

One Big Union For the International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

Loafing.

Honorary Minister, Mr. R. Underwood of W.A., in a speech before the Leeder-via A.L.P., gave us another concrete example of the interests which Labor politicians and Labor governments represent.

The Minister's speech was reported in the "West" as "Loafing," and was given a prominent place in the master class daily. In fact, this Labor politician remarked, "They had developed some thing new in Trades Unionism. . . . This system of loafing was un-Australian, and he believed that those who were leading the movement were not Australians, but imported men. They would not have conscription; they would not volunteer (Underwood in Hell first), they would not work, etc., etc., in fact, the Minister's speech was a long wail, that the workers (especially the building trades in Perth) were not working hard enough; and that if the workers persisted in this "un-Australian" habit, that he, Underwood, would be likely to leave the Labor movement.

It would be easy for an I.W.W. man to show this obnoxious hitching of the master class, this politician with the funky mind; but abuse, talk, "cuts no ice" with the master class, but only organisation, which is power.

This speech of Underwood's is only another example of what can be found every day under Labor governments in Australia, which we industrial unionists are continually pointing out to our fellow-workers, that all governments, Liberal or Labor, are servants of the big capitalists. The Labor politicians are just as willing to urge the workers to kill other workers in capitalist wars, just as willing to "speed up" the working class, and thereby fetch down the standard of living, just as willing to keep the workers in an imperious gloom of despair and abject misery, as any Liberal politicians. Of course Underwood's speech was a sly dig at the I.W.W.

To show how these Labor politicians come to lead when the capitalist want "industrial efficiency," Underwood in times gone by, has been violently abused in the "West," called "brutal," "uncouth," and "illiterate," scoffed and sneered at by the Liberal politicians, and insulting and personal remarks passed about his crude speech and dress.

Anyhow, Underwood is typical of all politicians. So far as the I.W.W. is concerned, politicians are the workers' enemies. In cases where the labor politicians are too ignorant to see that they are the tools of the master class, then they are too bound up in their material interests to have a soul above a vote, or an idea above a seat in Parliament.

"Loafing" 'Yes, organised loafing; that is "Sabotage" a weapon of this new unionism," that we of the I.W.W. hope to have the pleasure of using against the capitalist class and their labor governments.

M. SAWTELL.

SYDNEY LOCAL.

Meetings, &c.

Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Sunday Evening, at 7.

Meetings in Hall:

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Economic Class.
Thursday, 3 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening, 8 p.m.—Special Class.
Also Public Meeting every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

'Labor' Council

UNDER POLICE PROTECTION.

There is growing evidence that the workers are becoming ever more disgusted with their "representatives" at the Sydney Trades Hall. Following upon the hostile demonstration against the Labor Council, made the week before last at the meeting of that body when the Broken Hill strike was being discussed, a large crowd again turned up last week for the purpose of listening to the discussion, though the announcement that the strike had been settled appeared in the morning press of the same date.

The Council, evidently not desiring that the workers who elected it should be privileged to listen to its dialectics on the subject of whether a strike is a strike or a scab as is such, had issued instructions that only delegates, who were to be provided with special badges for the occasion should be admitted.

This course of action, very naturally aroused the ire of the workers who were interested in the matter, and who wished to attend. That Trade Unionists should be excluded from even listening to the deliberations of the body which they themselves elected to look after their interests was surely, to say the least, an anomalous situation, and well illustrates the characteristic blundering of Craft Union officials.

The precincts of the Trades Hall were unusually lively for an hour or more previous to the time set for the meeting, and delegates were obliged to force their way through the crowd waiting in the passages and on the stairs.

On the crowd realising that they were not to be admitted, their anger found vent in the breaking of the glass panels on the doors and the general clamour was so loud and long, the meeting was unable to start for half an hour after the usual time.

The President, O'Neill, in opening the meeting made a clumsy effort to conceal the fact that he hostilely displayed came from trade union circles. Even craft unionists are people who cannot be fooled all the time; the rank and file, at all events are waking up sufficiently to realise the scabby functions of the institution they have so long supported.

O'Neill began by declaring that members of the I.W.W. were responsible for the whole trouble, though as a matter of fact there were not half a dozen I.W.W. men present in the crowd. The business meetings of the I.W.W. are held every Thursday evening, and at the time O'Neill was frothing at the I.W.W. machine men per cent. of the active membership in Sydney were sitting in their hall calmly discussing ways and means of pursuing their interests, totally unconscious of Mr. O'Neill's existence, and the dilemma into which he and his scabbies had placed themselves.

