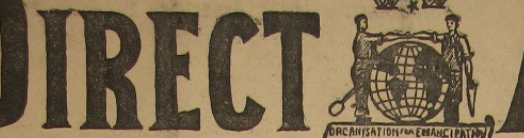


One Big Union means Dungarees and Hobnails for the Boss.



VOL. 2 NO. 31.

Registered at G.P.O., Sydney. SYDNEY, JUNE 15, 1915.

ONE PENNY

The Living Wage. Or Arbitration --- Settled in One Act.

Discovered in Court: His Worship The Chief Justice, Constable 23, and the Prisoner, Mr. Wage Plug.)

Constable: Prisoner at the bar, how do you plead?

Wage-Plug: Not guilty, your worship, not guilty, indeed.

His Worship: You are charged with attempting to rob your employers; Of aiding, abetting, our system's destroyers. Against you is laid a distinct allegation Of wanting more wages---without production.

You are charged, furthermore, with that crime, discount--- Of disturbing OUR peace---with an evil intent.

Another indictment---most serious indeed.

Is that you have smoked the insidious weed.

Before you're discharged you must be instructed.

That you do not indulge in tobacco or beer;

That you practice a self-sacrificing economy;

Confess to thrift and domestic autonomy.

That both children and wife be duly permitted.

That affairs of the house are cheaply conducted.

Not the smallest of luxuries can be incurred.

If the Court be convinced---well---you MAY be acquitted.

Constable: You have heard, Mr. Wage-Plug, His Worship's decree---

Worship's decree--- You may now proceed with your plaint, or your plea;

But if you offend, by a word, or a look out!

Look out! Mr. Wage-Plug! I'm here! Kiss the Book!

Wage-Plug: I didn't know, your Worship, I'd committed an offence.

I suppose that 'cause us workin' stuff is aggerant an' dease.

They tells me, does the other blokes, if I'd o'ly see as how we gets a min'm wage each week.

I don't know what this min'm is, excep'tin' that it's small.

Still, as I know my sinatuses, we might get none at all.

Now what I wants to tell this Court is how we likes the best;

Instead of starvin' children, an' a missus not ar' dressed;

From what I learns, an' reads, an' hears, an' sees 'most every day.

Us men what we makes every thing which you covers takes away.

We builds hotels an' mansions, which we never goes inside;

An' a Talway train, an' motor cars, on which we never ride.

We manufacture silks an' wools, an' falds-ids, an' such---;

Sutans, lace, juleys, our missuses don't touch.

We covers the tucker---fixes it---we cooks up all the grub.

An' then our kids goes hungry because your Worship, That's the end of us!

OUR tucker's leavin', scraps an' muck---we lives in dirty shacks.

An' never has a decent rag to put up our backs.

An' now they sends me up to you to get a min'm wage.

Well, you gets forty quid a week.

Let's put it on the stage.

Constable: Do you know that his Worship must not be perturbed?

There's a lot on his mind, and that his mind you're disturbed.

His Worship:

I have half a mind to charge you with contempt,

But, being somewhat biased, you're exempt.

(To Constable) Before I send this person to the jug I'd like to question Mrs. Working-Plug.

(Enter Mrs. Wage-Plug, ill Dressed and Nervous with One Child in Arms, and Two Clinging, Sbrly, to her Skirts.)

His Worship: Why don't you leave those children with their nurse?

In court, to children, I am quite averse.

Mrs. Wage-Plug, Outswagging: My wife, Working-Plug, please listen there's no nurse but me, So I must take them with me, always, don't you see.

His Worship: That's my good woman, I do not complain, But don't let these young annies see again!

My wife never brings her children children to court, And, really, dear madam, I don't think you ought.

Mrs. Wage-Plug: Will you please give my husband his rag?

In future I'll do everything you say. If we only get half of the good things we earn.

I'd engage a good nurse. We'd have money to burn!

His Worship: Well, then, by good woman, is what I'd discover Of Justice to you, and your Class, I'm a lover.

I would find out what you eat, I would find out what you wear, and how you live, and then, moreover, If you will not think me rude, Some few questions, I'd obtrude.

As to subjects that are off let under court.

