

The Toiler

Address all communications to the Editor, "The Toiler," Room 3, Trades Hall, Brisbane. The Editor is responsible for all unsigned articles appearing in this paper.

WHY "THE TOILER"?

Without a Press to voice its demands, and aspirations, the Labour Movement is like a body without a head. At the present moment we are confronted with the spectacle of the Labour Press being degraded to the state of a politician's publicity sheet. In Queensland the papers founded and supported by the working-class ("Daily Standard" and "Worker") have been converted into reactionary organs for the purpose of "white-washing" an alleged Labour Government. Through a policy of misrepresentation and suppression adopted by these papers, the rank and file are voiceless.

"The Toiler" is being launched at a time when the sea of reaction is running high. Its policy is to give to the workers a revolutionary interpretation of the class struggle—to urge a platform of immediate demands in the matter of wages, hours, and general conditions. To give publicity to the everyday struggle of the industrial proletariat, and the small farmer (whose exploitation is as sure as that of the city worker). And its ultimate object is to weld the working-class into a fighting body for the overthrow of Capitalism.

The continued publication of this paper depends upon the financial support tendered by the workers. The services necessary for its production—from the cartoonist to the copy-boy—are voluntary. But we urgently need funds to meet the necessary expenses of publication.

In other countries the revolutionary movement asks for the supreme sacrifice, and men give their lives willingly.

In Australia we ask a little support for the publication and distribution of this paper. Where do you stand in the class fight?

Monies already received will be acknowledged in next issue.

ELECTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Liberal Party has stolen the thunder of Ramsay Macdonald and his colleagues by taking as their election slogan, "Nationalisation of Mines." The ratification of the treaty with Soviet Russia, together with the withdrawal of a sedition charge against the editor of the "Workers Weekly," forced the dissolution. The Labour Government has given a short, sharp lesson to the British workers, it has hammered home the fact that emancipation can never come through reform politics. If again elected to power, the position of the Labour Government will be worse than ever, they are being ground between the millstones of a militant working-class and a capitalist-class in whose interests they must govern.

PEACE AND PIECES IN INDIA.

Prior to being elected Prime Minister of Great Britain, Ramsay Macdonald wept salt tears over the position of India. He was a "Christian pacifist," opposed to war, etc. Now the workers of India are being shot down like dogs, their leaders executed, and imprisoned, and their organisations declared illegal by the Macdonald Government. This murderous attitude towards the Indian working-class is a fine contribution to their emancipation. They are being taught that capitalism can only be destroyed by force. The work of emancipation rests with the workers, not in the promises of politicians.

HOW LABOUR GOVERNMENT PERSECUTES UNEMPLOYED.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A grim red road encircling the Earth.
A foul blot stretching far across the sea,
A hangman strangling Freedom at its birth,
A black flag flying on a gallows tree.

Your vaunted freedom is a firing squad
For those who dare to be free men, not slaves.
And on the altar of your war-made god
Stretches a vast expanse of nameless graves.

On Egypt's burning sands the blackened path
Of death and desolation mark the way
Of British justice and its aftermath—
The bloody vengeance of a Judgment Day.

O'er India's snow-clad hills and fertile plains
Gaunt stark-eyed Famine creeps across the land,
And millions starve while your ill-gotten gains
Pile high, well guarded by the hangman's hand.

With valour worthy of a coward's hate
You killed a captive in a cripple's chair,
His only crime, to strike for Ireland's fate,
Hell is too clean to house his murderers there.

You laid an unknown warrior to sleep
Within the Abbey by the kingly dead;
While in the streets the living soldiers reap
A nation's thanks . . . the right to beg for bread.

A puppet king in silk and ermine rides
While poverty is hunted to its slums,
The tramp of marching men a murmur hides
And bitter curse is drowned by beat of drums.

The Empire totters to its destined doom
Upon the tide of Revolution's flood.
An epitaph upon a leprous tomb,
A page of history written deep in blood.
—W. J. Thomas.

GLIMPSES FROM THE WINDOW OF THE WORLD.

GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY IN CHINA.

The following excerpt (London "Daily Herald") is indicative of Great Britain's "peace policy":—
Moscow, Wednesday.—I have been able to obtain one of the first copies that has left China of the vehement manifesto issued by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the enlightened President of the South China Republic, against what he calls the "British gunboat diplomacy" in Canton. Dr. Sun says:—

"From the moment when Chen Lim Pak, in complicity with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, began a rebellion against my Government, I had reason to suspect that the movement was supported by British Imperialism.

"I was reluctant to believe this in view of the British Labour Party's professions of sympathy for exploited peoples. I was hopeful that the Labour Government would replace the old gunboat policy, which had hitherto heaped disaster and humiliation on China, by an era of international honesty.

HOW LABOUR GOVERNMENT PERSECUTES UNEMPLOYED.

In Queensland, at the present moment, the problem of unemployment is acute. Despite a record sugar season the supply of labour is much greater than the demand. Recently the unemployed of Brisbane banded together for the purpose of "forcing" the Government to relieve their position.

The consideration they received is as follows:—

1. Two men prosecuted and fined for distributing leaflets dealing with unemployment. Police state that they received "special instructions." Magistrate comments on triviality of charge.

2. Hon. James Stopford, M.L.A. (wage-reducer), promises a deputation from Trades and Labour Council, to withdraw prosecutions, but fails to do so. When questioned in Parliament, he denies promises and deliberately lies.—Bob Taylor (Union Secretary) calls his lying bluff through daily press.

3. Unemployed leaders are harassed by detectives from Criminal Investigation Branch. This attempt to frame a criminal charge against them failed.

4. "Daily Standard" and "Worker" conduct a lying attack against unemployed, and refuse to publish letters in reply.

5. Lamont (A.W.U. Secretary and wage-reducer) calls in police to eject members of unemployed from "Worker" Building—after permission had been granted for use of hall.

6. Cabinet Ministers refuse to see unemployed deputations.

7. Theodore (Premier, wage-reducer, and squatter's friend), interviews deputation. Calls one man "a damned liar" for telling the truth, and threatens to have him "bundled out on his heels." He then commented on his work to the community as compared to the unemployed, and finished up by giving them—nothing.

Unemployment cannot be abolished under the present system of society, but to a limited extent it can be alleviated. This the Labour Party refuse to do, because it would offend the exploiters. It is time Theodore and his wage-reducing colleagues were thrown out of the Labour Movement. See to it!

COCKATOO DOCKYARD.

670 men have been dismissed from this dockyard. Senator Pearce regrets the incident. So do the slaves!!

IPSWICH AND ARBITRATION.

Recently the forgers' assistants at Railway Workshops were turned down by Arbitration Judge when applying for increase. They decided to strike, and the rise was forthcoming. Job action did in two minutes what Arbitration couldn't do in two years.

THINGS WE'D LIKE TO KNOW!

Was it Big Bill Dunstan's clean industrial record that caused him to be punched up and down Argent St. Broken Hill, some years ago?

Is Carbine, a man who scabbed on the sugar workers some years ago, identical with Mr. Carbine, now a prominent official of New South Wales A.W.U.

Is it because the Hon. "Jimmy Stopford, M.L.A." strutted up and down at the Emu Park Convention posing as Napoleon, that some Labour M.P.'s are in favour of Prohibition?

We'll judge your appreciation of this paper by the support you give it!