The capitalist press, of course, took the tip, and the reports of the matter made it appear as if the I.W.W. was responsible for the trouble. It was all Sydney who interest themselves in economic matters pertaining to their class are absolutely nauseated with this latest instance in connection with the Broken Hill Strike.

The motion introduced endorsing the action of the strikers was ultimately defeated by 80 votes to 65. It was fitting that this act of working class betrayal should be consummated by its authors in a conference by the forces of capitalist "law and order" to protect them from the righteous anger of the class whose interests they had pledged themselves to promote.

When a so-called labor body must have police to protect it from those whom it should represent, things have reached an interesting stage in our alleged labor movement.

Sydney Propaganda.

Week end propaganda in Sydney was highly satisfactory. The meeting in the Domain on Sunday afternoon was unusually large, collection, literature and paper sold being well above the average.

In Bathurst Street in the evening, some soldiers, instigated by two or three of their Christian comrades, who are members of the Salvation Army, endeavored to smash up the propaganda meetings. While the boys were singing, promoters of the opening of the meeting, some thirty soldiers appeared, led by the "Salvies," and rumbled the I.W.W. group. Things looked nasty for a few moments, but matters subsequently quieted down, the "victory" achieved by Commissioner Slattery's tools being something in the nature of a galling affair.

The meeting was continued until nearly 8 p.m., when an adjournment was made to the Hall, where Follow-Work-King addressed the audience, in large and attentive audience, thanks to Friend Slattery's timely advertisement.

In the pursuit of Industrial Unionist propaganda, the I.W.W. has no desire to go out of its way to tread on the soldiers' toes, for we recognise that the soldier of to-day is the wage slave of to-morrow, who will have to be reasoned with and educated to class-consciousness by participation into the only army that matters, the One Big Union of his class.

On the other hand, no sacrifice or compromise in revolutionary principles should be made in order to please the soldiers in our audience, be they soldiers or civilians. If the I.W.W. see only police officers in their propaganda, with the good will and approval of Slattery's salvationist things and the hoodlum element in khaki, better that it should cut out of business at once. Nuf sed.

"SENTENCED TO DESTINATION." In the Victorian State Government in 1900 an order was issued, whereby the pursuance of all strikes, unauthorised, to give the "voluntary" system of entrenchment "a chance," has retrenched 1500 railway employees. The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the railway men held in Melbourne last Sunday—

"That this mass meeting, representative of 25,000 railway employees, enters its emphatic protest against the wholesale dismissal of superannuaries when necessary and reproductive works require to be carried out, and is of opinion that the State Government, with the assistance of the Federal Government if required, should raise sufficient money to carry on such works and maintain in employment the 1500 men sentenced to their class."

Much lip service is being given by many unions in Australia to the anti-conscription agitation, yet here—as with a form of conscription as could possibly be imagined, and unionism is taking it lying down like the tamed cat it really is.

The plutes, their press, and their politicians have been making eloquent appeals to the workers to go and fight for "their" country, but here is proof that the workers have not alone no country to fight for, but they do not even own the natural right of the lowest thing that crawls, the right to exist and appropriate what nature provides.

"Sentenced to destitution" has been the fate of countless thousands of workers in the past. It is a power which Labor, with the master class by virtue of its ownership of the earth and the means of production, and it never been always ruthlessly exercised in war as well as in peace, wherever profit and greed can be served by doing so.

The "historic" role served up to the capitalists and their flunkies in this war will go down to posterity as the greatest bluff in history.

The workers will never be able to repay their masters for all the good things received, until they acquire the power to "sentence the boss to work."

I.W.W. Men Arrested.

As we go to press news has reached us from Melbourne that two members of the I.W.W., Fellow-workers Laidler and Wilson, have been arrested. The charge laid against them is "obscene language." Laidler, it appears, having referred to "our" scab Prime Minister as "the biggest political scoundrel that Labor ever had produced," and Wilson, it is alleged, used similar complimentary remarks. We say "complimentary" advisedly, for surely a man who has been guilty of the vile treachery to the working class movement which Billy Hughes has, should think himself lucky in being described merely as a "political scoundrel." Both personally, politically, and in all his relations with the workers, who have raised him out of the gutter and placed him in a position of affluence, Whitman aptly describes as "swearing of primers, doughfaces, lice of politics, planners of sly innovations for their own profit."