Mrs. Wage-Plug: If of Justice you're a lover, You'll find nothing under cover.

His Worship: Well, then, my good lady, some questions I'll ask, Although it quite irks me to take you to task.

I wish to find out what you folks CAN subsist on, And then I will know what the wage-plugs exist on?

Although I'm 'the judge and the jury as well, When they gave me this job, well, I might as well tell--- They tells the workers and I were distinctly apart.

I work for the Masters. They gave me MY start.

Mrs. Wage-Plug: Do you think we cannot tell? We know that fact quite well.

His Worship: When I read my instructions I found that you visit The butcher and baker, now, tell me why is it, Instead of you buying the skinbones and lights, You insist on acquiring what's ours, by all rights?

They tells me you working-plugs buy chops and steak;

That, instead of stale bread, you insist upon cake.

Don't you know, my dear woman, that's rather absurd!

You ask for the best---in fact, in a word.

You want what you haven't the power to take.

IF YOU'LL TAKE ALL THE BREAD, YOU'LL GET ALL THE CAKE!

Mrs. Wage-Plug: That's what I told my man,

Excepting for a scarcity of street meetings, the propaganda of the Local has been ably sustained. The Domain meetings have been well attended, over £10 worth of literature and papers were disposed of within the two Sundays.

A new pamphlet has been reprinted by the Press Committee from the "Labor Leader" of England, entitled "How the War Came."

It is very interesting and disposes of many old issues by the history of the respective alliance, and the happenings in the diplomatic world prior to the war. The price is 3d. each, or 2/- per doz. The supply is limited, so orders must be placed early.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For DIRECT ACTION

Enclosed find P.O. for £/ for which send me Direct Action for 12 months at the following address:—

NAME _____

(Street or P.O. Box) _____

CITY _____

State _____

(If removed, please mark an x here.)

FREMANTLE.

Although the membership has not increased to any marked extent the influence of the I.W.W. is growing week by week.

For the last three weeks we have conducted large successful meetings. Fellow workers being leading the crowd interested for an hour and a half each meeting.

The sales of literature and "Direct Action" have been very gratifying from a financial and educational point of view and generally speaking, sales continue to increase with growth of propaganda meetings.

The Socialists are still indulging in class waggery over nothing in particular. They "cut no joes" these days. The I.W.W. is the only body that delivers the goods, because it believes in doing things. Best wishes from rebels in the West.

N. JEFFERY.

But it doesn't seem he can.

His Worship: A question I'd ask you---might sound grotesque--- Why aren't these dear children---say your---Children? By the way, the System would bear less expense If the brats were all ignorant, naked and done.

Buying new clothes is a sheer waste of cash!

Education is, also---ridiculous---rash. What is education? You know, so do I.

The thing is a fraud---a pretence, and a lie.

But, there, I philosophise, pose as a sage.

Instead of adjusting the Stiff's Living Wage. (To The Wage-Plug) Have you saved up any coin?

Wage-Plug: I never had the chance, Sir, to purchase.

His Worship: Not! We cannot all be clever, but you're the dearest ever.

I have met in all my travels o'er this earth.

You working stiff's convulse the world with mirth. (Certain)

S.W.

The "Weekly Trade Report," the organ of the Merchants and Traders' Association of Australasia, which, by the way, is published at two shillings, in its issue of May 31st, gives us an eyepiece on our masters' patriotic outlook and their benevolent intentions towards their patriotic slaves after the war is over.

Referring to the difficulties of "capturing German trade," it has the following, quoted from "Kemp's Gazette":

"Notwithstanding all this, however, there are some trades in which we might compete successfully, if we would but make the useful changes in our methods. In the smaller and cheaper kinds of goods, such as glass and china ornaments, children's toys, and the like, there is room for a vast manufacturer. But, here, the wages question is supreme. This is work, that could, and should be done by women and boys and girls, who could readily be taught, and would quickly learn, and whose pay would be less than that of men. In this matter, however, we have set up a legislative barbed wire fence under the Factory and similar Acts, which in many ways hampers the freedom of the manufacturer, and of those who are willing to work for him at low wages and for long hours."

The article goes on to state that the answer to it is an "Economic Force" which will assist in solving the problem of cheap labor, and "that whatever the unions may do, and notwithstanding any paper guarantees given, employment can, and will, never be the same again."

