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Defence Agitation.

SYDNEY.

The meetings over last week-end in Sydney were massive and very successful. Meetings were held on Friday evening at Bathurst street, Darlinghurst, and Bondi Junction. Saturday night saw crowds at Bathurst street and Darlinghurst. Good sales of the paper circulated, eighteen shillingsworth being sold at Bathurst street on Friday night.

The Domain meeting was very successful in spite of the recruiting meeting, anti-conscription meeting and other gatherings. Fellow Workers Farrell, Spackman, Stewart, Rance and J. R. Wilson addressed the large gathering with great success. Many scores of dozens of the paper were disposed of, while the collection amounted to nearly £2 pounds.

Prior to the meeting in the hall in Sassex street, two meetings were held in Park and Bathurst streets, which attracted large audiences. At twenty to eight, the choir led the way from Park st., with the crowd behind them gathered up the Bathurst street audience, and landed a great array at the hall, which was immediately packed to the doors.

Fellow Worker Melrose of the A.M.A. was the speaker, and dealt ably with current questions. The hearing was sympathetic and applause frequent. Many questions followed upon the address, which were answered to the evident satisfaction of the large audience. The collection amounted to over £2 16s.

Local committees are now acting as distributing agents for recent issues of the paper, and are dealing with the L.W.W. and the conspiracy charges. These are sure of definite results.

COBAR.

I arrived at Cober on Wednesday afternoon, and was met at the station by most of the boys. Within twenty-four hours we had secured the Stadium for Sunday afternoon and evening. We had a thousand and dozens printed and announced that at 3.30 p.m. I was to speak on the "Conspiracy Charges," and at 8.30 p.m. on "War and the Workers." The old town was white with the information by midnight Thursday.

We held a meeting on a vacant allotment on Saturday night, which turned out very good. At both of the big meetings on Sunday we had the Stadium full. Literature and papers sold very well, and I got a very good hearing, especially on the conspiracy charges.

We held three meetings of the local, after the meeting in the Stadium were launched in this style. Many more were attached to the application form for a local. It was decided to take up a collection to realise twenty pounds for the purpose of procuring furniture and a well stocked library. It was also resolved to live up to the activities of the Release and Defence Committee, and send Bats out to mines that are fifty miles out from Cober.

I am now at Narragone, and on my way to Lithgow, where I hope to fill in the week-end, as I have wired to the local secretary to make arrangements to hold an indoor and a couple of outdoor meetings. After the 5th May I may take a trip to the Newcastle fields and see what can be done. Good luck.

W. JACKSON.

Probably my mighty efforts—vains appealing. To grasping Asbestos, this dove relents. To Partis low, that shamelessly is stealing. Bandit-like, whatever spoils it secures. To Bats Intrigue, his cloven hoof revealing. That strains in Honesty's habilliments. WILLIAM LEVY BRIBSON.

Defence Agitation.

MELBOURNE.

"With the gritty old yarn" the battalion of the revolution in the Victorian capital is keeping things moving, a pretty good pace. Propaganda meetings were held with the same characteristic success that portends a happy augury for all. Local No. 8 active.

The Yarra Bank was again the scene of a verbal assault on the stronghold of Bossard, and as we are still in the stage "when we care more for a pamphlet than a loaf" to use the phrase of an American agitator, these verbal assaults will have to continue until, with the lapse of time, the struggle for the loaf assumes concrete proportions. Then Plate and Co. will have to be taken to the courts. The absence of our Fellow Worker Alf Wilson galvanised into life two or three young speakers, adding to the list of clarion voiced harbingers of economic and social light. Long and trenchantly did they voice the demand for the restitution of proletarian liberties and the control of society by those whose labor makes it possible, the workers. Lectures in the hall were well attended. Fellow Worker Laidler lectured on the first Sunday on "Poverty," the subject being handled in the same first class style as is usual with this speaker. On the following, Lord's (3) Day, instead of a lecture, a discussion on "High Prices" was held, which resulted in many good points being made. Friday night's propaganda meetings were spoilt by the rain again, with fatal persistency the waters seem to make Friday night the time for giving "another earth" a soaking. One rumbling "son of a gun," however, reckons that Billy Hughes is in league with Jehovah to kill the L.W.W. with a plague of wet weather; as with everything, time alone will prove or disprove this contention. Last Wednesday evening proved that there is one politician, at least, who is not afraid to tell the truth about the alleged guilt of our boys in gaol. That individual is Ted Cotter, Labor member for Richmond in the State House. Speaking at a street meeting held for election purposes he made this public: "It is a strange thing that two of the buildings alleged to have been burnt down by the L.W.W. men have never had any insurance money paid over to the owners by the insurance companies, nor have the owners concerned made any application for same." If it is true, then, it only goes to prove that the contention always made that the L.W.W. men are victims of a "colossal conspiracy" is correct, and with that fixed idea in our minds, Melbourne boys are going to do their utmost to see that an unflagging agitation is kept up until the robots behind the bars once again inhale the salutiferous atmosphere of liberty.

NORMAN JEFFERY.

(Editor "Direct Action").