It appears that Tucker Billy is privileged to abuse and vilify to his heart's content those people whom he knows to "have taken a tumble" to the scabby motion which he exercises in the Labor, but Billy has usurped royal privileges in Australia—that he is above criticism in his political capacity and "can do no wrong."

The case will be tried in Melbourne on 22nd inst., and is attracting considerable attention in militant labor circles.

ECONOMICS FOR THE WAGE-PLUG.

Fellow-workers,—You ask a question that is pertinent to our last discussion about the modern wage worker. In that discussion we agreed that the wage worker is the necessary actor in production for all forms of wealth, whether it be in the form of means of subsistence, means of production, or that portion of surplus value which is squandered to further production.

So far you are on the right way to understand your relative position in society, and now your question as to the form of organisation, necessary for the class struggle.

Now that we are the proletarians, that is, without property of any kind, and hardly any semblance of skill, the craft union is out of date. To be in keeping with that form of organisation, workers must have property to sell, namely, their skill in using the hand tools.

But modern machine production machines have the skill, and the workers group around these machines to operate them; hence the employers buy labor power. This grouping of workers around machines has the tendency to bring in its train subdivisions of labor. So with the workers divided and subdivided into groups around the machines of industry, it is plain that the form of organisation must be industrial, determined by conditions of industry itself.

To construct this One Big Industrial Union, we must begin with the unit, and the unit is a number of workers of the one industry in a given locality: numbers being less than machines. Together they form a national union of the given industry: national unions of closely allied industries combined form a national industry. Determining links with the national industrial departments of other industries; all combined form the general organisation of the Industrial workers groups around the machines of industry of the World, a class organisation.

With the everyday struggles with the employing class, initiative and self reliance within the working class will develop, while building the structure of the future state of society within the old. G.P.W.

DIRECT ACTION

Our Standpoint.

Labor Power Control

I. W. W. Preamble.

THE SUPREME FORCE

IN WORLD CONQUEST.



WEEKLY OFFICIAL ORGAN

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The Sanctity of The Home.

Whenever and wherever revolutionists have attacked the property interests of the Capitalist class the above cry has been raised. The "independent" working man is appealed to and told that those people who desire to overthrow the capitalist system are social incendiaries who would destroy society and dissolve all social ties.

These accusations are made, of course, not through any real fear which exists on that score, but rather in the endeavor to conceal the tendency of the existing system to accomplish that which they accuse others of desiring to do.

In England, at any rate, the war is rapidly bringing about a state of affairs which is destroying whatever apologies for homes the workers previously possessed.

The December number of the "British Medical Journal" informs us that when the war broke out workers in the factory districts worked over 100 hours per week. To quote: "As soon as the war began, overtime was introduced in many factories, so that men worked over fifteen hours a day, and seven days a week. Night and day shifts were instituted, and the change from night to day was made in many factories by the men working an eighteen hour shift—for example, from 6 p.m. on Saturday to noon on Sunday; the other shift working from noon on Sunday to six a.m. on Monday."

Workers who slave from fifteen to eighteen hours a day, would seem to have little leisure for enjoying that "home life" which the bourgeoisie for the capitalist system accuse revolutionists of wishing to destroy.

When we reflect that under the Munitions Act the worker is frequently fined for such "offences" as turning up late, sleeping on the job, and other delinquencies calculated to interfere with the production of surplus values, we are able to see at its true value the capitalist's solicitude for the working man's "home life" and his anxiety for his home and social well-being.

The number of fines, by the way, which have been inflicted under the Munitions Act on workers who go to sleep at their job can now be well understood in the fact that eighteen-hour shifts, though the capitalist press justify such punishments on the ground of the workers' "natural laziness," and his indifference to the "Father's" danger.

The Capitalists of Great Britain, however, would appear not to be content with keeping the worker from fifteen to eighteen hours a day from his "home." They apparently believe that a few hours social intercourse in such an environment has a demoralising effect upon its efficiency as a profit producing machine.

