

Release Labor Agitators.



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Release Agitation.

RELEASE AGITATION.

The following appeal has been issued by the Release Industrial Council and the Release Committee (representing various organisations) on behalf of the 12 I.W.W. members who were recently sentenced to long terms of imprisonment—

Fellow Workers—On December 2, 1916, Judge Fring sentenced 12 members of the organisation known as the Industrial Workers of the World, to terms of imprisonment, ranging from five to fifteen years. Capitalism throughout Australia wholeheartedly applauded the vindictive and savage sentence. Each of the men was a militant fighter in the working-class movement—not one had against him a previous criminal conviction. Branded as criminals before their trial by W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister, and a host of lying pressmen and politicians; tried during a period of national excitement, and sentenced by a bigoted and capitalist-morality-minded Judge, the case of those unfortunate sufferers of the rebel army calls for the attention of every lover of the working-class movement. Here, Brisbane, acting in conjunction with the anarchists throughout the various States, a release committee, has been formed for the purpose of obtaining justice for these 12 members of our class. Various unions and political organisations are interested, and it is intended by means of lectures and public meetings to lay the case before the workers free of the lies and prejudice which capitalist henchmen have woven about it. Funds are urgently required to carry on the campaign, and all workers are asked to send their contributions to Frank Page, Secretary of the release committee, care "Daily Standard," Adelaide-street, Brisbane. On behalf of the release committee, Frank Page, Box 108.

RELEASE AND DEFENCE COMMITTEE LITERATURE.

The Defence and Release Committee are issuing leaflets and books dealing with the bitter attack upon the I.W.W. and its members. They have printed 100,000 copies of Harry Boot's article,—"Guilty or Not Guilty," which appeared in the "Australian Worker." This has been followed by the publication of another leaflet entitled,—"A Challenge to those who malign the Industrial Workers of the World." The latter deals with some of the despicable attacks by certain people to discredit the organisation. Bundles of 100 of either of the above leaflets will be forwarded to any address for one shilling or 7s 6d for 1,000.

Following those we are printing a large quantity of "The Speeches from the Dock" in booklet form. These will be retailed at 3d each and 2s per dozen, and all proceeds go to the Defence and Release Fund. Orders for any of this literature must be addressed to the Committee, Box 98, Haymarket, N.S.W. The speeches include that delivered by Sawtell and Miller in W.A., as well as the boys who were sentenced in Sydney. Order early, as they will be out this week.

News and Notes.

COAL LUMPERS

The coal lumpers at Mortlake (Newcastle) strike work on Tuesday after giving notice that they would do so unless an extra man was added to each gang. The question is an important one for organised Labor, being one that vitally concerns the entire Labor movement. The setting of the unemployed question still has to be done in this way. These men want as many jobs as there are men and women who want work. There always desires an un-

WHO WILL ASSIST? THE CAUSE IS A GOOD ONE

FELLOW-WORKERS—

TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION TO WHICH MOST READERS OF THIS PAPER BELONG AT PRESENT LIE IN JAIL, TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS TO WHICH WE ALL BELONG, THE WORKING-CLASS.

CONVICTED ACCORDING TO CAPITALIST LAW THEY HAVE BEEN, BUT AFTER A TRIAL, WHICH MANY PEOPLE REGARD AS A FARCE.

THAT THOSE WHO INCLINE TO THIS VIEW ARE NUMERICALLY STRONGER THAN AT THE TIME OF THEIR CONVICTION IS BORNE OUT BY THE HUGE ATTENDANCES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS OF PROTEST, AND THE MAGNIFICENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION.

YET, DESPITE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN, MONEY IS STILL REQUIRED TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT ON THEIR BEHALF, BECAUSE AN APPEAL HAS BEEN LODGED AGAINST THEIR CONVICTION, AND THIS WILL MEAN A SUM OF MONEY ALONE THAT WILL RUN INTO THREE FIGURES, AND NOT SMALL ONES AT THAT.

THEN, UNLESS THE CONVICTIONS ARE UPHOLD, A NEW TRIAL WILL BE NECESSARY, AGAIN MEANING MONEY. NOW IT IS FOR MONEY WE ARE APPEALING, MONEY WHICH WE WOULD CERTAINLY FIND, BUT WE ARE COMPELLED TO FIND THIS MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE THROUGH NO FAULT OF OUR OWN.