Sydney. Dear Comrade—The following resolution was carried at the Interstate Conference of the Australian Peace Alliance—

"That this Conference urges in connection with the L.W.W. cases of Sydney that they should be appointed by Parliament a Royal Commission of Enquiry, on the grounds that the original trials were almost entirely blurred by political partisanship and ill-timed comment, and that because asks that the L.W.W. prisoners be treated as political prisoners, and that those who are reported seriously ill be given special care by the State."
Yours truly as ever,
F. J. RILEY, Secretary.



ADELAIDE.

The release agitation has been getting a move on in the Holy City lately, despite the fact that the political dope-peddling fraternity have got most of the slaves by the short whiskers just now. In the minds of a few bona-fide, it is vastly more important to shere a new set of political tricklers into the plush seats than to get vicie champions of their own class released from the masters' dungeons.

Up to date, the following organizations have the appointed delegates to cooperate with the W. D. & R. League in its agitation—Australian Peace Alliance; Anti-Conscription League; South Australian Socialist Movement; Australia's Meat Industry Employees' Union; Electrical Workers' Union.

We are now running three meetings per week—on Friday and Sunday evenings in Victoria Square; and on Sunday afternoons in the Botanic Park—all of which are well attended, and steadily growing larger. Both Fellow-Worker McLaughlin (of Broken Hill), and Fellow-Worker Jackson (of Queensland), addressed large and sympathetic audiences, when masing through here recently, and in each case a fair collection was taken up for the defence fund.

On Sunday, April 1, Jack Brookfield, M.L.A. of Broken Hill, spoke under our auspices in the Botanic Park. He has gained considerable notoriety of late, owing to a speech made at the Barrier, in which he referred to the Red Flag and the Union Jack, and stated that he would fight like Hell for the release of the L.W.W. prisoners. The local rag mark Nixon, in introducing the chief speaker, briefly outlined the objects of the League. Brookfield listened, and got a great reception. He dealt at length with six Broken Hill "big speech," saying he would not withdraw one word, even if it meant his expulsion by the P. L.L. Referred to war-time profusions, political "rats and condlies," and the question of peace, and concluded by making a strong

appeal for just's as for our imprisoned fellow-workers. He was followed by Fellow-Workers Watt and Bryan, who dealt in detail with the evidence in the Sydney trial, and gave the crowd some facts they had never dreamt of before—many went home, thinking hard. An appeal for the defence fund resulted in an amount of £2 18s 6d being collected.

The same evening in Victoria Square, Brookfield again spoke to a large crowd on the case for the men, the collection amounting to £1 6s 6d.

Any other speakers may now blow along this way will be heartily welcomed.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
B. F. WALL, Secretary.

BRISBANE.

On Sunday last, Fellow Worker Gordon Brown lectured under the auspices of the Industrial Workers of the World at the Trades Hall, Brisbane, on the "Irish Rebellion." The hall was crowded to the doors, and the lecture was certainly worthy of the audience. Fellow Worker Brown showed the economic causes and the systematic tyranny that had precipitated the fight in Ireland last year. He enlarged upon the part played by James Connolly, and the shooting of Slocely Skelington. At the close of the meeting, the lecturer dealt with a number of questions. Fellow Worker Fields acted as chairman.

Outdoor meetings in Brisbane are being well attended, and this local's action in getting paper sellers at the Trades Hall every evening could be emulated with advantage by other locals in the big centres in Australia. The Sunday night meetings are a great success, and there is growing demand among the workers for such effective form of industrial propaganda. The Art Union is going well, and quite a large sum is expected to contribute from the sales of same. The secretary hopes that ticket sellers will hustle up with the butts, and send along all amounts if they haven't made a start. It is our aim.

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The I.W.W. and The Class War.

As time rolls by, the vanguard of Industrial Unionism is being better understood and its principles more generally accepted.

The Industrial Workers of the World, which has been fighting in the front ranks of Labor's army, has gone through many heavy battles and suffered many casualties, but the organisation is still intact, our principles unshaken, and our fighters active and undaunted as ever.

Despite all the forces arrayed against us, and the vicissitudes attendant upon our army, the I.W.W. still continues to make great progress and gather new converts to its cause. This is just as it should be. If it were otherwise, then, evolution in the world be a lie, and all the histories in the world would be so many fables. All the records of history point to the fact that the I.W.W. is destined to progress and develop to a high percentage.

All down through the ages ALL REFORM ORGANISATIONS have had to suffer the attacks from those in power. But through continual agitation and persistent fighting, they ultimately WON OUT.

A modern organisation, that conforms to modern conditions, and fights along modern lines, cannot be suppressed, and will not pass out until something more modern supersedes it.

The whole world is in a state of flux. There is nothing in, or on, or above the earth which is constant. Everything is subject to change. Just as mankind, systems, principles, and geography are continually transforming themselves, so with organisations.

Just as trade unions developed out of the guilds, amalgamations of labor out of trade unions, federations out of amalgamations, and so on, the I.W.W. developed out of the present existing labor organisations.

The I.W.W. is the product of trusted capitalism, the same as the Chamber of Commerce is the natural-born child of the present system.

The I.W.W. was called into being and organised for the purpose of fighting the modern battles of the modern working class, the same as the Employers' Federation was organised to fight the battles of the master class. Both organisations have been made possible by the present state of capitalism. It is just as impossible, under present conditions, to kill the I.W.W. as it would be to kill the Employers' Federation. Both are NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS to the capitalist system, although they operate from different angles.

