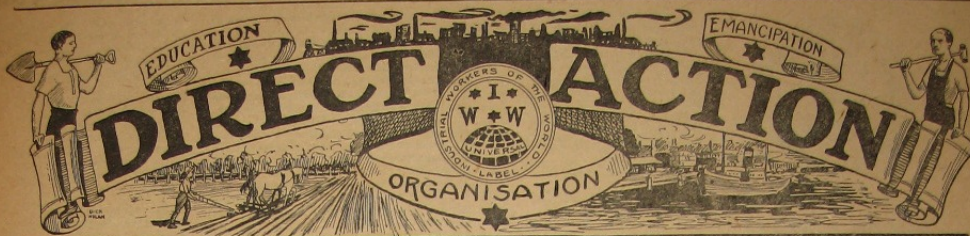


Gaol is Not an Argvment.



VOL. 3. NO. 100. Registered at the General Post-office, Sydney, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper. SYDNEY, December 16, 1916. ONE PENNY.

The Unappreciated.

The public meeting convened for the purpose of taking steps to recognise the efforts of the Sydney Police Force in connection with the recent I.W.W. cases proved a fiasco.

Where was the cheering multitude that answered to the call,
To castigate the "criminals"—to flay them one and all—
To vindicate society and bolster up the law,
Against the frightful rascals who fight with fans and claw?

Where were the outraged citizens who stood and stared aghast
At all the sins of those whom now the bolts and bars hold fast?
Where were the filled-with-gratitudes, eager to pay the due
Of Sherlock Holmes and him who wears the unromantic blue?

Aye, where indeed? Oh! ask the streets that still
And did not care!
Oh, ask with proper kindness each wayward, hopeless chaff!
Oh, ask the vast indifference that over-whelmed the room
With audacious more terrible than Gabriel's "virgins of doom!"

And ask, since you're inquisitive, and want the answer plain,
To Sunday's crowds that gather in the Christ-conceived Domain.
Oh, Sherlock Holmes, and boob in bise, to whom the toffs salaam,
Can it be true for both of you nobody cares a damn?

LINCOLN GREY.

MODERN ARGUMENT.

There was a time, a few hundred years back, when the authorities employed the stake, the rack and the thumb-screw to alter the opinions of men who thought on lines not strictly orthodox.

We are more efficient, more civilised to-day, we don't adopt such a barbaric weapon as the rack to prove the superiority of our arguments. WE do it this way:

"I, Thomas Henri Jones, Carpenter, of — Martin St., Randwick (in the State of New South Wales), do hereby solemnly declare that I am no longer a member of the I.W.W. organisation, and have no connection whatever with it. Further, I have no sympathy with its doctrines, and strongly disapprove of them, particularly those regarding 'Sabotage' and 'Striking Down.'"

"Signed,

"Sworn before me this — day of November, 1916, at Sydney

The Railway Commissioner of the State employed the above scientific method of cleaning the I.W.W. men, who had committed the awful offence of becoming members of the organisation, out of the Railway Service.

The modern motto is "Recant or Starve." The motto of the Dark Ages was "Recant or Burn." Perhaps this scheme will alter the idea of the men, and perhaps it won't, but so long as the Commissioners are satisfied, every body else will be.

WAGE STIFF.

The "Sun" says there are hundreds of skilled men out of work, and consequently the Christmas outlook is very black!

Things are coming to a bad pass when hundreds of the "aristocracy of Labor" are out of work. Some one must have been doing too fast on the old job! But then there are hundreds of men who would rather starve, or have no Christmas dinner than "go slow."



That "Him" of "Eight."

Fellow-Workers,
Twelve railroaded Working Class Agitators are waiting for their Class to Speak!

Money is Needed for their Defence. WE are Organising and Agitating for their Release and for Funds.
What are YOU Doing?

PROTEST.

The Sydney Wharf Laborers' Union, on Wednesday night, carried a resolution demanding the immediate release of the I.W.W. men sent to N.S.W. and W. Australia. Copies were forwarded to the Minister for Justice and the Press. Needless to say, the latter refused to give the resolution publicity.

The daily papers recite details of a case where a man set fire to his business premises in the hope the I.W.W. would get the blame—and had set the insurance. No sense business this time, though. Perhaps they felt a stir of shame—if they knew such a thing—and wondered, as we do, how many of the previous fires were caused for the same purpose.

Spasms.

(By TOM BARKER.)

The Sydney Wharf Laborers' Union at their business meeting on Wednesday, the 6th, passed a resolution demanding the release of the I.W.W. men in Long Bay Gaol. On Sunday evening, the 9th, Tom Barker briefly addressed the executive board of the Coast Lammers' Union on the case for the gaolled men, and was most sympathetically received. The Seamen and Firemen's Union passed at their business meeting a resolution demanding justice for these men.

