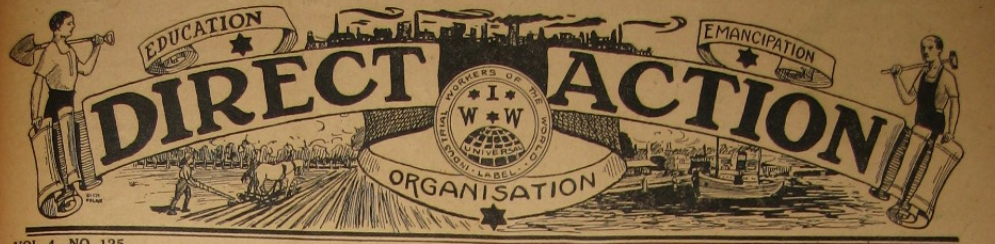


One Union. One Label. One Enemy.



VOL. 4., NO. 125

SYDNEY.

June 9th 1917. ONE PENNY.

# FIFTEEN YEARS For Speaking the TRUTH!

**Workers: Attention!**



**MELBOURNE.**

Then scatter, wobblers, scatter,  
Australia's cruel laws;  
And let the whole world understand  
Humankind's our cause."  
—Casey.

Melbourne activities have been well up to the usual standard. On the 27th F. W. Laird lectured to a crowded hall on "The Case for the I.W.W." Extra seating accommodation was borrowed, and many were turned away. Good crowds are the rule on the Yarra bank, and the "wobblers" put the song book to good use. The demand for "D.A." is increasing, as a result of the postal prohibition, and literature sales are good. Three or four open-air meetings are held during the week. A great future awaits the I.W.W. here.  
A.E.B.

**QUEENSLAND.**

Great work is being done for the I.W.W. in Queensland. There is an ever-increasing desire on the part of the slaves to hear all they can about this much maligned organisation. Owing to the continual call for speakers from all parts of the Northern State, Fellow Workers Bill Jackson and Gordon Brown are now touring Queensland as the paid organisers of the I.W.W.

Great results are being obtained, and tremendous enthusiasm exists among the actual wage-slaves for the I.W.W. teachings. The first meeting addressed by our organisers at the Alligator Creek Meat Works was a great success. Over £50 was collected for the Defence and Release Committee, and nearly a score of quids' worth of literature sold.

The prospects are highly encouraging, and before long we hope to hear Queensland ringing from end to end with the I.W.W. songs, and see the slaves forming up into the One Big Union for the purpose of putting an end to exploitation.

The walls of the Queensland politicians is a sure sign of our progress, and the leader the "pollice" yell you can reckon that the stronger we are growing.

"Oh pollice, we can't use you, dear.  
To let us in into clever,  
This fight is OURS, and as for you,  
Clear out and get run over."

**SYDNEY.**

The continual persecution of the I.W.W. in Sydney has the authorities is having a great stimulating effect upon the Organisation.

Our propaganda meetings are large and full of enthusiasm. The large crowd that marches down George street on its way to the Hall every Sunday night, singing our songs, is a sight to inspire even the most pessimistic.

Our hall, which seats five hundred, can usually hold one quarter of crowd that rolls in on their night lectures, and as a result an overflow meeting has to be held in Sussex street, outside the Hall.

On Sunday night, May 27th, P. W. Bill Coleman lectured in the Hall, and for over an hour held his audience interested. P. W. Coleman lectured last Sunday, June 3rd, upon the subject of the "Martyrdom of Joe Hill," which interest was manifested in the hall.

The I.W.W. has got to be held in Sydney, and the Kaiser and all his lings could not crush it. It is impossible to stop a progressive movement. It is impossible to kill an inspiring ideal. The I.W.W. is only a product of the time, and no power on earth can stop its on march.  
DRUMMER BOY.