Owing to the growing power of the industrial oligarchy, the rise of the multimillion trust and gigantic corporations, and the intensified exploitation of labor, the I.W.W. was called into being.

In order to beat off the attacks, and defend itself against the onslaughts of the industrial king, the working class was forced to adopt more scientific and up-to-date method of organisation.

We saw the old form of unionism being beaten to its knees in an unequal fight against the combined forces of capitalism; we saw labor federations and international federations being completely routed in their struggle against the industrial plutocracy. These fights were too painful, too expensive, and too bitter to forget; so some active and thoughtful workers set about organising a more scientific and modern organisation, viz, the Industrial Workers of the World.

It is very apparent to all who care to look and learn, that a great class struggle is going on in society to-day. On the one hand we see the industrial plutocracy powerfully organised, scientifically equipped, ready at all times to beat back the rising working class; on the other hand, we see the toilers organising and demanding more of the good things which their labor produces.

The class struggle is so real, that no sane man attempts to deny its existence. It is upon this class struggle that the I.W.W. is based.

By the collective labor of the working class, all the wealth of the world is produced. The masses of the people own the master class two-thirds of the wealth is stolen. One class does all the work and starving, the other class does all the living and eating. Hence, there can be no harmony between the two classes.

It is the purpose of the I.W.W. to organise the toilers into One Big Union, and earnestly work for the day when this bitter battle between the classes will be ended and all will be working together for the common good of all.

The I.W.W. holds that there should be ONE UNION for all who work in the industrial arena. Only by this means can the encroachments of the master class upon the domain of the workers be stopped. The necessity for One Big Union is rendered imperative by the economic conditions of our time.

Under present conditions, to organise into trade unions, is not only foolish, but suicidal. We must throw down all craft barriers and organise a MASS of workers, realising that the interests of all workers are identical, and "an injury to one is an injury to all."

In organising according to industry, and bringing up into One Big Union, the working class is not only bringing about the Industrial Solidarity, which is impracticable, but also preparing itself to be able to run industry when capitalism is overthrown.

When the workers are sufficiently organised to demand a workshop, there will then be no need of Parliament as it exists to-day, for the workers will be their own law-makers. Under the new regime, the central body directing authority will be a parliament of industry composed of delegates from the different industries, and the laws, or regulations, will be discussed upon the floor of the assembly. All can have a say as to what shall be done in the future.

The I.W.W. is the highest form of unionism yet presented to the working class. Its arguments are invincible, its tactics unchangeable, and its form of organisation impracticable.

Help to build up this mighty force and bring nearer the day when the whistle will blow for the boss to go to jail.

N.R.

The Scab.

At a conspiracy trial held in England recently the prosecuting counsel gave the following definition of a scab:

A scab is to his trade what a traitor is to his country, and though both may be useful in some times they are detested by all wise men, so when help is needed the scab is the last to contribute assistance and the first to grab the benefit if he never laborer to secure.

He cares only for himself, sees not beyond the extent of a day, and for a momentary approbation he would betray his friends, family, and country. In short he is a traitor to his trade, to his fellow sold the journeyman, and is afterwards sold in turn by the employer until at last he is despised by both and deserted by all.

The modern strike-breaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children, and his fellow workmen for unfulfilled promises from a trust or combine.

Sean was traitor to himself, Julius Caesar was a traitor to his God, Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country, and his family, and to his class. A real scab is never a strike-breaker. He is a man,

Every politician peddles "Democracy." He speaks of it as though it were something of special quality belonging exclusively to one political party. He associates it for the benefit of the crowd with the grand and precious—the liberty the freedom which the mass are allowed to value so highly.

While the Labor politicians occupied the Treasury benches this was supposed to be a democratic country; now it isn't, though why it isn't now politicians don't explain.

We understand a democracy to be "rule by the people," and if that be true there never was and never can be a democracy under capitalism.

If democracy means that the politicians who represent a certain party and also represent the majority of the voters are occupying the most lucrative jobs in Parliament, then so soon as a country grants the right to vote to all, that country becomes a democratic country. But this doesn't mean that "the people are ruling," it only means that they THINK they are doing so—which probably amounts to the same thing, for if they are not intelligent enough to see a difference now, they would not be intellectual enough to do better, granted they had the power.

We have said that politicians do not rule, and that is so; the politician is merely a buffer between the real rulers—the industrial czars—and the people. These industrial czars are the real rulers of modern nations; it is they who decide national and international policies; they who direct the justice so often attributed to the judge and jury; the industrial barons are the unnumbered monarchs of modernity. The days of political or parliamentary control passed away with the rise to power of the industrial oligarchy; in the days when the people may have ruled by votes, they had not the votes to rule with—the then masters of the people saw to that. As a matter of fact the parliamentary machine could be disposed with to-day, and no one—neither master nor slave—be any the worse for it; but plucking the psychology of the people does not attempt to deprive them of their liberty; factory; it keeps them amused and gets them nowhere, and what better could the most exacting magnate desire?

INSIDE WHY?

By BETSY H. MATTHIAS.

