has a great attraction for leather; it is accidentally this kind of tone, it might cause your horse to part company with some of his clothes. He would be annoyed if he happens to leave the lorry behind.

Also, horses have no brains, that's why they "don't buy a 2/11 alarm clock to wake them up in time for the boss. They also like a valet to put their clothes on for them. You, drivers of course, don't need anything so common as valets to dress you. Wages boards are only used by politicians and judges who have a low standard of living, and require protection from you high and mighty carters and drivers, if your conditions are as bad as you say, what must be the position of the dear boss? He won't be able to go to Europe this coming summer if you should follow the example of the Broken Hill underground workers and take direct action on the job. Don't blame the boss if he gives you £3 10s a week to waste on slow horses and fast women. Your direct action will annoy "Granny Argosies," and "Auntie Aye," especially if they fail to get the necessary paper to waste printer's ink on.

If you will continue in your desire for direct action, I hope you'll forget to tell the boss fourteen days before hand, and catch him bending.

R. M. ROSE.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For
"DIRECT ACTION"
Enclosed please find P.O. for 4s. for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name.....

Address.....

Fill it in NOW!

TO FRENCH COMRADES.

Comrade francais desire établir un relation avec des camarades anglais allemands ou suisse parlant francais écrire au journal.

ADBLANE READERS

Can obtain copies of "Direct Action" and Industrialist literature from Charlie Russell, bookmaker, Gibson-street, Bowden, Adelaide, S.A.

"The Bulletin"

GROWING OLD, FAT, AND RESPECTABLE.

There was in Sydney, years ago, A paper that I used to read, And working folk were all agreed It WAS a paper, good to read.

Each week they used to pay their sprat To read this paper's handy chat. The lines on which this sheet was run Were crimson, and republican.

To princes, kings, and queens as well, It always gave a terrifically hot. All persons, priests, and workers meet It knocked slops out of once a week.

And portly folk, who lived on rent, Were promptly to the devil sent. And towards the politicians' class The language used was most sarcastic.

At sight of military folk, With rage this sheet would nearly choke. At parasites of every sort In fury it would zip and snort.

Exploiters by their tricks accrue Enraged it so it almost burst. At folk in high society, It glibbed with an unholly glee.

It printed tales of fornication To stimulate its circulation. And in those days, you may be sure, Its owners were extremely poor.

But as it gained in power and pelf, This paper trusted on itself. Its principles were all denied, Or placed conveniently aside.

And those that once it cursed as robbers, It haild now as the best of robbers. And brainless folk it seeks to please, With foolish jingles—such as these.

But now this sheet has lost its punch— Folk spread their sprat on counter-lunch. The reason why is plainly seen: The Pat Man runs the "Bulletin."

—CBRESSET.

The Wooden Shoe

In ancient times the beasts were caught And passed within a minute's stay, And scraps of food their master brought; For fear his useful beasts should die; A lash of heavy weight and shape Discouraged efforts to escape.

The careless hand that flung the food Could wield the lash with deadly skill, And after in an angry mood, A beat or two would sometimes kick, But over this no sleep he'd lose, More boasts there were than he could use.

The beats at times by methods crude Would strive, and seek to break away, Then would the hand withhold the food, And bring the dreaded lash in play, Submissive then the beasts would stand And try to lick the master's hand.

But lately to this sadome strait, A stranger beast an entrance sought, With brain alert and shining eye, A new philosophy he taught; The tulkons slaves could dimly see He had some plan to set them free.

The hand that wielded the lash is strong, And learn to lick that whip we must, Said some who'd lived in sties so long, They heard his teachings with distrust. These beasts, one could plainly see, Rejoiced in their captivity.

But some were slaves of sharper wit, Though holding views extremely odd, For even those, I must admit, Looked on their master as a god And they were at a total loss If Fate deprived them of their boss.

The stranger taught, with patience rare, These slaves of somewhat keener brain; At some, who'd timidly declare, "My peaceful means our gods we'll gain," The stranger wielded and brought to view, The "Peaceful Means," 'A Wooden Shoe.

—CBRESSET.

The Empire and the Slave.

(By A. E. Brown.)

"and what shall they know of England.
Who only England know?"
So slices Kipling, the "Banjo-bard of Empire," in spiteful allusion to those people who would see a country rather than "great."

We bear a good deal now-a-days about "Empire." The claims, obligations, defence, and glories of Empire are almost incessantly in our ears. Working men are exhorted to fight for the Empire, and to become more efficient (for the Empire) on lower standards of living. A writer in "John Bull" patriotically remarks: "The people are pouring out their blood for the Empire; let the millionaires pour forth their gold."

