

One Big Union For The International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

Mildura, Victoria.

"Spirits of Darkness."

The I.W.W. camp at Pinky Bend was deserted on the 1st of February owing to the grape-anthracis making a start. "Old Sol" after sending down his fierce rays, at a rate of 116 degrees in the fect, at last brought the fruit to maturity, and the "cockies" began to yell for "hands." After three weeks' rest the wobbles picked up their homes and were able to return to the job. Although they have scattered in different directions throughout the settlement, they have made arrangements to meet at different periods through the week to discuss the progress of the class-war and continue their campaign against capitalist society.

During the three weeks we were camped waiting for the boom, the I.W.W. camp became the centre of attraction. At all times, through the day and night, when not engaged in fervent debate, the songs of the war-slave used to rent the air, and the struggle with the elements for supremacy.

More than one hobo used to sit around the I.W.W. camp listening to the debates and growing about "never being able to change things," was sent off to "back" merely singing the songs of the One Big Union.

The discussions indulged in were often long and animated, and if we had cared to follow our opponents wherever they went, we would have had to discuss everything that "lives and moves and has its being" on the earth. We made it known that we cared nothing for all the side issues which from time to time worked the slaves up into a state of excitement. The most important question in the world to us was the organising of the One Big Union on the lines of the I.W.W. All else was subordinate.

A "comrade" from Denmark, who was a stickler for constitutional methods, butted in one night and got off his chest an eloquent appeal for the abolition of the drink traffic. Booze, according to him, was the cause of the down-trodden condition of the working-class. We soon got after him and explained the morality of the present commercial system. There were always enterprising individuals who would only be too willing to go in for anything at all which would return a profit. Modern business did not aim at getting the world into good or bad, but whether it could show a profit by its sale. Abolish the drink, and perhaps something more disastrous would be substituted. There are a thousand and one evils more dangerous to the working-class than drink, but they were all mere products of the present system. The way to abolish them was to abolish the system and change the environment of the working-class. The I.W.W. was out not only for the every-day fight with the boss, but was organising the workers to be able to run the industries when capitalism is overthrown. Under a sane and civilised society, the evil which would afflict the world would not exist because the cause—profit-making—would be removed.

The "comrade" from over the seas could not get the hang of the I.W.W. method, and finished up by calling us "Socialists."

As old A.W.U. members wanted to know why we did not send men to Parliament, and put up the plea for

the "good man" in Parliament. He was soon told all about the "good men." Illustrations by the dozens were trotted out to him. It was also made plain that the I.W.W. would not trust Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary. The origin, structure, and influence of Parliament was explained, and shown how that machinery was always used to support Capitalism and could never be utilised in the interest of the working-class. He left by saying, "I believe you are right" and subsequently he was an attentive listener at all our discussions.

An ex-official of the A.W.U. said that his union was far from being perfect, but it served a useful purpose. He proudly told that the A.W.U. "served" a useful purpose all right, but not to the wage slave. He was told some things about all the loaches and parasites which fattened upon the A.W.U. As a day-organiser who did not organise, while he got 3s. when in work and did all the fighting. Secretaries and grand secretaries, editors who did not edit, and managers who had nothing to manage; lawyers and politicians and all sorts of individuals who had no interest in common with the wage-slave. Arbitration was exposed and the effectiveness of direct action demonstrated. He said that he knew all about the shortcomings of the A.W.U., but had never heard them explained in the same light. He has since been seen on several occasions with his eyes glued to the columns of our "official organ."

Although we have not yet heard of any new card being taken out just yet, nevertheless, there are certainly some who are I.W.W. supporters down this way.

The One Big Union is here to stay. It makes its presence felt wherever it unfolds its flag. Its arguments defy all opposition; its position is irrefragable. The future is with us. Speed the Day.

N.R.

BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

At time of writing the Barrier miners are still on strike for the 44-hour week. Their determination to win is illustrated by their refusal to accept the proposal of Senator Pearce to return to work for four days a week pending the hearing of the claim before the Arbitration Court. The miners evidently have little faith in the Arbitration Court unless there is a total economic pressure through loss of profits to the masters first brought to bear on it.

The capitalist press with its accustomed virulence is still heaping its abuse on the heads of the strikers, and a sure sign that their action is entirely justifiable from the working class standpoint.

With the price of spelter 200 per cent. higher than at the outbreak of the war, and lead 90 per cent. higher, no wonder the masters are squealing at the workers' "unpatriotic" attitude.

Despite the power of the press and the scabby position taken up by many Craft Union leaders, the rank and file of the unions are rallying to the strikers' assistance. Financial aid for the past week seems to be rolling in more rapidly. Circumstances point to a complete victory for the strikers in the very near future.

"Spirits of Darkness."

Sydney "Herald" waxes wrath over the action of the Broken Hill miners in requesting the editor of the "Barrier Miner" not to publish anonymous attacks upon them in his paper.

"What a pity the miners was perfectly legitimate. The individual who takes advantage of the secrecy which the press affords to pour forth his venomous aim against a body of men who are supporting themselves and their dependents to starvation and suffering in a fight which they deserve to be right and just, and who have not the courage to reveal his identity, is lower than the lowest prostitute that ever adorned or disgraced a slum.

Experience proves that such attacks are in the majority of cases unjustified. The editor of the paper, by the mental pervert who sell their brains for the boss's gold; so had the miners taken more drastic steps than they did, and ranned the lying statements which the editor had made in their of their class would blame them.

It is amusing, however, to notice the Sydney "Herald's" conversion to the right of freedom of speech, as a tree press. "The defiance of every rule of order and fair play," it remarks, "in threatening an editor because he is doing his duty above that we have in our midst men who will have no opinion ventilated but theirs, and who will suppress all freedom of speech in their opponents."

A truly remarkable statement emanating from a paper which during the last eighteen months has howled for the suppression, the gagging, of all those who dared oppose its own wage savings.

