

At Duty's Call.

The conservative press is ever denouncing for the edification of the people on the necessity of duty. Some people do not realise their duty to Empire, write the jingo journals. We are afraid there are many who neglect their religious duties, says the clerical press. Indeed there are so many heads of various political, social and religious movements continually re-echoing their exhortations anent duty to their particular clique or party that the average workman is at a loss to understand where duty begins and ends. Both in school, church and State, he is taught so many definitions and so many forms of service that he is at a loss to know where duty ends, and finds it hard to determine where duty begins.

A philosopher once said, "Duty is that determinate moral claim which dictates a certain line of thought and conduct, as a right in opposition to self-interest." If this definition is correct, and it seems to be as good a definition of duty as it is possible to get, then duty has fallen into disrepute. All the talk about race suicide, national degeneracy, lazy workers, and so forth, is proof positive that the old conceptions regarding duty are fading away, and are not compatible with the spirit of the age. Particularly the poor are fast losing respect for antiquated shibboleths which once were the standards of duty. With the exception of a few military and clerical institutions, discipline and duty are dying out. The philosophy of the average man consists in trying to obtain the best he can get out of life regardless of conceptions of duty.

The chief guide to duty was formerly believed to be conscience. But what is conscience? Conscience was formerly supposed to be a mental attribute which exerted a beneficial effect over the turbulent passions of the individual. In some cases this may be true, but on the other hand there can be no doubt conscience is generally the reflex of other men's opinions impressed on the mind of the child. Acting under religious hysteria, duty decreed that it was right to murder, persecute and destroy any thing opposed to a particular cult. The same conscience decided that church property was sacred, all theological disputes above question and all scriptures sacrosanct. The same sense of duty or belief are not the monopoly of churches. In politics and law the same metaphysical conception, although different in form and expression, hold sway. The State, or what is supposed to be the State, is strongly influenced by metaphysical abstractions which are in some cases more grotesque and illogical than those "dictates of conscience" propounded by the church.

Science has annihilated conscience, and where it is its theological meaning. It is now reduced to a mere compound of sensations, amassed through centuries of experience, and now crowned with a cap labelled Divine.

Evidently, conscience so called is no guide to duty. Neither can we place any faith in the person who appeals with self-interest to persuade the public their duty lies this way or that way, as the case may be. Particularly does this refer to the workers, because persons taking advantage of the social, political or religious ideas of the people have repeatedly used their position to side-track any practical or public matters. This is particularly obvious in those cases where the spectacle of the mouthpieces of conservative institutions pleading with the workers to remember their duty. Amongst the rich they are only concerned with two conceptions of duty. Duty to themselves as individuals, and loyalty to their class interests. These are the only two ideas of duty that they have found of any utilitarian value. Although denouncing metaphysical ideas of duty they are kindly alive to the value of propa-

gating such ideas as "Honor God," "Obey the State," "Loyalty to Empire" amongst the people. These ideas are necessary in the interests of the rich for purposes of exploitation. Although not generally known, our whole industrial regime, to a large extent, rests upon the acceptance of metaphysical beliefs. The enormous ramifications of the credit system is a case in point. Probably in the future, when the prevailing economic superstitions have faded away some genius will arise to write "The Metaphysics of Industry." Before that event we can reasonably hope that the workers will cut aside all abstractions anent duty to institutions of plutocracy whose functions is to educate people to a false ideal of duty in order that the present regime of economic perfidy may be perpetuated to the greater glory of plutocracy and the degradation of Labour.

—AJAX.

ANOTHER BATCH OF ARRESTS. WORKING CLASS ACTIVATOR AGED 85 REFUSED BAIL.

The West Australian Government is making a frantic attempt to stifle the educational work of the One Big Unionists. A fortnight ago Mick Sawtell was arrested on a station in the Gascoyne district, 400 miles north of Perth on a charge of threatening the property of Senator Lynch, a star conscriptionist orator and legislator. Sawtell has also been charged with conspiring to create dissension and discontent amongst His Majesty's subjects. He has been remanded to, and is now in gaol at Perth.

Shortly afterwards, Fellow-Worker Horrocks, of Kalgoorlie, was arrested on the conspiracy charge. Jack O'Neill, journalist, of Fremantle, well known to the readers of "Direct Action" as "Cresset," and on the staff of the "West Australian Free Press" was charged similarly, as was Fellow-Worker Maurice Miller, of Perth. Several Italian members have been arrested also on the same charge.

They have all been remanded at a sitting of the court, and with the exception of Fellow-Worker O'Neill, have all been refused bail. Montague Miller, who is at present lying in Perth Gaol, is 85 years of age. He is one of the best known working-class activists in the Commonwealth, and unlike the old school he never turned conservative, as newer men and newer philosophies took the place of the old-school worker Miller has had a very adventurous career. He was initiated into the movement at the historic battle at the Eureka Stockade, near Ballarat, in 1854, where he handled a gun with Peter Lalor and others for the miners.

With a long career of virile and militant activity behind him, he is thrown into the cell of the Perth Gaol without bail, at the age of 85. West Australia has every reason to be proud of its administration, which possesses, to a remarkable degree, those attributes of the German military caste is supposed to monopolise.