It will be noticed that these industrial and commercial Huns, in their hearty to heart talks with each other through their two bell pres, do not indulge in any sentimental balderdash about the war being a national or patriotic affair. It is a war of Freedom against Militarism, and hope of a similar kind which their penny press consistently dish up for working class digestion. Not on your life! The war to this fraternity is an "Economic Force," which helps them to solve the question of the exploitation of juvenile and female labor---women, boys and girls, who are "willing" to work from dawn to dark for whatever this human brood of vampires may in their manueuvre catch them.

In contempt for the methods of trade unionism, which in its sectional, narrow and biased outlook, ignores the organization of this kind of labor, these centry are outspoken enough to declare that "employment can, and will, never be the same again," and they mark you, "notwithstanding any paper guarantees given."

The contempt for "scraps of paper" is very evidently not a German monopoly.

The inclusion of the patriotic blunderbuss the victim of lying economic and political scoundrels, who rubs off to the front in the belief that the defeat of the German and the "capture of our money trade" will result in remunerative employment for himself, here receives a rude shock. The great Captains of Industry and public-spirited citizens who subscribe to patriotic funds, drink the alcoholic "health" in champagne and send him God speed with their lips, have deep down in their hearts, the desire, fostered by inhuman greed that he shall leave his bones on the battle-fields of Europe, so that economic necessity may render his wife, sisters or other dependants the obedient slaves of good employers.

If anybody should say that this is too drastic a conclusion to draw from the above quotations, then the English language has no meaning!

The writer recently listened to a lec-

ture by Mrs. Meredith Atkinson, of the Workers' Educational Association, in which that gentleman put it forward as his belief that the development of a "social conscience" brought about by the sufferings of all classes in the war would result in a better understanding between master and worker, and something of a social regeneration. The development of a "social conscience" would certainly appear to be a very rapid growth so far as the master class is concerned, but its tendency is scarcely in the direction Mr. Atkinson would have the workers believe.

That "conscience" has its roots so deep in the economic foundations of society, that even if its expression were not so clearly put forward in the "Weekly Trade Report," it might be evident from past experience that any temporary psychological aberrations that may be produced by the war, will prove incapable of modifying it. While labor is content to remain a commodity it is a foolish dream for the workers to expect the capitalist class to adopt any other viewpoint towards it than that exhibited towards other commodities whose purchase is essential, namely, to buy as cheap as possible, by foot or by crook, by "fair" means or foul, and "notwithstanding any paper guarantees given."

What is going to be the workers' answer to this bold declaration of their exploiters? The future only can tell; but one thing is safe to prophesy. The happy hunting ground contemplated by the Merchants and Traders' Association of Australasia is sure to be arid and if the workers do not adopt new methods of organization, new tactics in accordance therewith, and declare war on exploitation as being as those matters have declared in favour of it.

Vain dreams of the "development of a social conscience" efforts harmonizing by arbitration or other methods of interests in their very nature antagonistic, may afford scope for the strategy of reformers, politicians and other phantoms theologically disposed people; but if the workers are not to degenerate into barbarians, a militant organization, having no illusions as to the masters' intentions, ready to adopt all methods ethical or unethical, legal or illegal, and that "notwithstanding any paper guarantees given," is an absolute necessity.

T. GLYNN.

Combinations.

"Solidarity" is the official organ of the I.W.W. in North America. It is full of strike news, tactics, and interesting articles on Industrial Unions. No industrialist can afford to be without it. It ought to have a circulation of at least 2000 in Australia. It will be posted from this office for 6s. 6d. per annum. It can be obtained with "Direct Action" the two will cost 8s. per year posted.

"Globe Trade" is a Russian industrial weekly published in New York. No industrialist can afford to be without it. Every Russian worker should read it. The yearly subscription is 60s. In connection with "Direct Action," the two papers will be sent for one year for 8/- to any address in Australia.

"The Proletarian" is the I.W.W. Bulletin weekly published in the U.S.A. It will cost 60s. per annum. It can be obtained with "Direct Action."

Address, Lit. Secretary, 230 Castleough Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Direct Action

The "Sun's" Economics.