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1916 To 1931

**Fellow Workers:  
We are in jail for you.  
What are you going to do about it?**

**A DREAM.**

She was a dear old Scotch lady, and was saying:

"My son Donald! I mind but as yesterday when he used to put his little bag of school-books over his shoulder and trudge through the snow. After a warm plate of porridge, with scones and butter, he would cry, 'Good-bye, mum,' and away he'd go to school, light hearted and bright! Ay! I thought the sun shone for Donald. And when he would return home in the evening, tired but happy, he would have his tea and prattle his little happiness and joys into my willing ear. How I used to put him to bed and kiss his golden curls, as his head lay on his pillow. I would think of the future of my little boy, and of the time when he would be facing the cruel world which was grinding the life out of his father. I thought of him bringing home to me, his mother, a few shillings weekly from that horrid little big factory up the street. I said to myself, 'Those early years of slavery will soon pass, and when he is a man, surely he will have a chance.'  
"When he grew to manhood, he said, 'Mum, when he grew to manhood, you see, where it is, I must go away across your sea, where it is,

said, men are not slaves like they are in Scotland. I will write often."

"His letters came often, and he said that he was keeping up the traditions, and that he was agitating." He also said that it seemed to him that Burns was right when he said that 'man was made no mortal'! Nevertheless, he spoke of a fine time to come, when poverty and slims would be no more, and when no longer—

"Man's inhumanity to man,  
Makes countless thousands mourn."

"He spoke of a time when the organised workers would be the Parliament of the world, one big union making laws based on the rights of humanity and I said, 'Donald, surely that will be the land of the lord!'"

"But my poor boy! Where are his letters lately?" I have read of a Donald Grant having been hanged for 15 years, for saying fifteen words. Surely, they would not do that to my boy. My son was upright. Tell me, was that Donald? Did they—"

"I awake. That dream seemed awfully real."  
A. S.

Readers of "Direct Action" are no doubt aware of the fact the Defence and Release Committee decided a few weeks ago to send a delegate to Central and North Queensland to visit the sugar centres, meet works, mines and wharves to place before the workers of those centres the case for our 12 working class agitators now confined in the Human Hells of Capitalism. It was first decided to appeal for funds, per medium of circulars to all subscribers to "Direct Action," also to publish in "Direct Action" an appeal to all subscribers, rebels and "sympathisers" in Central and North Queensland, and to allow about one month to lapse in order that funds may come in to help pay the expenses of the delegate. We are aware of the fact that the sugar mills will start crushing about the end of June, and the next works are already in full swing, and there was no time to be lost. Altogether 32 centres will be visited, and should the delegate stay one week in each centre this will mean 7½ months before the tour is complete. The sugar season will be over in about five months' time, and in order to visit all the centres we decided to send the delegate at once. Fellow Worker Jackson, delegate, representing the Defence and Release Committee, left per Canberra on Saturday, 19th May, and will arrive in Townsville the following Friday. He will organise meetings at that centre and address the most industry employees at Ross River and Alligator Creek meat works, also hold open air meetings. From there he will go to Charters Towers and visit the mines and from there to Cloncurry, and all north-western mining towns, also Hughenden on his return to Townsville. From there he will visit all the cane centres as far north as Cairns, returning to Townsville then to Ayr, Bowen, Proserpine, Mackay, Rockhampton and Mt. Morgan. Fellow workers, funds are needed badly in order to help defray the expenses of the visiting delegate, and it behooves each and every sympathiser, subscriber, and all rebels to help make this tour a success. Fellow Worker Jackson will lecture on the "Conspiracy Charges," "What is the I.W.W.?" "The Class War," and "The War and the Workers." This appeal, fellow workers, is for you, and we want your active support. So get out a subscription list, collect all you can, and send the proceeds direct to the Secretary Defence and Release Committee, 403 Sussex street, Sydney.

Labour must open the door of Nature's storehouse before it can be free.

"Common sense is very uncommon—Horace Greeley.

Care! Cheerful Shovels Snow—Headline. But he doesn't cut any ice—N.Y. American.

He who commends the brutalities of the past sows the seeds of future cruelties—Ingersoll.

The man who will not investigate both sides of a question is dishonest—Arthur Lincoln.

The expropriation of the peasant from the soil was the basis of the capitalist system—Marx.

Justice should remove the handage from the poor long enough to distinguish between the vicious and the unfortunate—Robert G. Ingersoll.