If the Labor movement of Australia is going to allow its oldest warrior and survivor of the Eureka Stockade to rot in gaol, then the movement deserves to be eternally damned. For our younger members of the organisation care little for gaol, but rebels with that consideration. Sawtell, Miller and O'Neill have, for the past three years been contributors to this paper. They are men who have been trained in the university of the Industrial Workers of the World among the workers of the Golden West. Fellow-members of the working class, we have to save these men from the clutches of the master class. We must have money to defend them. They have fought for us, and we must fight for them.

Since the men have been arrested, by the order of Mr. Colbatch, Colonial Secretary, W. Siebenhaar, Deputy-Registrar General, and H. M. Leighton, clerk in the Statistical Department, have been suspended on a charge of disloyal conduct, the former in respect to the pending I.W.W. prosecutions, and Leighton by circulating, contrary to instructions given, unsigned anti-conscription literature. Siebenhaar, a native of Holland, published a few years ago a volume of poetry entitled, "Dorothea." Leighton is president of the Clerks' Union.

Long live the Industrial Workers of the World!

TOM BARKER.

TWO SIGNIFICANT LETTERS.

The following letters may interest our readers. We print them as sent in, so that the public can judge for themselves.

Australian Workers' Union,
Head Office, St. Andrew's Place,
Sydney, 20th Oct., '16.

Mr. Frank Brister,
Rep. Yarra Yarra Station,
Via Hobrook.

Dear Sir—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th, enclosing cheques valued £3 12s and £1 9s. As requested, I have paid to the No Conscription Fund P.L.L. the cheque for £3 12s, being amount collected by the boys on behalf of the fight for the No Conscription, and herewith enclose receipt for same.

Under no circumstances, whatever, would we pay money over to the I.W.W., an organisation that for the past two years has been vigorously attacking the Union in the columns of its paper, "Direct Action," and in the domains of other States. I had occasion, in the past, through the "Worker" to point out the injudicious workings of this German-American organisation, and this organisation cannot be used as a catch-up by them. We have no control over individual members in this respect. Cheque herewith returned.

Yours fraternally,

(Signed), E. GRAYNDLER,
General Secretary,
Per C.A.A.

Enclol.: Cheque and receipt.

Yarra Yarra,
Via Hobrook,
Late Gurnanton, S. Line,
N.S.W.

To the Defence Committee.
Gentlemen:—I enclose to find enclosed cheque, £13 s/6 towards the expenses of men committed to trial. I am directed to forward you the enclosed letter which will explain why this money did not reach you before. Please return letter as soon as convenient. The enclosed sum, subscribed by the abashers here does not find them to holding with the views of the I.W.W., but is from a feeling of sympathy with men who are up against the laws of the country, and they wish to see them get a fair trial.

Yours, etc.

FRANCIS BRISTOW,
Shed Rep.

Briefly the reason for unemployment is that there are not enough jobs to go around. What about a shorter work-day

FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY.

There are three species of idiots one should beware of. The political imbecile, the militant masochist, and the religious rant. These three represent Faith, Hope, and Charity, but the greatest of these three is the Christian.

News and Notes.

One of our members complain that while attending the Prime Minister's conscription rally last Thursday, he was pounced upon by detectives, because he did not take off his hat when "God Save the King" was played. Apparently, it is a fearful crime not to venerate Kaiser Billy just as it is a crime against the Kaiser. We always said there was a strong Prussian strain in the conscriptionists.

Local Activities: On Friday evening the I.W.W. held an anti-conscription meeting in the Protestant Hall, J. Wilson and Mrs. Lynch spoke to a fair attendance. Owing to competing attractions, the crowd was not as large as might have been expected. Both speakers were well received.

The treason trials are set down for Nov. 20th, and funds are necessary to defray our men. These men are entitled to the best legal aid that money can buy. It would be a lasting disgrace if through lack of funds, they should be condemned on a legal technicality because they were not in a financial position to procure a first-class barrister. The probability is that the case will be lengthy, and involve considerable expense. To those who are against the principle of rail-roading men upon a charge based upon a fourteenth century law, we say it is up to you to contribute something towards the defence funds.

We notice that that great beacon of political light, better known to the workers as Isenberg Irvine, has been attacking the I.W.W. at Bendigo. The fact that conservative politicians abuse us is the best possible reason why the workers should support us.

One Big Union is the goods. It aims at the control of industry for the working class. Join the I.W.W. and see the how, strike and take to work. He won't like the work, but he'll smile, because he'll have to.

There is only ONE working class, logically there should be only ONE Union. That is the I.W.W.

"My call is to battle,
I march against rebellion
I march with you must go well armed,
He going with me goes often with spare diet,
Poverty, angry enemies, and desertion."

—Walt Whitman.

HOW "NO" WAS CARRIED IN A.S.

The conscriptionists in South Australia fought the issue of the Referendum on the question of the I.W.W. Large tracts containing the photos of the I.W.W. members charged with treason in Sydney, and inscribed, "Australians! These are leaders of the No Draft. Are they to be yours?" A No vote will be a victory for them. Vote YES, and DEFEAT THEM!

The results are hardly so satisfactory for the conscriptionists, as they are for the I.W.W. We congratulate Mr. Vincent and his Council on the way they have advertised the One Big Union.

And for intelligence, well cut features, open faces and general physiognomy, our boys will compare favorably with a similar number of conscriptionist advocates. And that is undoubtedly a potent reason why South Australia voted "No."

Say Mr. Hughes, will you make us a lorry of that hat you brought in England, and which has recently been discarded.

AJAX.

TOM BARKER.