The Twelve are "inside" prisons in N.S.W. They have a number attached to their name. The several months in prison they have not got the "big scow" look, as many of their enemies imagine.

You, who judge them, and convicted them as criminals, are too ignorant, too prejudiced, to understand.

We DO understand.

Because we are sound in intellect, for we never distorted our brains, or sunk in our desire as to pile up money bags from the profits of labor, out of the poor and the weak of mankind.

We DO understand.

Yes, we know. The Twelve "inside" have the prison pallor may be, and the cropped hair—but they've got the hard-looking, interwoven, sleep-browed lines of the men outside who judge and keep them inside. You, outside, who have the votes and the power to put the Twelve behind the bars of a desolate prison, cannot take from them the right to know that they've a conscience that is clearer than yours, and an AIM MUCH NOBLER than yours.

The Twelve are men of great reason—perhaps "too great" reason: they have hearts that feel; and they possess a deep desire to live, to work, to be human race.

You, who put the Twelve inside the bars, live on the Human Race, but they? The Twelve, Live for Humanity!

humanity-loving men, who tried so hard to awaken the mass to stern reality of what life should be—can't you just imagine the mental revolt the Twelve have against the rotten power of a government that authorises social degradations and bloody warfare, and casts men behind the bars, because they speak at that the Social World has all gone wrong?

During the Stone Age man used a club to crush the weaker. Man today is more refined and civilized (I), but under his polish are the desire to pain those who are defenseless, and so he vents his blind revenge against those whom he thinks offend him by casting them into prison.

TOO MUCH JUSTICE TO-DAY AND TOO LITTLE JUSTICE.

The money grabbers of the world control the law, and use it with vengeance to crush men, to work to that they cannot make the world a better place to live in for all mortals.

IF LAWYERS WERE SOCIAL STUDENTS, RATHER THAN DELIVERS IN LAWS BOOKS, THE "TWELVE" TO-DAY WOULD NOT BE "INSIDE."

When I say "twelve" men are "inside," I picture their solitary cells, with its hellish shadows and chilliness. Twelve brave men by modern social-political institution (twelve) rebel against the rottenness of modern society.

Now, when I see in the rebellion do you play, reader? Because you're side outside you are going to forget the brave "inside" "inside" for Fifteen Years!!!

LOOK BACKWARD, one stands perplexed, Wonder to chuckle or to deliver, One day a holocaust, the next, A simple picnic up the river.

LORING ALDEN.

Poverty is the child of ignorance. When all the workers have learned to know the value of organization, they will banish the forest of darkness and the spectre of poverty.

Lecture at Lithgow

On Tuesday evening last, Fellow Worker Tom Barker dealt with the "Russian Revolution." This well filled hall was the result of the organisers of the meeting. The proceeds over and above expenses amounted to nearly £125, which was passed over to the Finance and Propaganda Committee for the maintenance of the wives and children of the stalwarts now in goal on the conspiracy charges.

F.W. Jack Lynn made an efficient chairman, and in a few words introduced the speaker, who received a cordial and sympathetic hearing throughout. The speaker reviewed the recent rapid developments in Russia, and traced the economic forces, and drew conclusions from the ultimate triumph of the workers in that country. Attention was paid to the Nihilist, Social Democratic and Socialist Revolutionary organisations, and tribute paid to the sterling and fearless fighters who have used their influence and many times sacrificed their lives and liberty for progress and proletarian advancement. The speaker touched upon the lives of Maria Skobleva, Klara Zetkin, the Redoubt and Sophia Peroskaya, the latter of whom was executed for the assassination of Alexander II, and the two former who have been exiled for long years in Siberia. The names of Lenin, St. Peter and St. Paul, and Schusselburg were also described and their enemies enlarged upon.

Loud and continued applause greeted the speaker as he touched upon the brutal murder by the Grand Duke Vladimir of the three thousand working people at the Winter Palace, and the resultant industrial and military insurrections that occurred in Kiev, Petrograd, Moscow and Sevastopol, the most outstanding feature of which was the seizing of the ironclad Prince Potemkin by its revolutionary crew, who threw their officers overboard pulled down the Donbass, and ran the flag to the masthead.

The Lenin massacre, the secret police, the persecution of the Jews, the general strike on the Trans-Siberian railway, the general strikes at Rostoff-on-Don, the wells in the Caucasus, and the subsequent firing of the wells were reviewed by the speaker, who wound up by showing that England and Russia in its grip and that industrialists strengthened by the solidarity of the rapidly disappearing village commune, was sweeping the country of the East from Lihgow to Vladivostok. The speaker terminated his address at 9.15. A few questions then took his attention for upwards of one hour. Most of the questions were dealing with the I.W.W., the Labour Party, and the coalition question. The meeting terminated by the chairman asking all in the hall to go out as agitators for the release of the men now rotting in goal for their activity for their class. This was received with a shower of applause, and cheers for the men in goal.

It is the intention of the Lithgow Defence and Release Committee to arrange monthly lectures in the Trades Hall by prominent speakers, the proceeds of such meetings to go to the fund for the dependents of the men in goal. This is a very commendable action, and will meet with a well-merited success.