From North America.

Labor is Suspicious.

The "know all" propensities of the average who in the capitalist sheets is amusing. The "Sun" in its "War Notes" of June last takes the pig-headed militarists of the German general staff to task for their "mistake" in military strategy in the western theatre of war. The cocksureness of this military critic would lead one to believe that the German plan of campaign laid in his hands, things would indeed be looking blue for the Allies. It is really time that the censor stopped in and put this pushover on the "Sun" out of business for his bare-faced suggestions to the Germans on how to defeat their enemies.

On somewhat similar lines, the "Sun" on the following day comes out with a leading article giving, of course, disinterested advice to the workers on the "sa" named doctrine and the methods which interfere with the rapid performance of the work of the community; only that altruistic spirit which characterizes the "Sun's" is not to be seen. The general is here more prominently put forward.

The "Sun" is horrified to find that 'men in the labour ranks are cutting the throats of their own class,' when they adopt any method which involves interference with that latest pet scheme of up-to-date exploiters known as Industrial Efficiency. This is so plain to the "Sun's" eyes that it clarifies the workers' ideas on the matter by a "simple arithmetical fact," which while it has no relation to economic facts as they exist, is at all events worthy of the same consideration as the German General Staff will, no doubt, give to the "Sun's" military guesstimates.

The "arithmetical fact" discovered by the "Sun" is as follows:—

If for £1000 (apart from labour) the capital of the community can produce something worth £2000, there is £1000 from labour. This is drawn from in the proportions they may agree upon in their incessant disputes. But if the product is only worth £1600, only the balance of £400 remains for division.

You will notice that the "Sun's" inference drawn is a happy picture of the boss and his workers going over the former's books at the end of a given period and fixing the wages in accordance with the accumulated profits. It will also be noticed that the "Sun" assumes capital to be THE factor in the production of wealth, and the further accumulation of it, as it is all paid AFTER his production, is more and more, and not before, is another remarkable thing about the "Sun's" arithmetical fact.

If the economic genius responsible for this discovery will only attend to the I.W.W. economic case for five minutes of one evening, it will be demonstrated that his assumption, or his chain, according to his own logic, is that the worker's wages is determined by economic laws which have nothing to do with the value, large or small, of the commodity he is paid to produce.

Portion of the £1000 capital, supposed by the "Sun" is capital employed in the means of labor, and the value which that labor produces is, of course, merely potential, the "Sun's" little picture of master and worker 'cutting away' the value in the proportion they may agree is neither a more nor a less fact nor a fact of any other kind. The worker's wages is, first of all, determined by the cost of the means of production, and his standard of living rises or falls in accordance with the law of supply and demand in the labor market, and the economic pressure which he exercises through organization with his fellows. He feels instinctively that his wages is not determined by his total product, and he knows, if he is intelligent, that any diminution of his labor in the production of commodities for which he is demanded will result in the employment of "extra hands," thereby rendering competition less towards the resultant tendency towards the raising of his own standard of life.

Accepting the "Sun's" formula, whether the value which he adds to the raw material be £1000 or £500, it will not add to the £1000, but it will reduce the wages which he has already drawn for the expenditure of his labor energy. A worker, by assuming that £1000 to £500, or the £500 to £200, or £200 to £500, or other methods, is the one being who the master class fear; hence the measures by which they and the modern cry that "Industrial Effi-

The following letter has been received by a fellow-worker in Auckland, N.Z., from E. Jose Magon, a member of the Mexican Liberal Junta, one of the main factors in the civil conflict that is waging in Mexico at the present time. Sr. Magon is on the staff of the Spanish-English revolutionary paper, "Regeneracion," published at Los Angeles, Cal.—Ed.

"Regeneracion," Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Dear Comrade,—Your kind letter from the 20th February last with hand, with great delight.

We are exchanging with "Direct Action," Sydney, and am sure that Comrade Owen is sending the Editor his English journal.

We are glad to know that our fellow-workers there are for Direct Action. That is what is needed, we ever want to be emancipated.

Pleading-time must be gone for good; it is no use to beg for bread and to get a cracked head instead. We must return blow for blow, if possible, give more of them than we receive, if we must accomplish anything.