WHETHER THE MEN WILL ULTIMATELY REGAIN THEIR FREEDOM PER MEDIUM OF THE LAW COURTS, OR BY THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION OF THE WORKING-CLASS OF THIS COUNTRY, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

MEANWHILE WE ARE COMPELLED TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE APPEAL COURT, AND BEFORE ANY OTHER ACTION CAN BE TAKEN, WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO FIND THE MONEY FOR A NEW TRIAL.

DURING THE IMPROBABLE OF OUR FELLOW-WORKERS, FUNDS HAVE ALSO TO BE FOUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THOSE MARRIED, AND THE BURDEN OF EXPENSE IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERABLY INCREASED.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, TO SECURE THE NECESSARY MONEY FOR THE APPEAL, AND, IF NECESSARY, THE NEW TRIAL, IS OUR BOUNDEN DUTY.

NOW, HAVING STATED WHAT IS ESSENTIAL, WE APPEAL TO EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER FOR SUPPORT, WHETHER THE READER BE MEMBER OR SYMPATHISER. WE ASK ALL READERS WHO CAN ASSIST TO DO SO, WE ASK FOR DONATIONS LARGE OR SMALL (THE LARGER THE BETTER), BUT WE ASK FOR MONEY. WE ALSO ASK THAT THE MONEY BE SENT ON AT AN EARLY DATE, SO THAT THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE MAY BE SECURED AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN ADVANCE.

THOSE WILLING TO ASSIST ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO SEND ALL CASH TO J. E. WILSON, BOX 98, HAYMARKET P.O. SYDNEY, ALSO TO MAKE ALL MONEY PAYABLE BY MONEY ORDER, OR POSTAL NOTE, AND TO REGISTER ALL LETTERS.

ALL MONEY RECEIVED WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE COLUMNS OF "DIRECT ACTION."

employed army, but the unemployed and hungry are a menace to the workers themselves, and they will have to see to it that jobs are available for all. The coal lumpers' fight is Labor's fight. Remember, "an injury to one is the concern of all."

STRIKES

According to official figures the number of strikes in Australia during the first nine months of 1916 numbered 414, and the loss of wages amounted to £239,191.

What the loss in profits was has not been calculated—at least it has not been published. Publishing the estimated loss in wages is calculated to have an effect upon the minds of the workers, by inferring that they would have been better off had they stayed at work.

Statistics are never published to show how much is lost to wages through enforced idleness—unemployment.

Officialism is not concerned about how much is lost in wages either when the workers take a holiday or when they are unemployed. The difference being that in the first instance it is inconvenient the employers and therefore a responsibility is published to try and prove the faultily of strikes.

As a matter of fact the amount lost through unemployment every year exceeds ten-

fold that lost through strikes, but the boss neither publishes, nor sheds crocodile tears over, the equality.

THEIR'S SOMETHING WRONG

Their's something wrong when a few can feast on stinks daily and vintage red; When many starve by rotten harvests, And clamorous thousands cry for bread.

Their's something wrong when the rich can squaw

Sit in lace and jewels fine; While the poor to rags and to hanks are heir, And feed as the prodigal did—with swine.

Their's something wrong when a few can dwell

In mansions of marble carved fair, While homed in hovels with rotten roofs The toilers struggle with life's despair.

Their's something wrong when the children spin

Their souls into the thread they make; Or weave their hopes by the shuttle's din, To the mill hand suds and the small hands break!

—THE ARTHUR GOODENOUGH,

in "Railroad Telegrapher."

Women and the I.W.W.

Glimping through the penny weekly of Fashion, Etc., called "Australian Women's Weekly," my eyes pined tightly on the following printed lie—

"The Christian home is the mightiest instrument in the work of regenerating and elevating the human race. It is the guiding star of our god destiny. Home should be made everything."

A lie! To prove it I'll put the ex-roy of commerce on it for just a fleeting moment by asking that first question—

How many millions Christian homes have turned families of Christian sons and daughters out into the world?

Many millions. Now, how many of those sons and daughters have regenerated and elevated the human race?

Why, this great European war is being fought in the name of Christianity, and it just proves what an added guiding star has been Christianity! "True women who followed the persecuted Nazarene in his home,

and his some women who yet cherish the remembrance of that man—the Christ—in the sanctity of the home and in the sanctity of their hearts.