TAR-BOY

The "Evening News" of April 19th says that James Bell, aged 35, pleaded guilty to being a strike man in Finders Street, Sydney, on Easter Monday. Mr. McKenney, magistrate, sentenced the trembling old octogenarian to FOURTEEN DAYS' HARD LABOUR. The judge said: "British justice has asserted itself. How Mr. McKenney must pat himself on the back saving society from the shooting of a very old criminal who was a dangerous sixty year old criminal for a few days and one who, and we sincerely hope that the physician will get a taste of his own medicine." McKenney is a man who ought, on the present showing, to be removed from the bench.

We have no falsehoods to defend—
We want the facts;
Our force, our thought, we do not spend
In vain attacks;
We will never weary trying
To have some fair and glowing lie
The simple truth is all we ask;
Not the ideal;
We set ourselves the noble task,
To find the real,
If all there is, is naught but lies,
We want to know and learn our lesson
GOL. R. DROBELL.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Organisation.

By "Murdantini,"
For three years now the workers have had their attention drawn off from a right system of industrial organisation; but events go to prove that the last bout of the greatest war in history is being fought. The end of the present year should see the home coming of the proletarian soldiers. They will shrink from the thoughts of all the horrors of a modern battlefield. The veterans will scavenge the plains of Europe, and those who escaped manning the fields, will find themselves face to face with the old conditions at home. Socialists of all countries will once again send fraternal greetings from country to country, and the world will continue to roll on its course. But something that no war can destroy will revive with unabated vigor—the class war. There has been no sign of the conscientious platitude, or even the conscientiousness of improvement on the degrading conditions that a capitalist state of society has ever imposed on the downtrodden workers.

The tapping of flags, the beating of drums, the speeches of orators, the roll of the banners, the recitations of hypocritical elegiacs, will then take rest, and no doubt the voices of the advocates of a new social order will be listened to. For, after that, for a change, let us attempt to suppress the I.W.W. in embryo.

Socialists, with their attachment to politics—which makes them narrow and national—have missed their chance. Direct action has, and will, win for the workers of industrial Russia what a hundred years of parliamentary methods could never accomplish. There is but one organisation that knows how to grapple with the problems of the day, and that is the I.W.W. It is to-day repudiating this organisation, because to ally themselves with a body that has incurred the odium of the proletarian class might lose their votes

—and huge salaries. Our men may languish in the cold cells of emigration for all they care. Their sang jobs are the Alpha and the Omega of their getting into Parliament, on the back and ignorance of labour.

Plato and Co. is trying hard to encourage the growth of the Returned Soldiers' Association, but the soldier will find so many promises so ruthlessly broken that his light will be lit with no power that are, and in that he will be compelled to look to the only scientific working class organisation in the country to help him. Let us look with great confidence to the future. Ours will be an army that will never know defeat. We shall go on gathering in the degraded workers of all countries until we have an army ready to demand that the capitalist class hand over to us all their gilded palaces and purged case. It may seem an impossible task to many that are weak, but to the strong and the resolute who can look into the future and realise an ideal, this task is a simple one. Our methods—all the working class in One Big Union, organised as a class, and not as a craft, or 150 crafts. Organised thus we shall be invincible.

"Poor, blind Samson in the land,
Shorn of his strength and bound in bands of steel;
Who may in some grim revel raise his hands,
And shake the pillars of this Commonwealth!"

Workers, listen to our banner; they could not tear it down. They tried, but still it flutters. It will wave, and we shall go on, and on, until the last slave has been freed, until bloody national wars are abolished, until 1,400,000,000 specimens of humanity are united as one, till poverty shall be forever eradicated and people, no matter what their nation, creed, or colour, shall dwell together in peace and righteousness—the world set free.

Police Brutalities Condemned in Bayonne Strike.

By Dante Barton.

(Committee on Industrial Relations.)
NEW YORK.—"Wherever there is a high financial interest there you find brutal slave driving methods in the treatment of underpaid workers," declared Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations, in New York, at the meeting of the Day after yesterday.
"The most dangerous as well as brutal feature of the Rockefeller concerns gain over the police and other public authorities. With the Mayor of Bayonne confessing that he is in the pocket of the Rockefeller interests, and with the police department using its full force, and hundreds of special deputies to beat and kill the revolting strikers, the American public has its latest demonstration of what Rockefeller means."

CANNOT BREAK UNION.

"Let me call attention here to the fact that just a few days ago on the very same underground mine for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (a Rockefeller corporation) joined in a union affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America. That in a very few days the Rockefeller interest cannot break down the spirit of his workers, however much he may be able to beat them back into sullen submission, as he has done, and is doing now in Bayonne."

"The breaking of the strike of organised and helpless Polish men and women was brought about by such complete brutality, that in a very few days in New York was constrained to publish articles in protest. Many of these newspapers, in fact, most willfully condemned the method."

WORKERS, ATTENTION!

The Brisbane Defence and Release Committee has organised an Art Union in order to get out of the hands of the owners of the wives and children of the men in goal. The prizes are first-class, the first being a £75 piano. We estimate that there is three or four hundred in New York, to look after the boys' dependents. The Art Union has the sanction of the Queensland Government. We want to ask, and sell like hot cakes at a shilling. Let's hear from you NOW, if you are a live wire. Books sent by return to reds.
C.E. WILSON.
Hon. secretary,
Workers' Art Union, 1 Costin St., Valley, Brisbane, Q.