The Committee appointed by Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, "to consider and advise on questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labour, and other mat-

The capitalist press congratulates "the people of Australia" on the success of the recent War Loan, over ten millions of the amount asked for being subscribed. A quarter of the total amount was invested by five subscribers, so "the people of Australia" have really something to be proud of in allowing themselves to be so handsomely fleeced in the past. Hence, we presume, the congratulation of the press. Otherwise it remains unutilizable.

London "Daily Mail" estimates that the income of the British Shipping Companies has increased from £22,000,000 to £290,000,000 since the outbreak of the war, an increase of over 1000 per cent! Who said "A Capitalists' War"?

The British Press is howling its rage at Germany for importing foodstuffs from Poland and leaving the Polish people destitute and in a state of starvation. But the British press has been silent for over a century during which the great mass of Britishers have lived in the greatest poverty, while millions of wealth were annually exported.

Re Billy Hughes' "terrible" treatment of German shareholders in Australian companies, which means that Billy's government is going to appoint a public trustee to take care of their dividends for them till the war is over, a "wealth" correspondent inquires why the "financial magnates of Germany on the signing of peace, will receive their accumulated dividends earned, mark you, by the Australian brain, brawn and arm, and taken care of by a grateful, allied Australian government." Why, indeed? Because any attack upon the system which produces dividends and other surplus values for parasites, produces "the 'hoax, home and sinew' of the working class, would be a dangerous precedent to the fact that workers might begin to see that they can do it. The distinguished John Bull type of parasite as well as his German fellow-exploiter.

Physical afflictions of workers in munition factories and workshops, has recommended the establishment of "industrial centres" by the employers, adjacent to the factories, where the workers, during non-working hours, may drink, and generally "live, move, and have their being."

One employer who, with others, has already established a canteen on these lines, has recommended its adoption by the London County Council, which he has "moved, and a moment later, has the importance of a comfortable dinner hour for our people from the point of view of their efficiency in the afternoon."

Another recommendation by the Committee in connection with Sunday labor the purpose of which is to "educate" and shows that it is not so much "industrial fatigue" and the "personal health," etc., of the worker which is in view, as the desire for increased efficiency and more profits, for it recommends the abolition of Sunday work, not merely for "social and religious" reasons, "but also economically, since it does not pay, the output not being increased."

The establishment of this sort of Industrial Feudalism is not going to end with the war. The capitalists do not go to the expense of putting up large establishments of this kind for temporary purposes. Conscription has been introduced in Great Britain mostly for industrial rejuvenation of this kind of class reaction of the working class. The desire for the war is over, and the advocates of conscription in Australia have similar insidious purposes in view.

The assumed anxiety of the Capitalist class and the moral constitutes for the Sanctity of the Home, the marriage tie, the worker's "independence," etc., depending upon the stage of industrial development of the particular country. Those who possess nothing but their labor power must always be pawns of those who own the machinery of production, until they, like their masters, take a lesson from the open book of experience, and obtain British possession of their labor power, which is here shown, is, when properly organized, the basis of world dominion.

Individually, we are little men and things. Organised by trades, we are going to continue to be studied and our trade unions set to pieces by the great trading tendency of wealth, and improvements in the mechanical processes,

The vast European struggle has shown more clearly than ever before that the decisive factor in modern world warfare, whether on the battle field or on the sea, in the struggle between capitalists contending for world markets, is intensive organization of the productive power of the industrial workers of the world.

It is the splendid industrial organization of Germany that has enabled the Central Powers of Europe to withstand for eighteen months the onslaughts of the vast British Empire, the armies of Russia, and the military power of France, Italy and Japan—which form on paper an almost irresistible combination—and to remain, up to the present time, victors in the great war.

The world war offers a persuasive demonstration of the power of industrial organization highly centralized under a few capitalist rulers, and the medieval characteristics of the medieval feudal state, to prevail against several modern governments which are expressions of the wills of individual capitalists, the bodies of small, exerted through parliaments and executive bodies, and one stupendous country in the agrarian stage of development, ruled by an hereditary aristocracy.

The lessons taught by the great war are being taken to heart by the capitalists world over, and we see in this country especially, a demand for a greater co-ordination of industrial activity and a more definite direction in order that the American capitalists may go out, after the European nations have exhausted themselves, and seize the markets of the world.

The large capitalists would like to prevent the smaller capitalists who exert influence upon the government, from interfering with the process of consolidation, and by governmental regulation.