## OUR GOVERNMENT.

## Direct Action

Why is it, that the Lord Mayor of Sydney, on several occasions has broken the law, and has been found guilty of "three of the grossest conspiracies," is praised and admired by all the newspapers and penny journals of Platerece, and is also elevated to one of the highest positions in the State?

Is this what is called British Justice? Why this discrimination between persons?

No one denies that Meagher was guilty of "three of the grossest conspiracies," but there are thousands who are guilty, but that the I.W.W. men are guilty. But still Meagher gets elected to the Upper House, and the I.W.W. men get fifteen years!

It would be in violation of the truth to say that if Meagher had been an I.W.W. man instead of one of the heads of society, he would now be doing a long term of imprisonment, and if Tom O'Connell were Lord Mayor of Sydney and the others members of the Upper House, they would not be in jail to-day. This is so apparent that even a blind man could see the argument.

It must be obvious to all that when such glaring contrasts exist side by side in the same city, and such class distinctions are exposed every day, there must be something wrong somewhere.

The whole cause of the trouble is to be found in the structure of modern society.

The social standing of an individual largely determines whether he shall go to Parliament or to the gaol. The working class legislator is right for gaol at any time, but a member of the Chamber of Commerce or the Legislative Council is ready for a knighthood at any moment.

The I.W.W., in attempting to organise the working class on lines that will eventually wipe out all social distinctions, abolish the class war, and establish an Industrial Republic where the toilers will enjoy the full fruits of their toil, we are met with many obstacles and brought down the wrath of the master class upon its head.

Because there are gigantic wrongs to be righted, managements do not, by any means, intend to cure, we must continue to fight on in spite of persecution, victimisation and gaol.

Our only hope is Organisation. This Organisation must be honest and sincere. It must take up the work for work for wages, and recognise the identity of interests between the working class throughout the world.

Such an Organisation as the I.W.W. With Industrial Unity, we can surmount all barriers, put right all wrongs, cure all social diseases, and abolish the class struggle for ever.

This is the work of the I.W.W. Workers, what about it?

N. R.

## Poor Boss!

Owing to workmen not doing their bit while at work the following notice was stuck up in a conspicuous place at Cleveland, Municipal Works, St. Leonard's. (Editor)

"We say nothing.  
"We watch your ticket and the quality of your work. We reckon that you know that we can't avoid handicaps, or meet competition, when you make out your ticket, and therefore, you don't expect us to tolerate such. What we ask is first-class work at reasonable prices. Please realize that we don't want quality sacrificed for speed. Quality is not the greatest consideration and speed is not without some. We have drawn up a list of times which are considered standard; they were taken on jobs by men who had no knowledge of our intentions in this regard; consequently, not records just average, and our costs have been made up accordingly. Your results are compared with these; there is no justification for thinking that too much is expected. Absence in the cemetery or also where is given the consideration, if you think this job is worth sticking up, and will show us by enabling us to meet our competitors on nearly equal footing, yours is a constant job, as long as we have sufficient work to keep you going, other things being equal. (The last man to come—is the first man to go).

"Do you think the English tongue will ever become a dead language?" Of course it will. It's being murdered every day."

Liberty is the air of the soul, the sunshine of life. Without it the world is a prison and the universe an infinite dungeon.—Ingersoll.

The economic world is being transformed so quickly, that long inside another year should witness new social conditions existing in this sunny continent.

We have been for long informed that the next social order would be built by the working class; but unfortunately, the working class are not interested enough to bother about such forms, and consequently the coming change has to be worked by the bureaucracy.

It is their deal, and naturally the new regime will be handed over to their design—unless otherwise is lunacy.

After all the warnings, the workers still remain unmorganised on the only battleground that counts—the industrial ground. On this ground, although they are invincible if thoroughly organised, and on this ground they are not organised at all.