"If newspapers," it goes on to say, "are to be dragged into publishing what any body of law-breakers may determine they might as well be brought out in a cage at once. The spirit behind this display of anarchism is afraid of the light. It is a spirit of darkness, and is true brother of the soul of the Hun."

An extraordinarily sudden conversion to the spirit of toleration from a source which has consistently applauded every attempt made, whether legal or illegal, to strangle every opinion not in accordance with its own, and which but a few days ago publicly encouraged khaki-clad law-breakers to suppress by violence and murder those who had the temerity to disagree with the "Herald's" conception of patriotism.

In face of this, and in view of the cowardly attacks upon and the gagging and persecution of many workers which have been daily occurrences for the past year, one is forced to admire the "Herald's" mendacity in speaking of the Broken Hill incident as "an assault on public liberty."

As to "spirits of darkness," etc., it is a happy phrase which aptly describes the mental prostitution, the attack, misrepresentation, and lie about their betters under the cloak of anonymity.

The cry of "Empire" is the crazy cry of imbecile and tottering authority, not only in England but in all the government-stricken nations of the West. The case of India, the ruin of India, where if ever nation had splendid opportunities England had—proves the falseness, the craziness, of the cry—Edward Carpenter.

EXPOSED "Direct Action."

Despite the fact that "Direct Action" is entering upon its third year of existence under conditions anything but favorable for revolutionary propaganda, there is no reason to be pessimistic with regard to the part which the paper will play in the future education of the worker along industrialist lines.

Two years ago, when the paper was started, beyond a few active members in the various cities who steadfastly adhered to the propaganda of Industrial Unionism in spite of sneers, abuse and persecution, very little was known of the I.W.W. in Australia. To-day its members are to be found spreading the revolutionary message in every part of the Commonwealth, and this is attributable in no small degree to the influence which the paper has exercised.

The aims and objects of the I.W.W. are now too widely circulated in Australia for any setback devised by our enemies to be anything more than a mere annoyance. The publication and circulation of the paper, the sentiment in favor of the One Big Union is strong, and the disgust of the average worker with political opportunists and the clogging hercule methods of Arbitration advocates has grown to such a degree that even if "Direct Action" were suppressed to-morrow, it would be reprinted at the first favorable opportunity with ten times the enthusiasm and support now at back of it.

We therefore enter on our third year of existence full of hope for the future, of defiance for our enemies, with a hatred for the system in no small measure intensified and aggravated by the persecution to which we have been subjected to since we first saw the light two years ago.

The future is with revolutionary unionism, and nobody sees the writing on the wall better than the capitalists and the masters and their political flunkies. Every effort of theirs to suppress the growing conflagration has served but to add fuel to the flame, and their contemplated plans for preventing its growth in the future can have but similar results.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a reference to one of the little schemes in contemplation by the masters, by which it is hoped to counteract the growing clamor of the awaking workers. It is hoped after the usual Sydney evening meeting in the Hall was again well attended, Fellow-worker Barker being the lecturer for the occasion.

But though the master class may meet with some initial success, it will be but paying the way for the march of Industrial Unionism and its accompaniment of revolutionary agitation. The tens of thousands of workers who fought for "the country, and who had themselves at the

mercy of unscrupulous exploiters, whose declared intention is to reduce wages to the lowest limit that competition in the labor market will allow, will be able to see how the "direct action" has protected them, and therein lies the hope of the future and the inspiration of the industrialist.

The war will have a leveling effect upon wages not alone in Australia, but throughout the capitalist world. Unskilled male labor, so to speak of female and juvenile labor, has made, and is continuing to make, such inroads into the domain of the so-called skilled artisan that the conservation of the craft, which has proved such a bulwark of capitalism and a stumbling block to industrial Unionism, will, once for all, have disappeared.

This combined with the disillusionary process which the war's aftermath is bound to produce in the minds of returned soldiers and other workers now "patriotic," is destined in the not far distant future to give our masters' speculative dreams of "increased efficiency," low wages, and surplus values gulphs, a huge shock. It is the mission of the I.W.W. press to aid in the discomure of our exploiters, to add to their "inefficiency" by rousing the workers' attention to the economic problems they have to face, and to assist the well-meaning (?) intentions of the exploiting class in heaving the path-way towards the One Big Union goal.

"Direct Action" will play its part during the forthcoming year, and the troublous ones to follow. What are you, reader, doing to help?

T. G.

SYDNEY PROPAGANDA.

The meeting held in the Sydney Domain last Sunday in connection with the Broken Hill strike, was a big success. Over £25 was collected in aid of the strike fund. The meeting was addressed by members of the I.W.W. and Socialist Party. Most of the speakers referred in commendatory terms to the attitude of the Sydney Trades Council towards the strike, the remarks being received with strong approval by the huge audience present.

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A benevolent Labor Government under its position to "coax" Trade Unionists shows its gratitude and its appreciation of the meaning of unionism by rewarding scabs with fat bonuses. The "legal" porters who refused to join their mates at Darling Harbour in the strike of last year, have been so rewarded, and now the "dishonest" are protesting. Why? Have they failed to realize what Labor Governments are for?

Individualism is only logically and consistently possible if it starts with the postulate that all men must, to begin with, have free and equal access to the common gifts of nature.—Grant Allen.

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

DIRECT ACTION



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Towards and Traitors.

LABOR COUNCILS DISGRACE.

The chorus of abuse showered upon the Broken Hill miners by the capitalist press in their fight for the 44-hour week indicates that the master class throughout Australia are alive to the importance of every fight for a shorter working day. The action of the Sydney Labor Council in refusing to endorse the action of the miners on two successive occasions is, therefore, tantamount to declaring that that body is on the side of the masters in this struggle.