At a meeting of the Municipal Employees' Union a Royal Commission was demanded to review the attacks upon the I.W.W.

In another part of this paper readers will find a strong resolution from the Refractory Branch of the Carpenters' Society.

The East Woodlawn and Forest Lodge P.L.L. have passed resolutions in the same strain. All organisations discussing the matter should notify the Defence Committee as well as the daily press, as the latter is vindictively attempting to malign and destroy the I.W.W. men's chances of a new trial and ultimate release.

Fellow-workers, funds are badly needed. We have to flood this country with leaflets and literature to counteract the hatred and outrageous lies and misrepresentations of the daily press. The Defence Committee is starting with 100,000 leaflet copies of H. E. Dootie's magnificent article in the current "Australian Worker." We are going to follow this and thousands of manifestos reviewing the evidence (?) against the convicted men. As soon as we procure the speeches from the dock, we are going to publish them in pamphlet form, with the photographs of the men. All these things, as well as the appeal, will cost money, and stacks of it. So let's hear from you.

The "Sunday Chimes" is very upset about Secretary Barstall, of the Returned Soldiers' Association, declaring that his organisation would not join on the miners on strike. Evidently the "Chimes" thinks that because the ruling class have provided the returned soldiers with magnificent rooms, that the bosses have the right to use them as scabs. The treatment of returned soldiers has been sufficient to let them see that they will get more from the union of their class, than all the promises of stay-at-home, 41 per cent. patriots.

Don't forget to about this from the hostile press: "That not one of the convicted I.W.W. had a previous criminal conviction." True, some of them have been in gaol for speaking plainly, and for participating in strikes. That the character and nature of the men makes it impossible for them to do such things as they have been convicted of.

One big Union for the working class, is the only way to power, to the inauguration of a new system based upon government from the shop, from the job. Job democracy is the only democracy worth consideration. Solidarity is the weapon that transfers the control of the destiny from the allied row of the directors to the union hall.

THE GAOL ARGUMENT

Funds are very necessary in this FIGHT FOR THE LIVES OF our class brothers. FELLOW-WORKERS, IT IS UP TO YOU! GET BUSY AND KEEP BUSY IN YOUR UNION HALLS AND LEAGUES. Keep the workers alive to the danger that threatens. Arrange monster protests, rallies and organise uncensured and forward unlimited funds for the Defence to

J. R. WILSON.

Box 38, Haymarket P.O. Sydney.

Defence Agitation. One Big Union Slow Down! Our Growing Press

(The Editor "Direct Action".)

FOR POSTAL WORKERS.

Dear Sir—The enclosed resolutions were carried at the regular weekly business meeting of the Militant Propagandists of the Labor Party, held in the Trades Hall, Melbourne, on Saturday, December 2nd, and I am instructed to forward same to you.

MAY FRANCIS, Secretary.

Resolved, 1.—That the militant propagandists of the Labor Party use their utmost and every effort to get in touch with the Trades Union meeting in the Trades Hall and elsewhere in Melbourne, the P.L.C. branches, the P.L.C. Executive and the Trades Hall Melbourne, and prior to them the critical condition now confronting organized Labor in Australia as instanced by the severe and unjust sentences inflicted upon the members of the working class in the I.W.W. cases in Sydney, and to urge all the aforementioned bodies and others, the immediate necessity of combined action in the interests of working class solidarity and progress for the immediate release of all the men so severely and unjustly sentenced on the following grounds—

"1.—A biased judgement, of more circumstantial evidence of self-confessed so-called accomplices, who themselves though guilty, if the crimes had been committed at all, are pointed out innocently from their punishment to them in return for their confessions."

"2.—Blasphemous and defamatory libels directed to the jury by the judge in his summing up."

Resolved, 2.—That the militant propagandists of the Labor Party urge the entire Labor Movement of Australia through the P.L.C.'s, Trades Hall Council, and the various Trade Unions, to take definite steps immediately to approach the Prime Minister, the Secretary and the Government of Australia what we are to understand to be the full meaning and significance of certain utterances of the Prime Minister, as reported in Melbourne "Age," Detective, Blaphemous Libels, to the House of Representatives, and the Prime Minister's intention to ask the House to pass legislation specifically dealing with the matter, and further to ascertain from the Prime Minister and his supporters, in his special legislation mentioned, just specifically what he or they would have us to understand Saboteur and Blaphemy to be, and that their definition be early announced in detail to all the people of Australia before any such legislation is passed, to the end that we may clearly know the full measure of what we are to avoid if we are to remain true and law-abiding citizens."