For some years workers have been exhorted to think "imperial." As the sole result of such imperialism thinking so far is the most savage war the world has known, it would have been on the whole as well, perhaps, to have slaves, if it were not for their mental efforts (as before) merely to "amooching up" to the boss.

The proper "imperial" thinking for working men is to think of their own class. This will lead them to take a larger view of their class interests. They will cease to be "citizens of no mean city" and become cosmopolitan; they will renounce Nationalism, and affirm the worldwide solidarity of labor. The master-class, however, gulls the workers into the belief that the interest of the millionaire and the working man are essentially the same. As Pagan says to Noah Claypole in "Oliver Twist": "My No. 1 is your No. 1, and you can't take care of your No. 1 without taking care of my No. 1." He said this to induce him to let Claypole into his power. So he is with the master-class and the workers.

It is amusing in this connection to notice how loosely and carelessly the words "capital" and "labor" are used in the capitalist press. Capital is stock; labor is human life; but to read the capitalist press, one would think was the other way about. The right aberration on the part of the masters is due to the fact that they do not think in terms of human, but of surplus value. That is the kind of imperialism thinking they wish to enforce upon working men.

It is nothing to the "bottom dogs" of society that they are members of an Empire upon which the sun never sets and the sun of Freedom is shining. None of them are at all intents and purposes slaves, with a prospect of a still lower descent into the gulf. For it is safe to assert that, thanks to the imperialistic tendencies of the whole of the workers, there is a great bulk of the working class will be purely and simply chattel-slaves, bought and sold on the market like cattle; and in twenty years time the whole of the workers will find themselves in this enviable position. We may therefore parody Kipling's lines, and ask:

"What shall they know of Empire,
Who only slaves know."
The British Empire is an aggregation of countries from which the original possessors of the soil have been either driven off, exterminated, or reduced to vassalage by famine and disease, or enslaved for purposes of exploitation. Australia, with its dying aboriginal race; Canada, where the Indians, another dying race, have been driven into reservations; South Africa, with the natives, after a saint resistance, enslaved in compounds; and India, with its countless millions and perforce families, are cases in point.

Another Empire war looms on the horizon when the present strife is over. That is the clash of the white race against the natives.

"O East is East and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet."
But it is safe to assert that the workers listen to the voices of capitalist mouthpieces, East and West will soon find themselves meeting on the field of battle, amid the "smoke of sulfur" and the "crack of world-wide machine," where does the working "Hurr" come in? He comes in at the "Hurr" and goes out at the back

For with all their imperialistic ambitions, the status of the workers does not improve. After the war is over, the cost of the destruction and waste inflicted thereby must be extracted from labor. "Surplus value" is sacred: proletarian life and labor is cheap.

The conclusion of the whole matter is, that the Empire and the slave is having nothing in common. Let the working class concentrate its energies upon the improvement of its own conditions and leave Empire to sacre care of itself. This universal effort on the part of Labor will bind together the workers of the world in a closer bond than that which Empire can supply.

To secure the full product of your toil, that is the goal for working men. Capital is necessary; but it should be owned and controlled by Labor, which creates it. Organizing on the industrial field for ownership of our own capital—that is the primary occupation for the worker. In the words of the poet—

"Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any task,
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to conticcate and take."

POST OFFICE SWEATING

A P.O. official writes—
No doubt, being a constant visitor at the Haymarket P.O., you will spare me a few lines in "Direct Action." I wish to mention that, although it is a "Christian time" the staff has not yet been given any extra assistance, which is most necessary owing to the rush which is now existing. At most times, even in the slackest, the busiest hours done daily at this office is at ways with a rush, as you will always find the public lined up at both the postal and M.O. counters. They are generally on an average of three deep. It is no fault of the officials on these counters, as they are exceedingly fast, and there is certainly room for complaint on the officials' part, for as fast as the crowd are attended to there are others coming in their place.

A continual stream is assured all day long. This matter requires looking into by some of the heads of this department, and extra assistance should be rendered to both these counters, which would enable them to cope with the Christmas rush.

To belong to the family of a Labor politician is a paying proposition now-a-days. The library of books on politics for the wives of the late Messrs. Dacey and Trefle will cost somewhere about £3500. The workers who keep the labor politicians in office are recommended by Chief Secretary Blaik to go to the benevolent institutions for their Xmas dinner, if they should happen to be out of work. Yet so foolish people enquire, "What is the use of politics?"

ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL No. 6.

HALL, LANE ST. BOULDER.

W. A.
Wednesday Evenings, in Hall—Class Meeting.
Friday Evening, Boulder Post Office—Propaganda Meeting.
Saturday Evening, Katgorie—Propaganda Meeting.
Sunday Morning, 10.30 a.m., Hall—Business Meeting.
Sunday Afternoon, Keane's Goldfields Hotel, Athletic Club, at 2.30—Lecture.
Sunday Evening, Boulder—Propaganda Meeting.
Good Friday at Hall. All Reds are invited to dig in and make Industrial Unions the Topic of the Day.
F. M. LUNN.

DIRECT ACTION.

Literature List.

Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vols., 8/- per volume.
African Society: Morgan, Bound, 6/-.
Value, Price, and Profit: Marx, Bound, 2/-; paper, 6d.
Evolution of Property: Lapargue, Bound, 2/-.
The Mutual Proletariat: Lewis, Bound, 2/-.
The New Unionism: Tridon, Paper, 1/8.
Sabotage: Pouget, Bound, 2/-; paper, 1/-.
One Big Union: Trautman, Paper, 6d.
Sabotage: W. C. Smith, Paper, 3d.
Sabotage: E. G. Flynn; paper, 3d.
I.W.W. History, Structure, and Methods: St. John, Paper, 3d.
Revolution and the I.W.W.: Peace, Paper, 3d.
Eleven Blind Leaders: B. W. Williams, Paper, 3d.
Political Socialism, or Capturing the Government: Nelson, Paper, 3d.
What For (Cartoon): Price 3d.
Revolutionary Unionism: E. J. B. Allen, Paper, 2d.
Why the A.W.U. Cannot Become Industrial Union: Alex. George, Paper, 3d.
Industrial Efficiency and Its Antidote: Flynn, Paper, 2d.
I.W.W. Songs: Paper, 3d.
Summary of Marx's Capital: Hazel, 2d.
The Diesel Motor: Frankenthal, Paper, 1d.
Industrial Unionism: St. John, 1d.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street.
Monday, 8 p.m.: Business Meeting.
Thursday, 8 p.m.: Economic Class.
Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Educational Class.
Friday, 8.30 p.m.: Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Victoria Street.
Saturday, Propaganda Meeting, Yarra Bank.
The rooms are open to all workers every night. All working class papers on file. Good Library. A welcome to all the "disobedient ones."

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Rooms, Palace Buildings, Sulphide Street.
Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Educational Class.
Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Economic Class.
Sunday, at 7.30 p.m.—Outdoor Propaganda Meeting, near Post Office, in Argentinian.
Good Library. Also good collection of literature for sale. All well welcome.
E. J. KELLY, Secretary.
Local No. 3, I.W.W.

SYDNEY LOCAL.

MEETINGS, Ac.
Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets Every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Bus-day Evening, at 7.
Meetings in Hall:
Sunday, 8 p.m., Propaganda.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., Economic Class.
Thursday, 8 p.m., Business Meeting.
Also, Public Meeting Every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

STICKERS.

The Press Committee have plenty of I.W.W. Stickers on hand. They are of a large type, smart, and to the point. Each Sticker has an imprint on it, in accordance with the boss's law. We will send along 1,000 to any address in Australia for 2/3, 5,000 for 2/5, and 10,000 for 2/12/6. Please send cash with order. Orders will be sent to New Zealand, provided 4/- extra is enclosed per thousand for additional postage. Address: Manager, Box 38, Haymarket, N.S.W.
Push the sale of "Direct Action." The boss loves it.
Every copy of "Direct Action" sold is a kick at the boss. Get subs.

W a g e s

By W. E. Reynolds.

What determines the wages you receive? What do we mean by "wages"? Wages have been described as the sugar-coating that makes a job endurable.

Four-fifths of the men, women and children of this country are dependent upon their wages for their existence. Four-fifths of all the people, with the exception of the farmers, are wage-workers or depending upon the wages of other people. How many people depending upon wages life you would naturally expect to find the public schools teaching what wages are and what determines whether they are "right" or "low"; wouldn't you?

The more you know of a problem and the principle involved, the easier you can solve it. We all have the problem of life to solve. With so many of us depending upon wages for life, the times or conditions that determine wages are of vital import as to life.

It should be the business of a public school to equip the child to better meet and solve the problems of life. If this is not the function of the public school, it is omitting the most important thing in the world.