The form of organisation which the Labor Council represents, irrespective of the personnel of its officials, has always, of course, been a negative factor in assisting in the defeat of strikes; but that two successive meetings should be held whereby the pros and cons of the miners' action, and the delegates supposedly representing working class interests should be found actually ranking themselves on the side of the capitalist press and the capitalist class, shows to what a degree of scabbery so-called organised labor in New South Wales has sunk, and to what a positive bulwark of capitalism the Trades Hall of Sydney has become.

Indications, however, are becoming frequent that the Labor Council no longer represents the opinions of the rank and file of the workers who crowd it. At its last meeting on the 3rd inst., the rally was crowded by members of the working class who showed unmistakably their opinions of their "representatives". Every delegate who took the floor to express an opinion unfavorable to the miners was hissed and booed virulently and the speaker and his supporters were subjected to the usual methods of the delegates ultimately became so pronounced that the meeting broke up in disorder.

The rank and file of all workers would appear to be waking up to the fact that so far as alleged working-class organisations are concerned, there should be no two sides to a question between masters and their slaves.

This is a point which even those who speak in favor of the miners did not seem to recognize. The scabby environment of the Labor Council has such a powerful influence, apparently, that even the militants who enter its precincts seem to be in a quiescent instead of taking up a revolutionary working class attitude.

From that standpoint the question is not whether the miners made agreements and broke them; whether

the arbitration principle has, or has not ceased to operate, or whether this, that or the other should have been done previous to the strike. The master class of Broken Hill by refusing the miners' demands have brought about industrial war, and in this the strike differs from so other. Side issues don't count. The strike is the outward manifestation of the Class War, and those who are not for the workers at such times are against them.

The discussion of the fine points of etiquette for which Craft Unionism has so much respect, to justify the miners' position by "logic" or "reason," and similar expedients, remind, one of soldiers who would quarrel about the justice of their cause and resort to cutting each others throats while the enemy was working havoc amongst them with the bayonet.

The Sydney Labor Council is digging the graves of Craft Unionism rather than its worst opponents can do for them. Its cowardice and treachery to working class interests in this case will sink in the memory of every worker who recognizes even the elementary principles of Unionism. It is for the most part composed of men who are devoid of intelligence, integrity and honor, and who are devoid of personal aggrandisement, and to carry favour with the capitalist press, would lease the working class movement to the devil for eternity.

shiding hours of pen, pick, and lever manipulators should enter upon a successful season of unemployment.

The introduction of automatic machinery and women and child labor is no new development of the capitalist system; it is not taking its inspiration from the exigencies born of the present war; it has been going on for years; the war but provoked an excuse to install these factors of production more rapidly and without any protest from the workers.

It is idle to opine that "the state of affairs" will obtain only during the currency of the war, or that women should not be doing such work and such work.

The boss contractors today and he is not likely to find it in his interests that he should dismantle his new machinery in order to provide jobs for the unemployed.

Again, it is not reasonable to suppose that the women will vacate their present positions in the industries to make way for unemployed men. The women will learn that they can live better as self-sustainers than as the dependents of men content with a "pittance" wage.

Did the men ever quit their jobs so that the hundreds of thousands of their sisters in the starvation market could "get a job"?

Have the men ever put up a spirited demand for a change in the system, on behalf of the millions of women the world over who have to bear the weight of family raising and suffer the inhuman conditions of a factory workshop at the same time?

The women have the right to earn their livelihood as they think best for themselves, the idea that her place in the home is a mere relic of barbarism, but probably comes down to us from a time when the men were spirited enough to provide a decent home for her. Those times have vanished, the woman has patiently but firmly refused to accept the burden of her wretchedness; a life of perpetual hunger and rags does not appeal to her; we are entering upon an era where the woman will make as good a job of it as the man.

The workers must yet learn that there is no way out of the abyss of misery but the complete overthrow of the system based on "production for the profit" for a few inches of on "production for use" of all.

"The masters of the world will use every force they can control to perpetuate the present system, and since militarism is their grandest prop, we must be prepared to see the whole world struggling along under a vastly increased cargo of military and naval forces when this present war has died away. The armies will be largely recruited from the ranks of the cut-throats will come from the men ousted by the factors previously mentioned.

It may be no unusual sight in the future to see women striking for their own rights and being broken down by the men in uniform just as, in the past, they have murdered their brother strikers. The pretence that "this is a war to end war" that it is being waged for the purpose of wiping out militarism is the essence of hypocrisy. The capitalists know what few workers appear to realise, and that is that the militarism of the world is the strongest prop of the capitalist system. In fact, without this prop the working class would be able to "win out" all the time.

Should they have done so to witness the collapse of the system in any country. Wars are but the inevitable result of the economic clashes and the mad struggle for the markets of the world among the producers, which are required by the plutes to enable them to get rid of the surplus values they have siphoned from the workers. So long as the wealth producers are content to be robbed of the result of their toil, they must be prepared for periodic visitations of war. But what concerns the workers is not the system which produces war, and the economic advancement of this system with the effects of this evolution on the position of the workers. We have been warned as to the changes which have taken place in industry; the result of these changes in their relation to the working class is very obvious.

The time when millions of working men will be perpetually on the labor market is rapidly approaching. The continual struggle between those who have jobs and those who do not, and those who will work towards the lowest point as regards wages.

For The People.

By James Jeffrey Roche.

We are the hewers and delvers who toil for another's gain. The common clod, and the rabble, stunted of brow and brain. What do we want, the gleaners of the harvest we have reaped? What do we want, the neuters of the honey we have hoarded?

We want the dross to be driven away from our golden hoard. We want to share in the harvest, we want to sit at the Lord's banquet. We want our word or suffrage has never yet won for man. The fruits of his toil God promised when the curse of toil began.

We have tried the sword and sceptre, the cross and the sacred word. In all the years, and kingdom is not here yet of the Lord. We are tired of useless waiting; we are tired of fruitless prayers; Soldier and churchman and lawyer—the failure, is in their hearts?

What gain is it to the people that a God laid down His life? If twenty centuries after His world be a world of strife If the serrated ranks be facing each other with ruthless eyes, And steel in their hands, what profits a Saviour's sacrifice?