The Editor "Direct Action."

Dear Sir—The following resolution was unanimously carried at a meeting of the Reform Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, held in the Trades Hall on Saturday, December 2nd, 1916:

"That we, the members of Reform Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, emphatically protest against the excessive sentences upon members of the Industrial Workers of the World, as we consider that no evidence was submitted which incriminated them in any way with the charges preferred against them, and we also consider that the judge, jury, witnesses and police were biased on account of the statements of the politician, the press and the public, which in the case was still an injustice, and we further demand the immediate release of these men."

Copies of this resolution have been forwarded to the Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister, Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, and the Hon. D. R. Hall, Attorney-General for the State of N.S.W.

Yours Fraternally,

H. J. MCWEN,

Press Correspondent.

Reform Branch,

A.S. of C. & J.

THE MAKER OF HISTORY.

We are the makers of history, for history is made only by those who are not content with the status that is set before them, and are unconquered by production have an enduring force. And the events that they become force of culture have no only because they have enduring value, it is only the I.W.W. in reality that won't float with the stream, and therefore that organization is the creator of history, and the force outside and unconditioned by their own stream. The I.W.W. has history, the employer is only a part of history; time creates and time destroys the employer, and time did create the I.W.W. and the question is, can the employer be destroyed while he structures on based on a solid rock? Are you going to float with the stream of capitalism? That depends only on the worker themselves.

Within the Postal Service there are at present approx. twelve different organizations. The service is worked by three divisions, viz., general, clerical and professional. The general embraces postmen, sorters, mail-drivers, telephone mechanics, operators, cleaners and the different classes of tradesmen. The clerical includes telegraphists, clerks, etc. The professional division includes engineers, draughtsmen, lawyers, accountants, doctors, etc. Everyone in the service is subject to the rule of regulation, and the full power of administration of these regulations is vested in one man—the Public Service Commissioner. It will be readily seen that Parliament knew the value of organization on a concrete basis, and by adopting the system they have thrown the weight from their shoulders on to one man, invested with powers which only in Act of Parliament can alter.

The regulations govern the hours and condition of labor, subject to awards. The court which the P.S.C. claims the right to interpret on his premises.

They provide that when a citizen enters the Public Service he shall give his brains as well as his brawn, and he must not use his brawn of knowledge in any way outside departmental functions.

As stated heretofore, organization is the keynote sounded all through the Acts governing the workers in the employ of the department, and for the averting of any deviation from the regulations the Commonwealth Parliament has to be moved. Needless to mention, this same Parliament does not concern itself about our "dileas" or "dislikes," and has abandoned the whole of the responsibility upon one man.

One would think that where there is only one enemy to fight, and where grievances common to all are common to the whole lot, that the organization should be simple, and to fight every matter as one body—essentially the one and only way by which it can be done.

But on looking round, what do we find? Twelve different organizations, with twelve sets of executive officers, twelve different methods of fighting, and none of them with sufficient strength to have the desired effect. They are ineffectively striving for the one goal against the one enemy, and incidentally throwing their rights into his hands.

When the facts are laid bare it will be seen how the organizations of the workers play into the hands of the boss. For instance, supposing, as is often the case, something crops up affecting the whole service, one would think that some sort of combined action would be taken. But, not each union considers the matter from their various viewpoints and represent their opinions to the boss individually. It is in reality that the men are body without strength, and the "powers that be" the matter generally finalizes out when something new comes along, and is relegated to the past, amongst other important but forgotten grievances.

The organizations are divided, in their methods of fighting, in their political opinions, and, what is more absurd, there is a class distinction existing between the professional and clerical divisions, the latter and the general division on the other. This pitiable exhibition of class ignorance on the part of the first-named class has divided the workers into the two camps, and what will have to be accomplished first is the banishment of those who think that their brand of clay is immeasurably superior to the other fellow's, because of a few pence's difference in their yearly salaries. Class consciousness is the unknown, and the general type of public servant, and the lamentable state of affairs is kept in a vigorous state by the utter lack of co-ordination among the class of workers who depend upon one another for their incomes, and who are not sufficient "brawn" to see that organized we stand, divided we fall."

Therefore, the need arises for someone to point the way, which is to say, the only path the worker can follow with any assurance of success in their long and protracted fight against a system which makes a man a mere automaton, and who is to be a mere obedient and initiative thought within the mind of the much abused public servant.

In the next issue a scheme will be proposed, based on the facts and general conditions pertaining to same will be laid down with the earnest hope that out of it some good may arise and that the workers will be able to receive the message, "Workers of the world, unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain," a veritable truth.