The I.W.W. woman is wide awake to the fact that mankind has prostituted the teachings of Jesus, and in churches, and at national meetings his teachings are so warped to suit present day capitalism that they've become, the world over, a degradation to the human race.

Thinking women realise that the home is not the only influence on the child. The greater it is in the school, the workshop, and in the office, where a code of morals is drawn up by an exploiter who piles up wealth from the exploited labor-power of mother's sons and daughters, when he hires for a food and clothing argument.

Women are beginning to realise that it is not the home so much as the outside world that is influencing the growing generations, and therefore she is coming out into the world, determined to have her say in matters that are controlling and spoiling the race.

Women right through history have always rushed to the assistance of men in dire trouble; this history that year there but few women in the Sydney Local of the I.W.W., but since the persecution started three months ago the women have surged into the organisation and are now as busy in the release, defence and social functions as any.

BESTY H. MATTHIAS.

ATROCITIES

Quite a number of atrocious acts have occurred during the last few weeks and the I.W.W. has so far not been connected with any of them—perhaps because there's no conscientious campaign! The papers have been despoiling columns and pages to the Queensland floods; of course God shoulders the blame for that bit, but we can rest assured that if the detectives can prove he is, or was ever, a member of the I.W.W., he'll be more of a member.

Likewise very many murders have been committed, or attempted, but we are in the dark as to whether the murderers were members of the Liberal Association or the Maanoo Lodge.

What a lot of unlawful associations there are here for Billy to investigate!

Members and Secretaries of Locals throughout Australia are requested to inspect on sight I.W.W. Card, No. (not known), Sydney Local No. 2. Mick Kelly.

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Direct Action



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403 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

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

Parliament and
the I.W.W.

"If the I.W.W. was sufficiently strong to win seats in Parliament it would soon have at its bidding large bodies of willing aspirants, ready to acknowledge its authority and to subscribe to its directives."
— Sydney "D.T."

Just so! Apparently the "D.T." has found out something that the I.W.W. would find long ago, but the I.W.W. objects to becoming the dumping ground for sakers and frauds, and, therefore, no sign hangs out to entice these undesirable into the movement. We know from experience, long and bitter, that providing the prize is big enough—a parliamentary seat for preference, no trouble is experienced in getting enthusiastic recruits to a working class movement, but it is the prize and not the work which interests them.

The I.W.W. is after quality not quantity, if our strength lay in our numbers then we should offer parliamentary salaries freely to the workers and would ere long have at our command 90 per cent. of the people—including workers, union secretaries and bosses.

Judging by the tone of the "D.T.'s" second aim would be itself not object to joining in spite of the fact that we are incendiaries, anarchists, and criminals, etc., paid with German gold, if only she could see over our horizon the chance of a good, soft, push, financial job in Parliament.

Since we don't bother about the "big toy" that Capitalism has made for us, the spokesmen of Plute and Co. wax angry and look upon us as dangerous iconoclasts who have set out to reconstruct society by violence.

The desire to "get into" Parliament has developed in this country into a kind of national disease and the "D.T." can't understand a body of people who have got that ambition.

What would now be the numerical strength of the I.W.W. were all to join up who have acknowledged the movement as the only one extant that has any promise for the workers?

Still these people don't join up, mainly because having at some time or other gathered at street corner and strung together agents of street corner, threepence takers, agent social evils and economic systems they consider themselves public enemies of more than ordinary ability whose proper place should be in the dust heap rather than in Parliament.

Our non-parliamentary attitude is undisturbed, keeping this class of workers outside the organization, and it is well that it is so.

No, the I.W.W. is not after the plash seats, but we have no control with the workers who desire to get the jobs, except when they are going there to emancipate man-kind, when we know very well they are going there to emancipate themselves; we are not so stupid as to believe anything else.

When the parading politician admits that he wants the job for the sake of the job he will probably control the votes of the I.W.W.

The Industrial Workers of the World exist for the purpose of educating and organizing the workers on the lines of modern industry; for we recognize the present unions as of no date, and that a properly organized and conscious working class is more powerful than any Parliament, and superior to any class-made laws.

The union movement of 25 years ago in Australia was side-tracked into Parliamentary channels and grabbed by scheming politicians and the press, who dazzled the workers with the glories of Parliament House.