We have tried and failed to rule us; in vain to direct have we tried. Not wholly the fault of the ruler, nor utterly blind the ruled. Maybe there needs not a ruler, maybe we can find the way. At least we have ruled to ruin; at least we have led astray.

What matter, if king or council or president holds the rein. If crime and poverty ever be links in the bondman's chain? What earth the burden-bearer that liberty packed his load. If hands are pressed behind him, with a sharp and ready good?

There's a serf who one chain as of paper there's a king with a parchment crown. There are robber knights and brigands in factory, field, and town; But the vassal pays his tribute to a lord of wage and pen. And the barons toil is Shylock's, with a flesh and blood per cent.

The seamstress bends to her labour all night in a narrow room. The child, defrauded of childhood, tipses all day at the loom. The soul must starve, for the body can barely on husks be fed. The loaded dice of the gambler settles the price of bread.

We have stolen and bound the Samson, and robbed him of learning's light. But his sluggish brain is moving; his sinews have all their might. Look well to your Gates of Gaza, your privities, pride and caste. The giant is blind but thinking, and his locks are growing.

I. W. W. Preamble.

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 over-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 organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries, if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an 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 organised, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when Capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially, we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

This is a matter which concerns the workers of the world. They must now choose between absolute Freedom and the direct slavery. There is no halfway house. The road towards slavery lies through craft unions, arbitration courts and politicians. The highway to Freedom is per medium of thorough industrial organisation and determined economic action as preparatory measures towards Social Revolution. WHICH ARE THEY GOING TO CHOOSE?

SYDNEY LOCAL MEETINGS, &c. Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets Every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Sunday Evening, at 11. Meetings in Hall: Sunday, 8 p.m. Propaganda; Wednesday, 8 p.m. Economic Class; Thursday, 8 p.m. Business Meeting. Also, Public Meeting Every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

Organized Scabery Co-operation Vers- On the W.A. Gold- us Competition. "Revolutionary Fields.

I am written from Corinthian, a goddess place in the wilds, the west where the daily routine of the day is work, work, work, Sundays an exception, amusement being conspicuous by its absence, and where the scabbers are a good deal more of a force or so rebels remain here to tell the news of the One Big Union to the newly-arriving blanket staff.

The only attraction, or will I say, amusement that we have had for the last two or three weeks, has been to catch through our O.B.U. paid classes the industrial war in "and around Kalgoorlie and Boulder."

The capitalist class formed into a square, using only the weapon of speech against the noisy but feeble efforts of a division of workers and their yawning, yawning, brains-les misleaders.

Some few hundred wood-choppers set out with empty pockets and a few dollars in their pockets for a rise of a whole sixpence per ton.

The mine owners immediately locked out about 2000 men, for the purpose of the industrial process to be won by the winners of "dogmas" to accept any old terms their masters offered.

When it became known to the wood choppers that a strike was certain they immediately brought in all their stores, horses, and general goods and chattels on their wood trains. So to begin with the railway men were busy by assisting the boss to prepare for the struggle.

Next, the mines locked out all those whom they could conveniently do without, only keeping on to keep the dynamo running to unwater the mines, a few timbermen to keep the mines in repair, and last, but not least, freemen were kept on to keep their furnaces heated, otherwise they would have collapsed and cost the boss a pocketful of money to build them anew. Consequently all this lot of men were kept busy by assisting the boss to continue the struggle.

The masters of industry have once more pitted one section of the workers against the other. The scabbers against the O.B.U. scabbers. If those of them on the mines that the horses used as tools had "downed and out," they would have reversed the tables by pitting one section of the masters against the other, and thus gained a decisive victory.

There are three wood lines running out from Boulder and each line has its own union of wood-choppers, and each union has its own boss officials.

However, Labor-fair Collier (Acting Premier) came to the rescue, and decided to open up a State wood supply, and thereby absorb all the woodcutters on strike, and supply the necessary fuel for full mining operations.

The problem would have been solved as by magic, with the woodline company, the only ones left unemployed, and in their predicament compelled to break the Kitchener's rule and drown their sorrow.

But when Collier woke up, he discovered he had only been dreaming. The "State" Mines, "Would they take his answer, an emphatic NO!"

I wonder how the wood choppers of the Golden Mile, who govern the country—the capitalist or the politician; and will they take the lead in their oppositions on a less of the example of class loyalty this occasion. The master class has clearly demonstrated the power of their ONE BIG UNION, and THEIR system of sabotage.

The slaves of the Golden Mile are working overtime to manufacture bombs for the destruction of human hands to win their own fight or to destroy the pirate ship of capitalism. E. McLAUGHLIN.

Briefly, the reason for unemployment is that there is not enough work to go around. That is, when a shorter work-day and slowing down of

Just when the idea of competition of man against his fellow man started. It is hard to tell. It is known that, in America, Indian tribes of an Indian tribe ever went hungry or cold because of their own tribes, but that within these tribes they shared the necessities of life with one another. That no member of an Indian tribe ever went hungry or cold because of their own tribes, but that within these tribes they shared the necessities of life with one another. That no member of an Indian tribe ever went hungry or cold because of their own tribes, but that within these tribes they shared the necessities of life with one another.

For years the idea of individual competition has been taught and preached. The people have been taught that they must compete against their fellow man to live. In the workshop or factory they must do more work or better work than the other fellow, and that they must gain the favor of the boss. So that if the boss should decide to cut down his force, the worker who has beaten his fellow man at work is the one who will be left to starve.

But how can a man feel brotherly love for a fellow man, if he must compete with him for a living? How can one worker feel love for his fellow worker when he knows that if he does not outdo his fellow man, his fellow worker, he may lose his job, and thus be reduced to poverty and misery?

Do the bosses or capitalists cooperate? Not at all. They are cooperating, that is they are forming trusts or alliances in industries, that they may do away with the waste of competition and thus have more profits for themselves.