HELLO.

IMPORTANT.

Correspondents sending all important communications, or notices, should register their letters. The use of sealing wax is recommended on ordinary occasions.

"In no place was the resumption of work hailed with greater satisfaction than at Miami. The collieries there had been closed for nearly six months owing to want of trade. All the men were not absorbed, but will be in the course of a couple of weeks."

—S. M. Herald.

For quite a long while the "Slow Down" policy advocated by the I.W.W. has been being public eye, and has come in for much discussion. For a time it was almost universal. The fallacy of the idea and the ruthless effort it must have upon the working class both morally and financially have been very ably and vividly explained by Mr. Meredith Atkin and all in the "Slow Down" campaign. The Employers' Federation has warned its members they suspect it would have a bad effect upon the workers. The I.W.W. point out that slow work means more jobs, and more jobs fewer men in the unemployed market; therefore, the condition of the working class, as a class, must be better.

Someone objects that the practice of Slow Down would have a bad moral effect—on the one who practices it, of course. Seems like assuming the best of yourself, who has never gone any other way but for a very short time to be a most immoral fellow, who the workers a century back were so good and moral as to be nearly fit for Paradise, while the chief slave could have had no trouble at all in entering the Kingdom of Heaven. The Miami miners should not, after the lesson of the last week or so, be opponents of the "Slow Down" doctrine. They have learnt the cause of their unemployment—the other miners have been going so fast that for six months the Miami men had been cut out of a job. It was not until the "Big Slow Down" took place, thus depleting the stores of coal, the other miners had heaped up, that the "boss" deemed it necessary to open up his collieries and give the Miami men a chance to live. If the coal miners learn the lesson they will have jobs right through the year; if not, they will probably throw themselves out of work in a few months.

One very serious school of economists object to slowing down, because, they claim, the capitalist will only put in more efficient machinery and eventually the same results will obtain as before. Well, suppose they do, the I.W.W. will advise the workers to slow down some more! What's wrong with the machines doing the work anyway? We have no wish to be beasts of burden; we want to see the machine doing the dirty work and the drovers; and we're certainly not going to quarrel over doing the hard work.

If it comes to a matter of lying back in an arm-chair for 8 hours a day, and watching the machine—and the boss—do the work, we will do that, and if there are any of our class standing in the way of a job, we will still advise "slow down." If slowing down will do other result than forcing the introduction of new machinery we ought to practice it. In the society of the future, the machine will be quite welcome to do all the hard work, we'll do the "brains" work, smoke the cigars, drink the wine and take trips to the continent; the machine will be content to stay on doing the work for nothing, but lubricants, just as do the workers. The I.W.W. message to the working class, while so many as one is out of work, is "slow down" and organize; if you can't "slow down" then stop altogether!

(A. M.).

(To the Editor of "Direct Action")

Dear Sir—Just a note to warn your readers not to be deluded, as I and a few others were, as to the great pay and scarcity of harvest hands and through this part of Horatia's, Pan-of-us, bone-heads, run in here and were greatly surprised to find out what the conditions were. The cockneys spread the news around about great pay and plenty of work, and of course there was a rush of Mr. Blobs to Henry, and the result is walking up and down the street till the boots wear, and you have blisters on your feet. They offer you six shillings, we don't see that this is their definition of it. Do some ploughing, put up wire netting fence, dig post holes, chop wood, milk a few cows drive into the nearest township cart, and you are out of the class of the stable and fowl house; also harness, dig out rabbit burrows, and peg out the rabbit stakes, and a hundred and one other things. Of course, we want our raking at times and offering our services (I don't think). However, may no other boneheads like ourselves be caught, and hope to hell this old world won't always be like this.

Yours, in revolt,

P. WATBACK

CORRECTION.

The acknowledgment in last issue of "McMahon's employees," etc., ought to have read 4138.

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SYNDICAL LOCAL

Meetings, etc.

Street Propaganda at Bethurs 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, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening—Speakers' Class.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers and members can now obtain a complete file of the 2nd volume of Direct Action. The volume contains from number 21 to 25, inclusive, and dates from February 1st, 1915, to the same date in 1916.

The complete file will be forwarded to each 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 re the Newcastle free speech fight, the posters and stickers case, the hundred and one strikes of the year, are contained within the volume.

It also includes "Crosby's" satire, Nicholson's cartoon, West's "Ballad of Manfred Gray," "General Strike," "An-tillo Court," 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 volumes left.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to limited space, we are holding over some articles. Writers should send in manuscript by Friday if they wish their matter to appear the following week.