Intelligent workmen realize that government is capitalistic in its nature, but the vast majority lend a willing ear to those professional politicians who profess to be so, and the smaller capitalists for the control of the government make it appear to the superficial observer as though politics were an open field for working class as well as capitalist class action. But nothing could be more deceiving. All legislation claimed to benefit the working class has for its end some supposed benefit to the exploiters of labor and the owners of industry. Laws regulating education and sanitary and health measures, are all framed either for the purpose of increasing the productive power of the wage earner, so that he may be more intensively exploited, or to ally that discontent which would make for loss to the exploiters in running their businesses. The whole structure of government is calculated to keep real power in the hands of the possessing class. Government rests in the last analysis on force. Control of government has been exercised upon either military or police force, and the right of the divine right to the ownership of property, depending upon the stage of industrial development of the particular country.

Those who possess nothing but their labor power must always be pawns of those who own the machinery of production, until they, like their masters, take a lesson from the open book of experience, and obtain British possession of their labor power, which is here shown, is, when properly organized, the basis of world dominion.

Individually, we are little men and things. Organised by trades, we are going to continue to be studied and our trade unions set to pieces by the great trading tendency of wealth, and improvements in the mechanical processes,

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, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centring 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 wars. 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 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 injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto: "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword: "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 everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when Capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially, we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

NOTICE.

Subscribers and members can now obtain a complete file of the 2nd volume of "Direct Action." The volume contains from number 21 to 35, inclusive, and dates from February 1st, 1915, to the same date in 1916.

The complete file will be forwarded to any part of Australia upon receipt of money order for 3s, which includes postage.

From an historical standpoint, as well as from an educational standpoint, the volume is essential. All the information in the Newcastle free speech fight, the poster and stickers campaign, the hundred and one strikes of the year, are contained within the volume.

It also includes "Cresset's" satires, Maxwell's cartoons, West's Ballad of Mother and Child, "General Strike," "Arrest of the Interupted," and "The Interrupted Snooze," as well as dozens of first-class articles and criticisms upon matters industrial and political.

An early application is necessary, as the supply of files are limited. There are no files of the first volume left.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

In future all communications to the Literary Secretary and Secretary of the Sydney Local No. 2, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor and Manager of "Direct Action" should be addressed to Box 99, Haymarket, N.S.W.

Don't forget that all Efficiency and Speeding-up schemes are put forward in the interests of the boss. You and he have nothing in common.

which will make our skill of little avail. ORGANISED INDUSTRIALLY INTO ONE BIG UNION of wage earners, we shall be enabled to wield that power which lies in the hands of the I. W. W. and without the control of which power must pass from the hands of the masters of the world's governments, and be vested in the hands of those who are the source of the power, and the workers shall reap the benefit of the greater production which elimination of the parasitic capitalists will bring about.

THE dawn of the day of INDUSTRIAL SOLIDARITY of the working-class is upon us, and the events in the world war which are now moving before us with unparalleled speed, press a great weakening of the world's governments. J. STEPHEN WOOD in "Solidarity"

Direct Action v. Legality

Current Comment.

The Underlings.

Literature List.

During the last few weeks some hundreds of migratory workers have blown into Mildura to assist in the fruit harvest.

On such a short run, the best methods are for the workers to get on the job, start work, and then 'put in' for more wages, shorter hours, and better conditions.

Job organisation and agitation will win the day for the working-class, and finally defeat the organised efforts of the middle-class.

But the A.W.U. are in control—at least they say they are—at Mildura, and of course, they do things 'legally.'

On November 26th, 1915, an agreement was entered into between the A.W.U. and the growers of Mildura and Renmark, which is 'to be binding until six months after the war.'

The minimum wage is fixed at 1/2 an hour for all over 18 years of age. But on reading down the agreement we come to this clause: 'These rates may be lowered in individual cases with the consent of the Organisation in writing signed by the secretary of the Branch, or if the Organisation refuses with the consent of the appropriate Board of Reference.'

Later on we bump this sort of thing: 'The functions of each board shall be the allowing, fixing or determining a lower rate of wages in the case of any employee who is unable to earn the minimum wage prescribed for him by the agreement.'

The cookies, if they wish, can refuse to pay the wages and are not referred to the board of reference if the local branch of the A.W.U. refuses to allow the reduction, and when the whole affair is fixed up, the harvest would be over and the women and children gone back to their homes.