Is there such a thing as individualism? That is, can a man stand alone from his fellow men? No, he cannot. Every human being is dependent upon his fellow man. Take for instance electricity; it was supposed to start with Ben Franklin. Other men since have taken his idea and improved upon it. It was not the work of one man, but of generations of men. Take another instance, the school books of to-day; they are the work of generations, each generation has improved on the work of the other. So no man today would be what he is were it not for the work of other men.

Then why should a man compete with his fellow men and try to hold them down? Why should a man who, because he has been able to gain an advantage through some circumstance over which he has no control, use this advantage to make his fellow men work long hours for little pay, while he makes an enormous profit from their labor?

The capitalists or bosses control all the industries and are using their power to oppress the workers. Now, fellow workers, how can these conditions be changed? We know that the capitalists have had brotherly love and brotherhood preached to them for generations, and they have claimed to apply any and every principle upon it. But as we are more practical than speculative, we may hope to do some of that work, and ask the workers to help us. No paper has done so much in the same period to arouse thought and emancipate the working class as "Direct Action." When it ceases to do this it die a natural death, and let something better take its place.

A politician—one of their own class—dividing the product of the world's labor among all workers, thus doing away with all poverty, misery and sorrow.

This, fellow workers, will only come about through education and organization. It may or may not come soon. But we can use our union to get better conditions in our factories to-day, and we can work and hope for the future.

Thus we have the Industrial Workers of the World.

PIERCE C. WETTER.

(By C. H. ANLEZARKI.)

Today we enter upon the third year of our existence. "DIRECT ACTION" is an established fact. On its own merits it has won a place as a most uncompromising, straightforward working-class paper in Australia. And it has done this in spite of the most bitter opposition. In the eyes of our enemies, however, it is not at all the fault possible for a paper to have.

We have endured slander, persecution, and the thunders of the press. We have been written upon, spoken against, sworn against; we have been sent to the devil, sent to jail, sent to Christ. We have been "warned" most solemnly, cautioned against; we have been told, with a laugh, at sneered at, pointed at and yet we live and move, and we are growing bigger and more vigorous than ever.

We have to thank all those good friends and fellow-workers who in any way have helped to make "Direct Action" a success, and those friends who have not. The work that has been done ungrudgingly and well; their enthusiasm has been devoted to it, and without this, success would have been impossible.

During the last two years we have been the butt of slander and abuse by pupil and press. They have persecuted us and a corrupt government has prosecuted them. They have said and yet they cannot bite. The tools of Capitalism in Parliament have got convictions against us; they have demanded fines with costs; we returned the blows, and the matter rests until the politicians are again intimidated by their masters to bluster and threaten.

And what have we done, after all, to give rise to this? We have committed neither crime nor misdemeanor. Our crime has been guilty of in the eyes of Capitalism is that we have not "cut" against his class our warfare has been one to the work. We shall show them no more quarter in the future than during the past two years. Our great work is to open eyes on the downtrodden slaves. We are out to teach the working-class how to organize on right lines. We point out the failure of all savagery who ever undertaken to do the workers' work. Our object is to get the working class to think for themselves, to use their own reason, to be their own masters, to rid them of the shackles of materialism which is attached to parliament and church alike, which involves the worst of slavery, and to stand erect in conscious manhood instead of crouching before the altars of the superstitious and dogmatic fancy say they have done for thousands of years.

There is our object. Who can oppose it other than fools and rogues? We have done good work in the past, although we have had a perpetual fight for the freedom of speech. That fight is still on, and will be so long as Capitalism exists. What victory we have had in this fight, we venture to say, cannot be reverted by a tyrannical government.

There is much yet to be done, work claims to apply any and every principle upon it. But as we are more practical than speculative, we may hope to do some of that work, and ask the workers to help us. No paper has done so much in the same period to arouse thought and emancipate the working class as "Direct Action." When it ceases to do this it die a natural death, and let something better take its place.

A politician—one of their own class—dividing the product of the world's labor among all workers, thus doing away with all poverty, misery and sorrow.

This, fellow workers, will only come about through education and organization. It may or may not come soon. But we can use our union to get better conditions in our factories to-day, and we can work and hope for the future.

Thus we have the Industrial Workers of the World.

PIERCE C. WETTER.

Thinking,

The Capitalist Class, and their hirelings of the press, platform, and pulpit, are always telling us that one result of this terrible war will be that we shall have a revolution. The minds of all thinking persons, which said revolution will be the cause of many old superstitions, traditions, and institutions being cast into the sea, and the coming of a new age, which says they, something newer, brighter, and better shall arise which will make for the common good of all. This "revolution" thought, which the master class and their prostitute dependents are so anxious, apparently, to welcome, is already beginning to make its presence grimly manifest to all thinking persons; yes, and unthinking ones as well, especially that section who have been content in the past to depend on the "good" will of the capitalist class for their precarious existence.

The working class of this continent of Australia, if they only show the will and ears to perform their natural functions, are being afforded daily and hourly examples of the effect that the "revolutionary thinking" on the part of the capitalist class has having, and the part it is playing in an endeavour to subjugate entirely the mind of the average wage-slave, and install ideas into his cranium with the object of making him that "good obedient pig" so beloved by his exploiters.

We have the edifying spectacle before our eyes today of the capitalist class, in this country, in constance with those serpent tongued, alleged leaders of Labor, giving practical effect to ideas which spring from their filthy, and infected, minds. They have become practically a punishable offence, the "sanctity of the home" has become a howling farce, seeing that any person's home can be raided at any time by military or civil authorities, and the father or mother is obliged to submit to tell their children not to make food for powder in this European conflict can be committed to a dungeon for "prejudicing severely."