The political element may refuse, but they undeniably have to shoulder the burden of this hopeless condition. Hitherto they have explained away disaster by heaping condemnation upon "rotting" members of the parliamentary group, and there is no doubt the same scientific excuses are put forward for the failure of Labor's utter failure to combat its approaching doom. No attempt is being made in these lines to vindicate the character (?) of W. M. Hughes and his army of Labor politicians who walked out to the Liberal camp. They are unquestionably—stained in political crimes—"rats," but it must be remembered that they did no more than is expected of politicians, and no more than probably ninety-nine per cent of those who do them, do it, would do under similar conditions. Those of the workers who blame politicians for "rotting" evidently don't understand the psychology of the politician, and those who blame them for economic disasters apparently do not understand the psychology of the great delusion—they confound parliament with government.

Those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from this kind would do well to thoughtfully pause to regard the following alternative suggestion:—from Frank Austey's "Kingdom of Skyrock."

James Burns, Robert Philp, Adam and James Forsyth, J. T. Walker and J. R. Fairfax, of the Butrus, Philp com-

mission: Levy, Cohen and Moses of the Sydney Gaslight Monument, W. C. Watt, Knox, Carter, MacKellar, Binns, Buckland, Crowley, Reg. Black and Onslow Thompson, of the Sugar Success, control the 250 branches of the Bank of N.S.W. the 200 branches of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, the Bank of North Queensland, the A.M.P., and nine-tenths of the Life, Fire, Trustee and Loan Agencies that operate in the two States of New South Wales and Queensland.

The men who control the lead, tin, silver and copper output of the mines at Broken Hill, Mount Lyell, Cobarr, Cloncurry, Chillagoe, Mounta, Wallaroo and Mount Morgan; who control Tasmanian copper, Pioneer tin, and all smelting and refinery workers in connection with the metallic products of this continent are D. E. McBride, W. L. Ballin, Harvey Patterson, F. C. Hughes, James Harvey, C. E. Menck, J. Ed. Miller, Frank Snow, Kelso King, R. G. Casey, Ernest Fanning, J. H. Wharton, Bovens Kelly and H. H. Schapp.

These men either directly or through their associates and business dependents control every bank that has its headquarters in Melbourne, and nine-tenths of the Fire, Life, Loan and Trust Associations of the country.

They dominate every loan floated in this country and every institution that operates in "loans."

These are the men to whom the country is to be mortgaged.

Let us suppose that Finance is government; that is to say, they are the government, master class, and now used to gull and entertain the workers. Were it not for this latter reason and the fact that the workers would angrily protest against such a state of affairs, their freedom (!) the swindle of parliament would be abolished to-morrow.

These men who control the finances—and not the politicians—are the real governing body of the country. They control judges and pronounce sentences on political prisoners who are held on to throw aside the dummy and reveal the true enemy behind the scenes.

A. MACK.

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## Conspiracies, Contrasts, and Conclusions.

In a country claiming to be democratic, calling itself a Commonwealth, and boasting of its freedom, one would hardly think that glaring class distinctions could exist, a class war, be in evidence, and justice be perverted.

But in the best governed countries, irregularities are sure to happen from time to time. Sometimes things do happen which make one furious. A little while ago in Sydney last week when Richard Denis Meagher made application to be reinstated on the solicitors' rolls.

Some very interesting evidence was brought against Meagher, and Mr. Justice Pring added: "That the applicant, after committing the gravest possible conspiracy, for which he was struck off the roll, several years later entered two of the greatest conspiracies with Willis."

One would naturally think that anyone with the above record, would be a sure candidate for a few years' gaol. But in this case, what do we find? Instead of gaol, "Dick" gets elected to the Legislative Council.

Here we have a man who on several occasions has broken the law of the country, and has also been found guilty of "three of the grossest conspiracies," and he still walks the streets free and unmolested, and the only action taken against him is to strike his name off the solicitors' roll.

Contrast this case of Richard Denis Meagher with the I.W.W. cases.

A few months ago during the heat of the conspiracy fight, twelve members of the I.W.W. were arrested and charged with conspiracy, and upon very doubtful, flimsy and false evidence they were outrageously sentenced.

Mr. Justice Pring, who said he would rather lean to the side of mercy than that of vengeance, handed these apostles of liberty to fifteen years' gaol.