The agreement deals only in a loose way with the hours of work and wages. Nothing at all about camping facilities, sanitary arrangements, shelter sheds, etc.

In such a hot climate, and during the summer months, one can imagine what the slaves have to put up with, with all the pests of the bush buzzing around them.

Some 'peace at any price' A.W.U. members will be heard to say, and during the night, while engaged in an attack upon all sorts of insects and creeping things, will boast of the amount of work they have done, and express their satisfaction at the condition of things.

These union seabs are now being told in pretty strong language that the day is not far off when they will be branded as actual seabs and dealt with as such.

Some members of the L.W.W. have been successful through diplomatic methods, in securing a few concessions from the boss, such as camping facilities, more pay, better sanitary arrangements, time off, etc., but there is a big chance of losing them all to the antiquated, blundering, and insane tactics of the A.W.U. if a day officials.

At a meeting of the A.W.U. at Mildura on February 5th it was decided to call out all hands working on the blocks of the cookies who have not signed the agreement, irrespective of what conditions they are receiving or what conditions they are working under.

In the words of the president at the meeting on Feb. 5th: 'It does not matter if you are getting 1/1 a day and working under ideal conditions, if the grower has not signed the agreement, you must stop work or be branded a seab.'

The judge sitting in the Arbitration Court in the Tramway Case remarked on the purchasing power of the sovereign was adopted as a basis on which to fix wages, it had been assumed that only small changes would occur in the prices of commodities, also that 'the standard of the living of the worker was stable.'

Wharf laborers at Melbourne last week refused to handle 1200 tons of flour for export on the ground that bread was already too dear in Victoria. A little more direct action of this kind on the part of those engaged in handling foodstuffs would do more to reduce prices than all the tinkering of economists and politicians.

Labour Attorney-General Hall has apparently some sound L.W.W. ideas back of his 'aut.' The farmers on the South Coast are disappointed in the price of commodities Commission. One Morton, a Liberal Member of Parliament, has advised the farmers to ignore the law in this, Hall says, 'If the farmers want lawlessness to rule, let them say so plainly.'

Bandsmen are wanted for the Sydney L.W.W. band. Write immediately, or call on Monday evening at 329 Castlereagh Street after eight, and interview the band secretary. Sousa's will be catstom in about three months when the wobbly band gets busy fracturing the ozone.

All social agitation arises from the persistence of right against the obstinacy of law. Hugo.

What a wonderful splash of ingenuity must be lurking within his brain! Is it a bit at the L.W.W. or merely the dimmer-headedness of the A.W.U.?

Many men are working on blocks under better conditions than those laid down in the A.W.U. agreement, but the A.W.U. are going to brand those men as seabs just because the boss has not signed their dirty scrap of paper.

If these men pull out, and force the boss cocky to scratch his name upon a piece of paper, smudged with printer's ink, will the A.W.U. then supply men at the minimum rate of wages without any thought of the many conveniences already mentioned and thereby seab upon the men they previously branded as seabs? We are awaiting developments.

Many intelligent slaves are anxiously waiting to see what steps the wise guys of the A.W.U. are going to take to try and earn their 1/1 a day. Their income cry of 'legality' and 'constitutional methods' has got them into a tangle, and they are now fighting the fight of the big cocky to the detriment of the working class.

All militant workers will be seeking a win for direct action and join in the cry 'to hell with agreements!'

The L.W.W. takes up the stand that they care not if the boss has signed ten thousand agreements or never picked up a pen in his life. So long as he is paying the ruling rates we care not whether he belongs to the Employers' Federation.

The L.W.W. believes in organising at the point of production—on the job, and by job agitation established better conditions.

The A.W.U. is out of date. Its methods are getting 1/1 a day and working under ideal conditions, if the grower has not signed the agreement, you must stop work or be branded a seab.

The masters stand at the head of things; They are lords of work and pay; And we must run till the set of sun, Because the masters say, For we, for we are the underlings, And the lords of bread are they, And we must eat though they scow and cheat, And when they nod, obey.

Sometimes there is work for every one, And sometimes, barred each gate; And why is it so, the masters know, We only wish and wait, And we must eat the freights will begin to run, And the factory whistles blow, And the first burn and the spindles turn: These things the masters know.