The Unjust Act of England is surely bringing that "brighter and better" state of things very much closer, when members of the working class are being fined and imprisoned for some cases with solitary confinement for being guilty of such horrid offences as "Absence from duty," "Absence from duty," "Absence from duty," etc., etc. Also the deliberations of that conference of capitalist exploiters and "Labor" politicians recently held for the purpose of evolving a scheme for the application of science to industry, the essential object of which, according to "Billy" Hughes, is the "reduction of the cost of production," which means under the present profit system, unemployment, low wages, and long hours for the working class.

Then again, what with compulsion class prices, which deny to the workers more and ever more of the necessities of life, and the brutal bulldozing of all those militant workers who have the courage to revolt against such a state of things, all these must surely convince "all thinking persons" that the "revolutionary thinking" of the capitalist class, at least, has already made itself manifest.

But we of the militant working class are not dependent, and do not intend to be, on the result of this tyrannical despotism is that it is creating real revolutionary thought in the minds of the working class. In the future they will entirely abandon their old traditions, superstitions and institutions and join hands with their class brethren in the One Big Union, and they will take a "new, brighter, and better" outlook on humanity, will help an enthusiastically to abolish the capitalist system, and to establish a new, better, and a great Industrial Democracy.

JOHN M. BURKE.

Every copy of "Direct Action" sold is a kick at the boss. Get yours

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

(GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.)

BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

The Broken Hill workers (with the exception of a few small unions who attempt to cover their scabbery with the cloak of the Arbitration Board) are out on strike to the extent of 1000 for the purpose of enforcing the \$4 hour week.

The Industrial Workers of the World endorses every struggle of the working class for shorter hours. Therefore, we issue an appeal to all local branches of the Industrial Workers of the World, all members-at-large, and the working class generally for funds to carry on the strike.

All monies should be sent through the General Secretary, Box 98, Haymarket, Sydney, who will forward the cash on to the Secretary of the Strike Committee at Broken Hill. All monies enclosed will be acknowledged through the pages of "Direct Action." Remember that sympathy means no use unless it is a practical nature. "Who gives quickly, gives twice."

Yours for the One Big Union,

TOM BARKER,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

The Speakers' Class has been re-started at the Sydney Local. There is a pressing need for an ever-increasing supply of able propagandists—fellows who can expound and explain the philosophy and methods of the I.W.W. and make more converts, especially on the job. There 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 in plain and concise terms. The Speakers' class aims at starting fresh ones on the road to effective speaking. It is held every Saturday at 7.15 p.m., at 330 Castlereagh St.

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 re-starting of "Direct Action" will be included.

The contents will include:—"Man With the Hoe," "The Dishwasher," "Evolution," "The City of Truth," "Mask of Anarchy," "The Right of Kings, Crowned and Uncrowned," etc.

In all probability the booklet will run to 22 pages, and sell at 5d. per copy, with the usual reduction for quantities. Orders will be booked right away.

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Rooms, Palace Buildings, Sulphide-street.

Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Educational Class.

Alternate Sundays, at 1 p.m.—Business Meeting.

Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Economic Class.

Sunday, at 7.30 p.m.—Outdoor Propaganda Meeting, near Post Office, in Argent-street.

Good Library. Also good collection of literature for sale. All live rebels welcome.

J. KIELY, Secretary,
Local No. 5, I.W.W.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street.

Monday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.

Thursday, 8 p.m.—Educational Class.

Friday, 8.30 p.m.—Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Sydney-street.

Sunday: Propaganda Meeting, Yarra Bank.

The rooms are open to all workers every night. All working class papers on the book table. A welcome to all the "disobedient ones."

"IF--" The Fighting "Instinct."

Some prominent "patriots" are anxious to stop war--no, not the war in Europe, industrial war. They are keen on keeping the form going so that the workers are to be disengaged from the industrial field, and Greed, relentless, unscrupulous Greed, gives a free hand to this kind of thing at its own sweet will.

Following upon the request made by the Employers' Federation that no Wages Boards should be set to consider demands for increased wages during the period of the war, we saw a proposal emanating from one of our disinterested (?) sources that no strikes should be allowed while the war lasts and the employer of employees causing them should be incarcerated.

The employer, too, mark you! How impartial! The cent responsible for this suggestion, one Hagelhorn, a member of the Victorian Liberal Cabinet, knows of course, that the boss, according to capitalist law and capitalist ethics, never causes a strike. This is a "crime" the law does not condone which strictly reserved for the boss's slaves.

Hagelhorn, at time of writing is endeavouring to get an "Industrial War Council" (composed of representatives) to get his ingenious idea into effect.

Now, most workers in Australia all, except Industrial Unionists and a few other "nationalists," do not comply with the boss, even weel or woe, this side of the gates of hell) would be only too willing to fall in with this suggestion while the war lasts.

IF.
Hagelhorn and his friends will agree that the workers are compensated for all increases in the cost of living for the last eighteen months, and that no further increases will occur--while the war lasts.

IF.
Hagelhorn and his friends will agree that the workers are compensated for all increases in the cost of living for the last eighteen months, and that no further increases will occur--while the war lasts.

IF.
Profits, by the exploitation of female and child labor, are prohibited--while the war lasts.

IF.
Only adult male labor is employed in those occupations previously occupied by men, and pre-war rates of wages paid--while the war lasts.

IF.
War profits made by employers are distributed among the parents of the children apprenticed in industry, so that the latter may go to school--while the war lasts.

IF.
Hagelhorn and his friends, the loud-mouthed paid political patriots, will agree to forfeit their unearned salaries--while the war lasts.

As already said, most workers would probably agree not to strike if the above suggestions are adopted by the "Industrial War Council." Most, but not all. Those who understand their class position, and see that the hypocritical, & a "patriotic" which declares strikes and would punish strikers, will not surrender their right to strike, or any other "right" deemed expedient to advance their class interests, only when Hagelhorn and other hangers who place profits before human life, the whole brood of parasites and "patriots" are hawled down from their perch and made to care for the bread by the sweat of their vile, thick hides.