During that quarter of a century the union movement has decayed, for the parliamentary organisation occupied the union when the union house must be put down in order; the I.W.W. is the organisation that is going to do the reconstruction. Just as for 25 years the P.L.L. devoted its activities to Parliament, so the I.W.W. will direct its energies in the industrial field, and we have every confidence, that the results attending 25 years of industrial propaganda will have something of advantage to the working class.

How to lose fear the result of such organisation and the "D.T." and Co. are straining every nerve to turn our heads in the direction of Parliament, and because we will not yield we are a dangerous and original element who ought to be suppressed.

Demand an Answer.

O, masters, lords and rulers in all lands,
How will the future reckon with the man!

How will he answer his brute question in that hour
When the whirlwinds of rebellion shake the world?

How will it be with kingdoms and with kings,
With those who shape him in the thing he is!

When the dumb terror shall reply to God
After the silence of the centuries?

— EDWIN MARKHAM.

One may well ask the above questions, for we are living in a mad world at present, but the only answer the lords and rulers have is: "Might is Right, we have the might and if you dare to enlighten us we will crush you." We have dealt with you as we have already dealt with thirty members of your class. "You disorganised rabble! Shriek about justice! It is nothing but a shriek." "We own the judges, we own the law courts, and all who function therein." "We make the laws; and we own the interpreters of the laws, and what they say is right, because we have the right to enforce their opinions, and we have the might because of our Class Solidarity."

That is the answer the "boss" makes sentimentalists may rave about, ethics and justice until Doinny, until you develop the might to threaten his position he will continue to be right.

Many of our fellow workers are in prisons because they urged upon the organised whilst revolutionary changes were shaking the world.

But the "boss" has a lot to learn about the organisation which many of the men belong, and if he takes the lessons of history to heart he will know that attempting to suppress or to retard the progress of working class movements has always proved futile, that the movements which are the expression of the economic state of society thrive upon persecution. The persecutions which have befallen our fellow was not to enter with kicking and screaming the new order, but to make it get busy and one wonders where the hell it came from.

The Industrial organisation presched by the I.W.W. is going to go on in Australia in spite of the boss, the politician and his henchmen, and we are determined to organise and educate. And we have the might to challenge the right of a few "The Argus" of December 31st, in a recently passed on the I.W.W. men remarks: "The Argus" is little doubt that the well-established organisation of the I.W.W. vote considerably."

Well, what if it did? The I.W.W. has class standpoint in spite of working of a jury and the sentences of a judge, the boys in jail fought always for the working class, and it is now "up to" the working class to fight for them.

Besides the desire to have them enjoy-

ing the little liberty, that is left us, out-side the prison walls, they are of too good nature to be behind those walls; their organising abilities are too necessary to the working class movement, and the movement must suffer by their incarceration.

So it is up to the workers, and all those who think there is still some dignity left to the worker, to stand on their "dig" and demand the liberation of their fighters.

Let the boss know that you still believe that "unity is strength," and that an injury to your class concerns you personally. If it be a crime to preach a gospel that will strike the fetters of bondage from the limbs of suffering humanity, then let us all be criminals!

JAMES POPE.

A Union Vision.

I was sitting on the kerbside waiting for a master to give me a job. I had waited a long while and at last fell into a trance.

In this state I saw a vision. I was in a Union room; the room was full of workers, many of whom were daily faced them, and against their fellow work mates by refusing to support any real staunch and militant men in the union.

Of course change hands and their friends were there.

The union had fined and commuted one of the "charge hands" for remaining at work when his fellow unionists had decided to hold a "stop work" meeting.

So staunch a unionist was the individual in question that he actually engaged a lawyer to defend his action and protect him from his union.

The strong point about many at the meeting was their desire and eagerness to show their harmony with and appreciation for the boss—the kind individual who daily faced them, and yet bribed them with a few extra hours' toil to condemn those agitators.

It was a glorious exhibition of fawning harmony—the lion and the lambs lying side by side.

Then I saw the spectacle of a "boss" worshiper taking a subscription list round among the flock; the "boss" was to be presented with a gold medal, because of his enthusiastic support of union principles.

On looking closer I found that the collector was the same man that had scabbled on the stop-work meeting.

The bell rang and I was roused to participate in a job for a job I men wanted and in the hall.