The underlying principles governing union tend to kindle the fire of sympathy, of mutual helpfulness and co-operation.

Organisation develops the finer attributes inherent in the human frame, and tends to mitigate the influence of the baser instincts.

Organisation is a potent factor in the distribution of wealth; it tends to reduce the exorbitant profits appropriated by capital, and adds to the share rightfully claimed by labor.

Organisation fosters and encourages the interests and aspirations of a growing majority against the grasping selfishness of a dwindling minority.

Organisation offers a haven of refuge for the oppressed of all nations upon the basis of a sacredness of rights and duties to men and women.

Organisation imparts strength, develops independence and manhood; it cement the bonds of common interests in the interests of becoming wiser and in the promotion of the common welfare.

Organisation stands as a barrier against the selfish interests and encroachments of entrenched wealth, and its less fortunate tendencies to reduce the masses of people to a state of semi-perpetual during periods of industrial depression. Organisation analyses and rejects the shallow reasons and false pretenses of so-called philanthropists; it exposes the fallacies of the doctrines of political economists in their efforts to justify the poverty and degradation of the masses.

Organisation imparts the language of lofty ideals, of new hopes and aspirations, bearing a new message destined to the promotion of the general welfare of the toilers of the land.—"Cigar-makers' Journal."

The Unemployed.

The numerous retrenchment schemes of the Government and the closing down of public works is having a disastrous effect upon the working class. Thousands of men have been thrown out of work, and distress is very acute.

The unemployed army continues to swell, and poverty and hunger is rampant amongst the ranks of the workers. The situation is becoming very serious, and something must be done immediately.

The latest works to close down has been the North Coast Railway, and over four thousand men have been thrown out of work.

The casual worker, who happens to be married, is never more than a couple of days ahead of it, and after he has been idle a week, very serious circumstances arise. When a man hears his children cry for bread, there is no saying what he might do.

The question of unemployment is becoming more and more the demand for attention from all working men and women. "Direct Action" has on several occasions dealt with this subject, and pointed out the only sure and certain remedy.

The only way to alleviate the terrible distress existing amongst the out of work, is to put into operation a shorter work day. It is the only way out of the difficulty. It will not only help to absorb the unemployed, and help to hold back the spectre of hunger and want, but it will also make things much better for all at work.

If the unionists of Australia believe in the principles of working class unity, they will at once set about working and fighting for a shorter work-day.

Fling out our Red Banner, the tyrants perish,
But where their bones whiten the seed
Strikes root.
Their blood has run red the great harvest
cherish;

Now gather ye reapers and garner the fruit
Victory! Victory! Tyrants are quaking!
The Titan of Toil from the bloody thralldom
starts.
The slaves are awaking, the dawn-light is
breaking—
The footfall of Freedom beats quick at our
hearts.
GERALD MASSEY.

THEY WERE NOT ORGANISED.

If the fella had been unanimous they could have flung me out of bed.—Charles Lamb.

A strike always succeeds in proportion as it demonstrates the unprofitableness of war.

UNEMPLOYED.

GOVERNMENT PROBE NEEDED.

"The situation is one which calls not only for a thorough federal investigation under the Department of Labor, but it is one which ought to elicit the constant attention of the public. Nothing that the Government can recommend or do could be nearly as effective as a complete demonstration of the use of the police and special deputies."

The most brutal methods of repression have been used in the name of the public, without any regard to the right or wrong of the strike, and without any attempt to give the strikers a chance to get a fair deal by fair negotiations. It has been said, and probably accurately, that in this strike no law and no guards have been employed privately, but the same thing has been accomplished by simply using the police department precisely as if it were a private possession of the oil plant.

PUBLIC NOTICE DESIRED.

Men and women who strike for higher wages than 2 dol. 50 cents per day in the present condition of living start with right of the strike. Necessarily so. If they are treated only as brutes for wishing the condition of life which would enable them to be human beings, then the public and the law guards must be treated as men, then such as has disgraced the police department of Bayonne.

The American people simply must get at the fundamental economic causes of such industrial disputes, and they will do so in spite of any police department or old fashioned slave driving overseers for corporations.

LAW AND ORDER.

Fellow Worker J. R. Wilson had to appear at the Central Police Court, Sydney, last week to answer the charge of having used abusive language in the course of a speech at the Sydney Dominion. He was found over to leave the place for 12 months, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. An appeal has been lodged.

It is that forbids me to speak according to my own sense, and in practice, may be well when an architect not to speak of building according to his own knowledge, but according to that of his neighbor; according to the authority of another and not to his own.—Montaigne.

Workers, Listen! The Crisis and the Responsibility.

DIRECT ACTION, On With The March.

By Berlon Braley.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

TO APRIL 19th, 1917.

E. Mitchell, 44; B. Frank, 24; P. Conroy, 44; L. Jackson, 44; C. Homer, 18; J. Ryan, 28; Gus. Ed., 48; P. Gallit, 44; E. Heston, 24; J. Fransoon.

PRESS FUND. G. H. Roode, 38; J. Hennessy, 30.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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 hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be fitted 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 organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, make 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 wage 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 organized not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on revolution when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

BRISBANE LOCAL.