IF.
It is time the workers awake to the political schemes that are being hatched by the employers, who schemes in which many union officials and labor politicians are working hand-in-glove with their exploiters.

There must be no strikes--not. There must be no demands--not. There must be no discontent, no word of protest, nothing about exploited women, overworked and half-starved children, and the like, must be borne in silence in the name of a bastard patriotism, so that its blood-soaked profits may be safe from confiscation.

T.G.
The difference, Craft Unions maintain and embrace wage-slavery, and the workers are to be shackled it.

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

Some people believe that Organization is the greatest thing in the world. They would like to see a military organization to prove their contention. They refer to the German Social Democracy. But we do not agree with them.

Organization, unless it does something--unless, it acts, means nothing. Perhaps man's natural tendency to fight is the greatest of all his heritages. Some of us see this. We know that it is man's natural tendency to satisfy his hunger, to seek shelter, and to perpetrate the opposite. But he has to fight for an opportunity to do these things.

From savagery to civilization it has been the tribes, and later, the nations, which have known how to fight and survive. Some of us see this. We know that it is man's natural tendency to satisfy his hunger, to seek shelter, and to perpetrate the opposite. But he has to fight for an opportunity to do these things.

And the old law holds good today even as it did a hundred thousand years ago; the weak man, the peaceful man, must pass through the struggle and the strong survive.

The strong continue to take from the weak and grow stronger with every theft, for men learn to fight, by fighting, and men grow strong to fight, by fighting.

Civilised man to-day is governed almost as much by the things he has learned and the habits he has formed, as by his natural instincts and tendencies. Our natural instincts, when we are hungry, is to satisfy that hunger--and yet hundreds of thousands of starving men and women pass through the struggle, day, wagon loads, and train loads, of food which they do not touch.

The habit of respecting Property in this man has grown stronger than the old instinct to eat and to live. Historically, it has been only recently that man learned to love, to apply himself for hours at a time to any given task. He did not take to this habit. His habits were all against application. And yet we see some people so far losing this instinct for idleness and for play that they actually beg to be allowed to perform work in their old ages that they had rebelled against and loathed in their youth.

Most of man's original tendencies, or instincts, serve to preserve the human race. But these instincts may become so suppressed in the child and in youth by the long and painful efforts of their parents, teachers and employers, as well as their governments, that some of them cease to function.

Habit may become so fixed that it will prove even stronger than the instinct to eat when we are hungry; and it is why hundreds of thousands of people go about in a semi-starved condition from one year's end to another.

The working class of the world is increasingly exploited by the owning classes. And man's original tendency today is to fight over the food, the clothing, etc., just as the primitive man fought for the results of the chase centuries ago.

And the owning, or capitalist class, is today fighting for more and ever more of the things produced by the workers. The Class Struggle is the every-day struggle of the workers and their leaders for the products of the workers.

The capitalist, or owning class, is appropriating these things today. Who is going to have them to-morrow?

We believe the class that fights most steadily. For as soon as the workers pause to rest, cease to fight and to demand more and ever more of their products, or the value of their products, the stronger grows the capitalist class.

And every time the capitalist class gives up or ceases the workers gain. If they continue to fight, gain more of the things they make.

Personal habits, in their association with the capitalist or employing class, will result in ever wiser, longer hours, more object slavery to the worker. Fighting habits, habits of rebellion, among the working class will mean the strength to fight more wisdom on how to fight more desire to fight--the capitalist system which robs them.

the boys who refuse to fight when they are in the class. We want those boys with candy and words of praise, and we punish the children who fight. This is the general attitude of parents today. I punish those who police the fighting spirit, whom we should reward or encourage them.

Boys are young fighting animals, and we may either start the long process of suppression, which is natural and vital instinct in their early years or encourage it.

The thing we should do is to teach our children and the youths about the use of the instinct to fight that we need is what the working class must encourage today and to-morrow, and the next day. We shall never get anything from the exploiting class so intelligently to fight against us, only then, can we ever hope to win a victory over the capitalist class.

As long as we only go about whining, and talking and regretting the condition of the working class, we shall never gain one foot of ground against our exploiters. Every time we rebel and fight for more of the things we produce, we learn new ways for more effective fighting, we grow more in the habit of fighting, we become better prepared to meet the next attack of the enemy.

Every time we meekly permit a further encroachment by the owning class we are building up habits of submission that will be all the more difficult to overcome when we do engage the enemy.

It is not today the capitalist class that holds the working class of the world in subjection, but the habits of inaction of turning the other cheek, of submission on the part of the workers themselves.

Political class exploits you because you have not fought often enough, hard enough, nor regularly enough to learn how to fight. And they are going to keep right on exploiting you until you become a great world-wide fighting organization of the working class. And remember--

An ounce of fighting rebellion today will mean a pound of revolt to-morrow.

M. E. M.,
(International Socialist Review).

THE BARRIER MUNITION WORKS

AND THE MINERS' HOLIDAY.
BROCKEN HILL, 4.2.16.

For the benefit of readers, it is advisable at the present juncture, to mention some facts in connection with the local "murder factory" and the 48hours' dispute, seeing the capitalist that is being made out of our people in striking at this "critical time" as the capitalist press all over Australia puts it.

As readers are aware, the diggers on the Barrier are on a "starvation strike" for a 48hours' work for better conditions, and of course, as is usual, the boss has to look out for something or other to scarily the rock and the men, and the same time make himself look a good fellow.

Some few months ago, scuffling bother, and knowing what benehead follows the workers as a whole, he decided to do a little "bit" (for purely philanthropic purposes, of course, you bet!) an apology for a munition factory, and while he was about he did the job well as the best selected and the means of securing power (electric) for working it will show.

In the first place, he erected it in a position that one would be at a disadvantage in knowing where it was part and parcel of the South Mine, South Blocks, or the Zinc Corporation, and in size, well, I've seen hundreds of cockles' horns that don't make it bluish with shame. The power is procured from the South Mine.