I stretched myself and reflected for a moment, then went away thinking how fortunate we are that no such situation could arise whilst we have our up-to-date strong unionism.

WYATT JONES.

Persecution.

The whole chain of events which led to the recent trial is—supposing the men to be guilty—another illustration of the familiar fact that repression leads to violence, and persecution strengthens what it aims at destroying. For the last year and more the I.W.W. organisation has been savagely persecuted and repressed, ostensibly as a band of criminals, but really as a growing menace to capitalism.

The sentence of twelve months' imprisonment passed on Barker for publishing a cartoon, which had satirised the moneyed classes, was a piece of spiteful vengeance even the authorities admitted to have overstepped the mark. This sentence, and the sentence of daily prison, which it was a part, produced in the members of the I.W.W. a very natural sentiment, which led to much reckless talk and some reckless action. This violence of speech and action has been indulged in by both Hughes and the I.W.W. speakers which is no more violent than that of Mr. Hughes or Mr. Justice Pring, or some have resorted to violent actions, they are opponents never hesitate to resort when occasion arises. The crime and the punishment reproduce one another in a vicious and widening circle, and are a profile. Those of precisely the same philosophy condemn the other to condemn the one must detestiveness do not change their views.

Well, their names, or with the class that says Bernard Shaw, "It is the deed that teaches," give it!" At Broken Hill the other day Mr. Justice Bevin, before sentencing any other group of I.W.W. men charged with similar offences, commented to them the golden rule. His commendation to them have been made most effective if he had

shown his belief in it by acting upon it there and then. But in passing sentence on them he turned his back upon his own verbal teaching, and showed his own real faith to be the same as that which he had condemned the others to look for in applying. His advice will sooner be forgotten than the principle he advocated so eloquently by his action. The most reckless members of the I.W.W. have this in common with their judges, either in the courts or the press or the pulpit, that they believe in the efficacy of violence in furthering a good cause. For the former, even if guilty, are no more to be confounded with common criminals than their judges are. They are not inspired by any hope or personal gain, and they are willing to face any consequences to themselves for the sake of the cause they believe in. They are, in fact, fanatics victims of a false philosophy which they have learned, not from the words, but from the actions, of the ruling class, and which they are mistakenly endeavoring to apply in the interests of the workers. If we wish them to practise the golden rule, we must show them by example, that we believe in it, and are not simply using it as a weapon of mass warfare, and then they will follow us as readily as we have done in applying the iron rule. But it is not only to plain that our rulers have not yet learned that elementary lesson of government which all history teaches—that a reaction of violence against social upheavals in many countries, is the hope and desire of ninety-nine out of every hundred people who favor the inevitable changes, that they may be as completely satisfied as the rulers can be. But it is only the supporters of the old order adopt permanently the policy of repression and vindictive persecution which they now seem inclined to adopt, they will be responsible for whatever violence that policy provokes.

REV. F. S. SINCCLAIR, in "Fellowship."

THE RED FLAG.

(By James Connell.)
The workers' flag is deepest red,
It shrouded off, our martyred dead,
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold
Their fire blood dyed its every fold.

Chorus.

Then raise the scarlet standard high
Beneath its folds, we'll live and die,
Though towards flag and traitors sneer,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

Lock round the Freshman leaves its blast
The sturdy German chants its praise;
In Moscow's vaults, its hymns are sung,
Chicago swells its arguing song.

When all ahead seemed dark as night;
It witnessed many a deed and vow,
We will not change its colour now.

It suits to-day, the meek and base
Whose minds are fixed on profit and place
To erige beneath the rich man's frown,
And hail that sacred emblem down.

With heads uncovered, swear we all,
To bear it onward till we fall;
Come dragons dark, or galling rain,
This song shall be our parting hymn!

THE TRIAL.

In solitude I spend the lagging hours;
Pain, suffering, and hunger are my lot;
Pain, weary pain, that eases not;
And waxy, waxy pain, that eases not;
Of fortitude. Temptation oft recurs
To leave this arduous course; one thing detests
And that omnipotent, omnipotent God
Imparts so freely to the folk that plod
The hard and narrow way of Christ's of
course.

The strength enables me to braver stand
Than ever in the cause of right; to leave
Of love, 'gainst those of might. At His command
I turn again unwounded to the strife
'Gainst those for love; say more, 'gainst dead
of life.

H. E. STANTON, in the "Granite Echo."

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