We are watching with great interest the growth of the I.W.W. in Australia, and as you inform us, we active members deserve the greatest praise for initiating the revolutionary I.W.W. and its propaganda in that new land.

We are much pleased with the organ, "Direct Action." Its work is well reflected, great merit upon the organisations. In our opinion, the near future belongs to the revolutionary I.W.W. in Australasia.

With all good wishes for the success of the I.W.W. in Australia.

Remaining yours for radical revolution, by the group of "Regeneracion,"

E. JOSE MAGON.

YOUR KING AND COUNTRY NEEDS YOU

"Your King and Country Needs You" is the cry that greets you on every side, but how many times have you needed your King and Country. When the landlord comes to your door (for letting you live in your country) and you have none to pay, when he has you evicted, and you find that the workhouse is the only place left for you, when your King and Country, or when in desperation you steal a loaf for them, you are given three months' hard labor, when on account of prison you find every man's hand against you, when you

But why go on? How many thousands of times do you need your King and Country, and what do they do for you then? Your King and Country need you. What bitter irony!

"Direct Action" makes for the well-being of the worker. It is the only cry in a new century, the longer our hands are the more I shall be able to pay, these shining economic lights forget these many stages in industrial efficiency have been reached in the last half century; the individual productivity of the labourer has gone up as "three meals and a flop" with a tray laid the pictures thrown in for good behavior. That is an historical and an economic fact which the "Sun" is recommended to please beside its "new" propaganda by way of comparison.

T. GLYNN.

(The following letter has been received by the General Secretary-Treasurer from Wm. D. Haywood, General Secretary-Treasurer of the American Administration, Industrial Workers of the World.—Ed.)—

104-6 W. Washington-street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., May 5th, 1915.

Fellow-worker—Your letter of the 4th April to hand. As to literature published in the Italian and Slavonic languages, we have several pamphlets, but scarcely any leaflets published in other than the English tongue. You will see by the list in "Solidarity" that there are several papers of the organization published in what we are pleased to call foreign languages. These papers issue from time to time leaflets and pamphlets of their own as well as translate the English literature into their own language.

We have the constitution in Polish and Italian. The "General Strike," which is a speech made by me one time in New York, has also been translated into these languages, also a debate by Fellow-worker Jos. J. Eitor with one Carol, then an A.F. of L. organizer, now a member of the Italian Parliament.

I will make up a bundle of about twenty-five of each of them and send them to you. You can then have them reprinted there, if you can, or your orders for any amount from this side.

It is interesting to learn about the Chinese fellow-worker who has written the pamphlet, "The St. John's I.W.W. History," and run the same in his paper in Burma. It will soon be that the sun will never set on the Industrial Workers of the World.

This incident puts me in mind of something that I learned during my last trip to Victoria, B.C. There had been reported there, that I had left for China a B.C. fellow-worker, an American fellow-worker by the name of Harris to organize in China. What success he met with we have not heard of. We have several locals on the coast, among their membership are Asiatics of the different countries.

On April 1st there was held a Conference in Kansas City, Mo., of the harvest workers, who organized what is known as an Agricultural Workers' Organisation of the Industrial Workers of the World. This is the outcome of several years' agitation throughout the middle states and Canada. They will appoint a local red organ, and you will work with the crews during the harvest. This movement means a greater campaign of agitation and a wider distribution of literature. I have never before been accomplished. There is also more activity among the steel workers than for some time past. The Amalgamated Association affiliated with the American Federation of Labor decayed and the highly skilled and skilled men and some sub-contractors. The workers are organising into their own unions, where they can manage their own affairs in their own interest and in the interest of their class.

Was pleased to learn of the splendid work being done by the I.W.W. throughout Australia. The Ed. is a thorough idea, the hope of the working class. With best wishes,

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
(Signed) WM. D. HAYWOOD,
General Sec.-Treasurer.

NOTE

Correspondents are requested to write as legibly as possible, and on one side of the paper, as it facilitates finding the paper ready. The Editor regrets that he is not in a position to answer letters owing to the amount of work to be done. In the future, all correspondence will be acknowledged in the columns.