What a glaring and hideous contrast! But Richard Denis Meagher is a big gun politician, is now Lord Mayor of Sydney, and is the Speaker of the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly, and the I.W.W. men all worked for their living, and were all labor agitators. This makes all the difference.

In the light of reason, logic and justice, either one of two things should be done.

It must be plain to all that, in common fairness, the I.W.W. men should be immediately released, or Mr. R. D. Meagher set out along for fifteen years.

No one can honestly object to the above line of reasoning. It is logical all through. It is sound philosophy.

We are not anxious to see our Lord Mayor in gaol, but we are extremely anxious to see our boys out of gaol, who are guilty of no crime at all, unless, it be that of loyalty to their class.

Why is it that the Prime Minister of Australia, the capitalist politicians, and the masters' press were allowed to continue the I.W.W. and declare its members criminals before ever an I.W.W. man appeared in court? They were condemned before they were convicted. They were convicted before they were seen!

## What Is Democracy?

Some have an ideal, live for it, fight and die for it. Others who have no ideal, no noble aim in life, who complain only the existing misery and suffering, and endeavor by all the means in their power to perpetuate the cruellest and bloodiest system that has ever existed in the world, endeavoring to suffer under, and offer their utmost to assist in the mauling of the working-class with the chains of economic slavery.

These manacles of the capitalist class exist merely for the plaudits and acclamations of the masses.

According to "Democracy," there are no jails in Australia for political prisoners. It's all a myth of our imaginations that men get sentenced for fifteen years for fifteen days; that we are liable to six months' imprisonment for an offence which is not a crime, and is striving to ameliorate the conditions of suffering and heart-broken humanity. Poverty, hunger, misery, and degradation do not prevail. There are no industrial holes, child labor is not permitted to work in outcasting factories. There is no speeding up in industrial machinery, except you or someone stands near for houses, that are totally unfit for human habitation.

"Democracy" says we have no constructive power, which proves that "Democracy" has not analysed those few lines of our preamble, which states: "By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old." "Democracy" says "To go slow is a foolish and futile theory." Although the slowing-down in production by the working-class is not likely to meet with the approbation of the capitalist class and mental tools, it is in every way beneficial to the workers themselves.

Labor Party democrats do not understand working-class ideas and working class prin-

As long as the workers bear the clink, Of bad ignoble chains,  
As long as one distressed link,  
Can captivate the state machine,  
As long as of our rightful debt,  
One smallest fraction's due,  
So long, my friends, there's something yet,  
For Working Men to do.—E. J.

ples. The I.W.W. recognises there can be no democracy until capitalism exists, and that CAPITALISM MEANS SLAVERY. SLAVERY IS NOT DEMOCRACY. DEMOCRACY MEANS LIBERTY.

And it is only a person with a capitalistically diseased and debased mentality who can try to do such a thing together. It is very evident that "Democracy" do not understand the meaning of Democracy. If he did he would not have made such a hideous attempt at handling this abstraction. Democracy means EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL, AND PRIVILEGES TO NONE. Does this exist to-day? No. Can it exist under capitalism? No. Why? Because the economic foundation upon which the superstructure of Capitalism is erected, is rotten. Why will not the present economic foundations of society permit it? Because the means of production, distribution, and exchange, which are the economic foundations of society, are owned and controlled by the capitalist class.

To live we must have food, clothing and shelter, and today the workers are denied access to them on account of them being the private property of the capitalist class. It is here right at the foundations that we have a brutal economic inequality. WITH ECONOMIC INEQUALITY CAN NEVER BE ATTAINED. Social distinctions arise out of economic conditions.

As Democracy means Equality, and it is impossible under Capitalism to have equality. Therefore, there can be no Democracy under Capitalism. The I.W.W. aims at the economic reconstruction of society, the total overthrow of the parasitical capitalist class from the position they have occupied, and the establishment of economic Liberty, Social Equality, and a bright and happy world of fraternity.

SHIMA HILL.

In this old world, the (un)just thing, Ever seen outside of a circus ring, Is the man who strives for a few more pay and votes for oppression the very next day.—Exchange.

It leaves his country best who strives to make it best.—Ingersoll.