ROOMS, 4 VER POOT OFFICE, STANLEY ST.—5711, BRISBANE.

MEETINGS.

Alternate Tuesdays—Business Meeting. Alternate Tuesdays—Educational Class. Friday, 8 p.m.—Outdoor Meeting, Market Square.

Sunday, 6 p.m.—Trades Hall, Lecture, Literature Secretary, W. TREMATH.

Financial Secretary, REDFERN ST., WOOLLOONGABBA, BRISBANE.

ALL MEMBERS PARSING THROUGH ARE INVITED TO LOOK IN. GOOD LIBRARY. SLAVES WELCOME.

SYDNEY LOCAL.

No. 2, 403 SUSSEX STREET, CITY. — ACTIVITIES —

TUESDAY, 8 p.m.—SPEAKERS' CLASS. WEDNESDAY, 8 p.m.—ECONOMIC CLASS.

THURSDAY, 8 p.m.—BUSINESS MEETING. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—PROPAGANDA MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF CITY.

SUNDAY, 5 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETING IN DOMAIN. SUNDAY, 7 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETINGS BATHURST STREET AND OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

SUNDAY, 8 p.m.—LECTURE IN HALL. BEST WORKING CLASS LIBRARY IN SYDNEY.

ALL SLAVES WELCOME. BOSS NOT ADMITTED. TOM BARKER.

Sec. Treas.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

"DIRECT ACTION". The subscription to "Direct Action" to any address in the Commonwealth, including postage, is as follows:

4/4/- Yearly. 2/- Half-Yearly. Apply, The Manager, Box 98 Haymarket P.O., Sydney.

Conscription denies man's ownership in his body; it violates the integrity of his soul.

Published by Tom Barker, of 28 Francis Street, Sydney, for the Workers' Defence and Release Committee, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, and printed by H. Cook and Co., 200 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Right through the past age of darkness and superstition up to the present age of the slowly dawning light of a real civilisation, the path of progress from ignorance to knowledge, from savagery towards civilisation, has been strewn with the mutilated bodies of those more advanced thinkers, who, being ahead of their time in knowledge, were tortured and martyred, for bearing the torch of freedom and advancement, which must inevitably shed its light on a future, radiant with happiness and contentment for all.

In the age of chattel slavery, men were martyred for daring to advocate freedom from the chains of slavery for the slave. In the days of the Federal System, persecutions and destruction were also handed out lavishly by the feudal barons to any individual who dared to expose the existing order. To-day, we find, due to the ignorance and lack of recent organisation among the working class, a system more complete, more cruel, and intensely bloodier, than any of its predecessors. The profits extorted from the present subjects of the nation, namely, the workers, are so stupendous that the dominant class of a few centuries ago, would stand astagh, bewildered and completely overcome with envy at their immensely. But the remorseless, and the wasteful expenditure, gained at the expense of the blood and tears of a more degraded and exploited class, than history has even seen, is so disgusting and revolting to the mind of any intelligent man of this day, that numerous organisations arose, formed for the overthrow of this awful system called capitalism and the ushering in of a new and better one. Foremost of all these was the Industrial Union of Marine and World. This body of intelligent working men and women have founded a movement purely working class, and essentially up-to-date in methods, which is out for the overthrow of the present ownership and control of industries, for the workers themselves. This, combined with the getting better conditions for the workers now, is purely the aim of this One Big Union. Not so terrible to the mind of an exploited slave, but so dangerous to the predatory, callous dealers in human flesh and blood, that is, the capitalist class of to-day, dangerous because it threatens to make their unscrupulous members of society that we find the savage attacks of the past upon those responsible for what little the workers have gained, are being renewed with unequalled ferocity.

Behind the bars of the Bastilles of Capitalism in this twentieth century, so-called civilisation, in this boasted land of glorious freedom, are twelve of the greatest fighters for humanity and progress in the world, who have never been suffering mental and physical anguish, simply because they have dared to speak and fight for the betterment of their working class brethren. That is their only crime. The time of madness must pass, the working class of this country have surely progressed far enough to see that these advanced thinkers must be released. A great dirty stain will disgrace the pages of the working class movement of Australia if these men are not released.

You working men who have escaped the yoke of conscription, mainly through the usual work and fearless outspokenness of these men, it is for you to see that this stain, this obligation, which rests heavily on you is removed quickly. Once more among you, filled with enhanced desire, these same fearless fighters, will work with greater energy than ever. And the Dawn of Democracy will indeed be assured, and the shackles of capitalism, with all its bestiality, will soon be dispelled.

W.A.

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NOW READY. Fire in Your Orders.

There is no doubt that the world is reaching that point known to the student of economics—the revolutionary period when everything goes into the melting pot. In other words, the world is rushing on into new industrial conditions and social relations.

Just as the old individualism of the trust and combine, we find those who recognised the trend of industrial evolution unable to grasp the concept of the new social relationship demanded by the new industrial system. The men who preside over our great industries, our governments, our courts, and universities, have been the active agents of building up new industrial and social conditions, can't see what it is that they have built.