Seeing that the miners are on the strike, and of course, picketing the mine, and as the necessary power was not available to provide power,

etc., to work the concern, he got in a devil of a stunt, in fact, he got the workers to come to a head; and he set the press of the country to work to subdue the strikers and stop the "business" from coming to a head. We were told that the patriotic state the country is in, the cry of "no-Indist," "pro-German," and "the work of German money," etc. the workers, or at least the slaves, are nothing but sympathy up to date.

The strike committee, seeing the capital the boss was making out of the strike, and the pickets, decided to issue permits to a sufficient number of slaves to work the same. Result--no good to the boss at all. He alone was to have sole control, and he never issued beyond the pickets the slaves he required, and sent them to the picket lines, and they'd be damned if they went through under police protection. So the game goes on, and the approach the pickets each Monday morning and get turned back; the press says the works are still idle, and "our boys are being murdered in the trenches" through the strike, and the necessary power, which is broken Hill, which is a damnable lie, as the manager of those works knows that he couldn't produce a solitary shell there. Shells are made in the "trenches" through the strike, and material, with the aid of the human machine, and the former not being there, there is absolutely no necessity of the human machine, but still, they're good enough to lash the workers with.

"SULPHUR DIGGERS."
ECONOMICS FOR THE WAGE-PLUG.

Fellow Workers,--The identity of interest between all workers is something that can be understood and acted on before the brotherhood of man is a thing of the past. The exploitation of one worker to another in the same industry and also between those of different industries, you must first of all consider what your purpose in life is under the method of production now prevailing.

Your purpose in life is to "get a job," that is, to sell your labor power and receive wages, whereby you procure the means of subsistence.

To be useful to those that buy your labor, you have to produce, not only those commodities which you consume, but also commodities that you do not consume. If this were not so, of what use would you be to the class that employ you, and how could it be that there are commodities which the workers never consume as means of subsistence, and are used only to further production.

When you begin to view the present state of society from a commodity standpoint, you will slowly realize that your "purpose in life" is to produce commodities. Now, as stated, you have to produce your own means of subsistence as well as a surplus of commodities. Here where the producers needs a close vegetation, and just here where the capitalist economist will deceive you, he will not reveal to you that the surplus of commodities is not ever increasing, while the portion that you receive does not so increase.

An ever-increasing mass of commodities, with your portion stationary, allows the capitalist class to widen the fields of exploitation and to command a greater number of workers. In short there is more capital to be accumulated while this process continues uninterrupted. It is what the capitalist considers a sound state of affairs.

The time necessary for this commodity producing process is from 8 hours to hours out of the 24 for each worker, and when we look back a little, we will find that not only do the capitalists increase the number of workers in their employ, but they also get a greater return from each in those hours.

We then observe that labor is becoming more productive; hence the necessity of increasing capital as the ever-increasing ratio between what

Literature List.

- Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vol., 8/- per volume.
- Ancient Society: Morgan, Bound, 6/6.
- Value, Price, and Profit: Marx, Bound, 2/-; Paper, 6d.
- Evolution of Property: Lapsare, Bound, 2/6.
- The Misery of Proletariat: Lewis, Bound, 2/6.
- The New Unionism: T. Don, Paper, 1/8.
- Sabotage: Fouquet, Bound, 2/-.
- One Big Union: Trautman, Paper, 6d.
- Sabotage: W. C. Smith, Paper, 3d.
- Sabotage: E. G. Flynn, paper, 3d.
- I.W.W. History, Structure, and Methods: St. John, Paper, 3d.
- Revolution and the I.W.W.: Pease, Paper, 3d.
- Eleven Blind Leaders: D. H. Williams, Paper, 3d.
- Political Socialism, or Capturing the Government: Nelson, Paper, 3d.
- War: What the Carbons: Price, 3d.
- Revolutionary Unionism: E. J. B. Jones, Paper, 2d.
- Why the A.W.U. Cannot Become an Industrial Union: Alex. George, Paper, 3d.
- Industrial Evolution and Its Antecedents: T. Flynn, Paper, 2d.
- I.W.W. Songs: Pease, Paper, 2d.
- Summary of Marx's Capital: Hazel, 2d.
- The Diesel Motor: Frankenthal, Paper, 3d.
- Industrial Unionism: St. John, 1d.

"OUR" TRADE AND "OUR" WORKERS.

The trade organ of the Australian Traders' Association, the "Australian Trader" Weekly, had again, in its leading article of last week's issue, some remarks which should be of interest to workers.

As usual, we are told, can never become a "great export country," nor supplant German trade to any extent, until the "industrial conditions peculiar to Australia at present obtain." One of the "peculiar conditions" objected to by the journal is, apparently, what is called "excessive wages."

The bosses anticipate, however, that the wage agreement will assist them out of this difficulty. Sir James Haggard's scheme of immigration, the paper opines, will cause a great influx of population, and "we may then hope" it adds, "the price of labor will decrease."

Workers should mark note, and learn the masters' benevolent intentions and prepare themselves accordingly.

When the war is over, the article concludes, "the revolution in the world's trade should be to our advantage." Sure! This is the why and the wherefore of "our" exuberant "nationalism," our hatred of our business competitors, and "our" similarly kind feelings and future intentions towards the boneheads who fight for "our" trade.

ADELAIDE READERS

Can obtain copies of "Direct Action" and Industrial Literature from Charlie Russell, bookshop, Gilsdon-street, Adelaide.

the worker produces and what he gets.

It is to be hoped the workers will give this process some study and consider the difference between all workers. Organise in industries, combine in the One Big Union of the working class with a purpose other than the production of commodities, and then we can command the wealth we produce and be no longer subject to the property we create.

This is the object of the Industrial Workers of the World.

G.P.W.
Printed and Published on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World, by John Hamilton, Chairman of Press Committee, 120, South Castle-street, Sydney, N.S.W.