We work and work at things we must, We don't go so greatly care, By the rubbing down at the roaring loom, In the coal mines' killing air, We fashion genius for a dole of crust, And sills, with a rug for pay; And the things we and the masters take To make their women gay.

There is wit and grace and courtesy, When the masters meet and dine, And the lives of men are ticked off them, Over the nuts and wine; For before them they somehow seem to see, All that the future brings; Our minds are dull as we mull and mull Over those puzzling things.

We shape the clothes that the masters wear, With such easy air of right; We mine the coals that warm their souls, As we shiver at home to-night; We wind the sables that the masters bear, With their graceful swallow wings; For they are free; but we, but we, Are only the underlings.

Our minds are dull, we mull and mull, But we're waking now, and with knotted brow, We're wondering dully, why! Only wondering, slow and vast and dull, Brutal to do and done; But if ever we strike ourselves awake, Masters of bread, beware! —Phillip Green Wright.

SPEAKERS' CLASS

The Speakers' Class has been restarted at the Sydney Local. There is a pressing need for an ever-increasing supply of able propagandists—fellows who can explain and the philosophy and method of the L.W.W. and make more are plenty who have a fair understanding of industrial unionism, but fail to make its principles clear to their mates owing to lack of practice in speaking and putting their case logically and concisely. The speakers' class aims at starting fresh ones on the road to effective speaking. It is held every Saturday at 7.15 pm, at 300 Castlereagh Street.

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 _____

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Rooms, Palace Buildings, Spilphide-Street. Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 pm.—Educational Class. Alternate Sundays, at 3 pm.—Business Meeting. Alternate Sundays, at 8 pm.—Economic Class. Sunday, at 7.30 pm.—Outdoor Propaganda Meeting, near Post Office, in Argent-street. Good Library. Also good collection of literature for sale. All live rebels welcome. E. J. KIRBY, Secretary. Local No. 3, L.W.W.

Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vol., 8/- per vol. Ancient Society: Morgan, Bound, 6/-.

Value, Price and Profit: Marx, Bound 2/-; Paper, 6d.

Evolution of Property: Lafargue, Bound 2/-.

The Militant Proletariat: Lewis, Bound, 2/-.

The New Unionism: Tridon, Paper, 1/8.

Sabotage: E. G. Flynn, paper, 3d.

Sabotage: W. C. Smith, paper, 3d.

Sabotage: E. G. Flynn, paper, 3d.

I.W.W. History, Structure, and Methods: St. John, Paper, 3s.

Revolution and the L.W.W.: Pease, Paper, 3d.

Eleven Blind Leaders: E. H. Williams, Paper, 3d.

Political Socialism, or Capturing the Government: Nilson, Paper, 3d.

Was—Why? For (Cartoon): Price 3d.

Revolutionary Unionism: E. J. B. Allen, Paper, 2d.

Why the A.W.U. Cannot Become an Industrial Union: Alex. George, Paper 2d.

Industrial Efficiency and Its Antidote: T. Glynn, 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.

BOOK OF POEMS.

It is the intention of the Press Committee to print a booklet of revolutionary poems within the next few weeks. Most of the poems that have appeared since the inception of "Direct Action" will be included. The contents will include:—'Man With the Hoe,' 'The Dishwasher,' 'Evolution,' 'The Cry of Toil,' 'Born For What?' 'Might is Right,' 'Mask of Anarchy,' 'The Way of Kings, Crowded and Uncrowded,' etc.

In all probability the booklet will run to 48 pages, and sell at 6d. per copy, with the usual reduction for quantities. Orders will be booked right away.

ADELAIDE READERS.

The Press Committee have plenty of I.W.W. stickers on hand. They are in 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 2/9, 500 for 1/2, and 10,000 for 11/2/6. Please send cash with order. Orders will be sent to New Zealand, provided 3d extra is enclosed per thousand for additional postage. Address: Manager, Box 98, Haymarket, N.S.W.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 245 William Street. Monday, 8 pm.—Business Meeting. Thursday, 8 pm.—Educational Class. Working Class Economics—T. Turner, Instructor. Friday, 8.30 pm.—Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Victoria Street. Sunday—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."

I entered Parliament with what I thought to be the lowest possible opinion of the average member. I came out with one still lower.—John Stuart Mill.

There is only one working-class. Why a thousand unions? A thousand isolated efforts united into one vigorous kick would land the boss in—overalls.