It is not so evident that a revolution is brewing in every institution of the present system, it is the result of damning up the flow of evolution by institutions brought into being by political, industrial, and social conditions, instead of being drawn from the conditions obtaining to-day. The trust and combine with its up-to-date inventions has killed the old industrial system. This class lines are distinctly drawn, the craftsman is fast disappearing, the small capitalist is getting bulldozed. Two classes are facing one another, those who own and control the material and machines, and those who own nothing but their power to labour. It is the historic mission of the labouring class to fight the present owners for the control of the machine. The present owners, recognising this, are changing about, manipulating the stupid public, and trying to get the new ways, and carrying on social wars to ward off and keep the workers from trying conclusions.

In spite of all their (the capitalists) schemes of things to come, beyond their control. The war in Europe has got out of their control. Russia, Germany, England and the rest of the world is beginning to feel the strain. Like children who have started a railway train down an incline they are hiding their eyes in terror at the thought of the smash when it reaches the bottom. In their failure to grasp the trend of economic evolution, they are playing around a band of gunpowder with a lit fuse, and will be blame! The workers won't have much excuse.

In the tangles, confusions, and blunders the workers have romped and capered. Some have struggled, but have got nowhere. They have struggled on the fighting grounds, and with tactics laid for by the capitalist. They turn for relief to their political politicians, and in spite of apparent gains, they never find themselves getting anywhere.

After years and years of tremendous activity, the workers got a grasp in the Federal Government, and found it was all a dream, and the politicians they had voted for were still executive members of a capitalist law factory. Their forefathers had fought for free speech, free press, the right to strike, etc., and they sit quietly by and see those things gradually enucleated by so-called Labor politicians. Men sent to long terms of imprisonment for trying to warn them that there was a flow coming and because the Boss said it serves them right and lunks off, the slaves with a fishy stare, they lunk off, back to their hovels with a "Yes, Sir."

The workers MUST wake up. They are the only class that can save the situation. They must begin to organise their own industrial, thereby laying the foundation for the next step in evolution—the Industrial Commonwealth, when the profit system will be abolished, which will mean the end of war, social, industrial and military.

This is a time of immense and rapid development. Shall the workers decide how the world is to be run in the future? Shall the workers sit helplessly by while a company of financial organisers, more powerful than any they control it, with back of it all range the world into a slaughter house, the glut of the world's population, to leave us with a wreck of a system similar to that of the Roman Empire.

It is up to the workers to take notice the I.W.W. and build up an industrial organisation on the lines class solidarity. Build a new system of society within the shell of the old. Organise to take over and control as well as operate industry, so that by doing so we shall remove

If you'd never to fight with do end in sight, And never a hand to play, If you're fit to toll with no hope of work And the tolling still for pay— If you'll bear the lik of the thousand work Of the making the dream come true, If you'll march along, through a booting thorns,

That belongs its oath to you; If you'll learn to meet no new defeat, With the gritty old grin of you, And the motto march in a new advance, With hardly a chance to score Then you're just the breed that we sorely need, You're one of our kind and kin— So get the swing of the march—fall in, And join in the march—fall in.

We promise no lot to the young recruit, No glory, no praise or fame No gold you win in this long campaign But plenty of tears and blame. The quarters are mean, and the rations lean, The service is harsh and grim; The war is in, from dusk to dawn, Profit drives the soldier mad, But there's ever the cheer of a comrade near And the touch of his sturdy arm, And his help in call, if you faint and fall, Where the harrowing foeman swear, If you score reward for the fight that's hard, You'd rather be right than win— Just get the swing of the song we sing And join in the march—fall in.

If comradeship of heart, not fit, Is more to your taste than cash— If ancient frauds and lined gods Are idle you long to smash, If your patience breaks at the hooped fables, That the puny power of the world is made, If you're not content till the veil is rent And the temple of lies is wrecked, Then their place is made in our stern brigade That never can halt or pause Till the war is done, and the fight is won. The fight for the human soul, So take your place, get our step and pace In spite of the old world's din, And get the swing of the song we sing And join in the march—fall in.

"Whoever has seen those fatigued beings, which once combated 'Gladiators,' will scarcely deem it possible that a time will come when the same spot will be a valley of woods and meadows and streams. It is the same in the history of mankind; the wilder forces break the way destructively, but their activity was nevertheless necessary in order that later on a milder civilisation might build up its house. These terrible energies—that which is called Evil—are the cyclope architects and road-makers of humanity."

—Nietzsche.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION

In Aid of a New Press, in

SOUTHERN CROSS HALL,

May Eve, Monday, April 30.

A Royal Time Promised ALL FOR A BOB.

Behold in bonds your Mother Earth; Behold in chains your prostitute and slave, Your Mother Earth, your Mother Earth, Your Mother Earth, your Mother Earth, You only own her for a grave, And will you die like slaves, and see Your Mother left a fettered thrall? Nay, like the men, and set her free, As Heritage for All.

BAND.

Members of the I.W.W. Band or any player desirous of helping in the band are requested to attend at the Hall, Sussex street, on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. to arrange for a programme at the May Day Concert on the following Monday.

The Band possesses a full set of instruments, and, therefore, roll up players, and give the Band a helping hand.

the obstacles and friction that beset man. Give him a chance to broaden his mind so that he will see to it that such an unorganised bloodthirsty system of society never more gets breathing room on this earth.

JAMES POPE.