Somebody defined wages as "that portion of the products of labor which the employer allows the work to keep." This is true, but not very satisfactory. Any worker knows that he is not allowed to keep even the smallest bit of what he produces. Should he be caught keeping back even the tiniest portion of the things he makes his boss would have him arrested for stealing company's property.

Imagine a diamond digger keeping a part of the diamonds! Or a shoemaker keeping a part of the shoes he makes! Or a first colored gentleman in the capitalist woodpile; the first joker in the stacked deck of the wage system. Wage workers, whether they know it or not have to AGREE to give up title to all the product of their labor, before they can get permission to go to work. They have to agree to take something different from the things they produce.

The employers know that if you got a part of what you produce, you would be apt to size up the SMALLNESS of the part you received and the BIGNESS of the part you didn't get. The company and you MIGHT start something!

The modern wage system, as a firm-sam, has the old three shells and a pea, and the same back on the boards. With the shell game you had an occasional chance to win! Never yet has any man been known to beat by the wage game and become rich.

Suppose that you got a ration. So many pounds of flour, salt, hog, beans and a clothing allowance in exchange for what you did in the factory? NO SIR! That would never do. Why you would feel like a slave working all the time for your board and clothes. "Fox noses!" They do not give you rations. They translate it into wages. You are changed into the food and necessities you have to have, the operation has become so complicated that you don't know just what you are getting. You know that the best you can do is to keep even. You feel that there is something wrong; that you are cheated somewhere.

What determines the amount of money you get for your labor?

You compete with your fellow workers for the job. They offer to do the work for three dollars a day. You bid to do it for two dollars and fifty cents. They make it two and a half and so it goes, down, down, down until it finally gets to a place where you decide—"I can't live on that. There is more life costs about competition breaks upon. It is the standard of living the worker will accept. Here is the proof of that."
Go to any country you choose. Find out what it costs the workers to maintain their standard of living and that will be the wages they are receiving. This is life costs about 20 cents a day to live and wages are about 20 cents. In Alaska it costs about six dollars a day to live, and

wages are around six dollars here. In the States, it costs about two dollars to live and wages average two dollars.

What you do has nothing to do with the wages you get. Your wages are determined by what you do, but by what it costs to keep you able to do. As a class, no matter what your cost of living, remember this—the employer always has to give the employee enough to live on and get back on the job.

Here is a little problem that shows up wages in their true light. If it costs you two dollars to buy the necessities etc., how long will you have to work in order to save enough to buy a home?

One more little problem to apply the principle. You have been told from childhood, to save your money and become independent. Now the standard of living which you, as a class, are willing to accept, determines your wages. You have been getting two dollars a day because it cost you two dollars a day to maintain your standard of living. Now you decide that you will each save fifty cents a day. How will you do it? You are going without butter, tobacco, new clothes or some such thing! But when you do that you cut down your standard of living. And if the standard of living is the thing which determines your wages, then you have cut your wages and have nothing to save and are worse off than when you started!

Know what determines wages and avoid being misled into a vote of defeat for the party which do not better your condition!

We are sick of the wages system. What we really want is a system in which the working class receive the value of the things it makes—for the working class.

"International Socialist Review"

Christ will have a warm time in a week or two with his "peace in our time" followers praying for the success of the war in their respective countries.

"The wild Prussian beast of Militarism must be brought to its knees!" said patriotic little Billy Kintle; quite so; a beast of that kind should not be allowed to range in Germany. It is not Australia in natural animal combat, as Billy proved with his boy conscript system.

Now we shan't be long. N.S.W. Labor Party has decided to establish a State Bakery, and buy out the private bakers. When Hall has succeeded in reducing the price of bread by a penny a loaf we may expect a great oration from Judge Heydon on the "living" wage question.

Marriages are booming in New Zealand, we are told, owing to the fear of Conscription. Which, ever way the workers move, except in the direction of the One Big Union, they seem to be playing into the hands of the boss. A fruitful crop of young slaves in the sweet by and by for capitalist exploitation will be the result of the Conscription agitation.

The mayor of that half dead burg, Newcastle, has blossomed forth as "a wit." He announces himself as not being a member of the "there were a number" of young men who ought to be "shanghaied." "Only the other day," he informs us, "he was in the ranks of a train when one of those shirkers got in and sat opposite a pal. The latter remarked: 'Where are you working now?' The other said nothing for a while but grinned, and then said, 'Working?' 'I don't like travelling in the bush, the mayor, only knew it, there spoke a kindred soul to his own and shirkers of a similar type