What is the I. W. W.? Send / for a parcel of literature and find

Fellow-workers, take a kick at the system by pushing "Direct Action."

The main fact about the temper of a great body of working people is that it is still ailing. This is the inheritance amongst thinking people of generations of struggle. But there is a special element in the suspicion of every man of the younger workmen. They do not merely suspect the employer, they suspect Parliament, and they suspect their own Government. This is all part of the disappointments of the last few years. If we are to understand the present situation, we must remember the laws that makes it possible to prosecute working men for such offences as sedition. The growing suspiciousness of labor and its increasing determination to no longer rest content with being told what is good for it, and what is bad, one which has to be faced. By the master and the State, now assisted by the Labor leaders, and trade union officials, it will be met by persuasive overtures, appeals to sentiment and patriotism and by compromise, and when all these fail they will resort to armed force or legal coercion. But the worker, who alone knows the aspirations and needs of the worker, will meet it in a different way. We must once again this spirit of revolt among our workmates, for only by revolting against certain conditions can a change be made.

We must focus the suspicion, and protest against the world's capture of the treachery and cunning of the suspects, and extend the knowledge of the power we possess and our determination to resist. We must endeavor to direct that power against the things that really matter. It is indeed a healthy sign that men who found it so hard to strike at a time when appeals to patriotism overshadow all else, and whilst a truce (entered into by the leaders with the masters) is supposed to exist, and the justification of the men are beginning to suspect their leaders, and more, they are suspecting the State and capitalism, and militarism, and the world. The men are beginning to suspect their leaders, and more, they are suspecting the State and capitalism, and militarism, and the world. The men are beginning to suspect their leaders, and more, they are suspecting the State and capitalism, and militarism, and the world.

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W. H. LIPSCOMBE.

STICKERS.

Stickers are one of the most effective propaganda dodges that can be used. The Press Committee has printed a great quantity, which are now on sale to members and locals. The prices are 2s. 6d. per thousand; 1s. for 500; and 1d. for 100. Orders despatched by return.

A thousand subs. means a weekly "Direct Action."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

(Austrian Administration.)

Office—330 Castlereagh St., Sydney Australia.

EDITOR: TOM BARKER.

MANAGER: E. A. GIFFNEY.

Matter for publication only should be addressed to the Editor. Other matter to the Manager.

Subscription, 2/- per year. Special Terms on Bundle Orders.

HEADQUARTERS I.W.W. (Australia): 39 CASTLEREACH ST., SYDNEY.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS: 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

Organisation Notes

The last copy of "Solidarity," the Polish I.W.W. paper, published an article from a recent number of "Direct Action," dealing with the runaway case at the High Court in Toronto, and the conclusion of the editor comments on the beauties of State Socialism, and its beneficent effect on the working class.

The following telegram was received by Fellow-worker W. Jackson, who is at present holding propaganda meetings in Townsville, Q.—"Slumber pill taking effect. Bummer's being sent dozen Bummer's. Send two dozen War What For? also two dozen New Unionism' ship with literature; also send two hundred 'Direct Actions.' Kind regards."

We have received some good parcels of subscriptions from F. W. Rate, of Broken Hill, and from F. W. Healy, of Rockhampton. F. W. Healy has gone on to Townsville, from whence he has also sent down some ads. Other members might take a tip and justify their existence. Come on, let's hear from you.

Several fellow-workers are now at Ardeleano to Mines, where they are beginning to push the dope of the O.B.U. job propaganda is already in the air. If the job is crook, stop and make it a good one should be the motto of every wobbly.

Fellow-worker Range will probably leave for the Northern Territory at an early date to join up the Asiatic workers into the I.W.W. Meetings can also be arranged at Brisbane and Townsville, and possibly at Rockhampton.

During the hearing session it is the intention of the Press Committee to send parcels of back numbers of "Direct Action" to all shods. That they could be distributed to the new ground. If any member sympathiser wishes to distribute papers in any other place we will forward a parcel by the outgoing mail.

We will have on sale a limited number of Italian and Polish constitution and literature. Any member wishing the same should apply early. The new sheets of I.W.W. History, Structure and Methods, are now out. "War, What For?" are temporarily out of stock, but we hope to supply same in a month or so. Orders should be sent in now.

