

DIRECT ACTION



NO. 12 VOL. 1

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ONE PENNY.

THE HOBO

Laura Payne Emerson.

The sun hung low o'er the moon
 in
 Tasting each rugged crest,
 And tugging in golden glory
 The bending skies of the West;
 When, dark like a speck on the land
 scape,
 With his blankets across his back,
 Came a worn and weary hobo
 Down the dusty railroad track.

By the curve of the road at night-
 fall,
 Where the stars above gimmered
 faintly,
 Through a curtain of leaves and
 grasses,
 He laid him down to sleep;
 And he thought as the song of the
 night bird
 Scooted his tired and troubled
 mind;
 There was room in the world, and
 plenty
 For all except me and my kind.

He slept, and lived in dreamland,
 Where love spread her splendid
 wings,
 And bore him from old surroundings
 To a better scheme of things.
 He awoke in a cosy cottage,
 With flowers blooming round the
 door,
 Where all was wealth and gladness—
 There were no tramps, no poor.

A sweetheart lay beside him
 Made him of all men blest,
 While the wee early bird of then
 chattering
 Nestled close on his manly breast;
 And there were great things to be
 done.
 The best that was in him he gave
 To a world with no soldiers, no
 slackies,
 No prison, no master or slave.

O woe! to a world whose workers
 Are cast like chaff to the wind—
 Whom the lords cannot use with
 profit,
 Must go seeking, but cannot find.
 O, cursed be the system forever!
 That robs human life of a home,
 And sends young and old to the
 highway
 In quest of a living to roam.

O brother, out there by the road-
 side,
 O sater, outcast, in despair,
 I am not fooled by false standards—
 I know very well why you're there
 Twist the mill stones of life if they
 have ground you
 Bewild the juggernaut, fainting,
 you lie;
 Your blood treads the earth to crim-
 son,
 They are leaving you there to die.

But why will you die, ye tellers?
 You have the power, and the
 might
 To wrest from the traveans who hold
 them
 Your bread, your freedom, your
 rights,
 O woe! to your infinite numbers,
 Unite on the sea and the land:
 Let trials the impulse you for mercy
 seek
 Take the reins of the world in your
 hand.

THE AFTERMATH.

- - WAR - - and the Workers

(With apologies to Walker C. Smith.)



"Good Times"

One of the many arguments at times put forward by Hard Labor Party supporters is that since their election to Parliament, they have improved working class conditions so much that there is no further need for the working class voters who put them there to worry. They will see that they are catered for well.

This sounds very nice, but on a closer examination of the conditions which they claim to have improved, you will find that these statements from beginning to end are very much exaggerated.

These same individuals are never tired of referring to the "good old times" in N.S.W., when men were harder worked and wages were lower.

Now let us have a look—how things stand with us to-day in these "good times."

Under the rule of a Labour Government there are many men employed at railway construction work in the Commissioners Permanent Way Department, and these men receive Justice Heydon's living wage, the magnificent eight shillings a day. The hours of labour, counting travelling time to and from Sydney, generally averages twelve hours, or in other words, during winter, from sunrise to sunset.

They are under the watchful eyes of one of those neurotics, a gang-

er, and pity help the unfortunate worker who fails to follow the break-neck speed set by the boss's clock-pittles. Then he gets chucked off the job. Why? Because of the damnable stupidity of his fellow men, and their dread of unemployment, backed up by their disorganised attitude on the industrial field.

Surely then, working men are no better off in these "good times" when they are compelled to work themselves to a standstill, under the lash of a labor government that they were in days of old under conservative rule. I cannot imagine anything more brutal, treacherous and devilish than the Hard Labor Party's treatment of the workers of Australia in times of stress.

Take a few samples of their goods and examine them carefully. What do you see? Working men fired for striking, and for speaking to their fellows on industrial matters; scabs protected and encouraged, and strikers' wages garnished.

By the deeds of men we shall know them."

"Good times" will never come the workers' way until they are prepared to organise themselves on sounder lines than they are to-day. Why should we workers of Australia waste so much time sending letters to Parliament (a Parliament run by capitalists) to try and legislate better conditions for us when we have the might upon the industrial field.

Study the method by which the Industrial Workers of the World propose to organise the workers in their respective departments, then

study our tactics and after that, I am sure that you will come to the conclusion like thousands of your class have to-day, that Parliaments do not exist for your benefit but for your employers.

Industrial Unionism is the only logical proposition before the workers to-day and the one most feared by the boss. No employer, or purchaser of labor-power likes to see his employees in an organisation which declares emphatically that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

C. VINCENT.

Locals, Please Note!

Reports from locals should be as short and concise as possible, and should deal only with the actual activities of the local concerned. Matters dealing with economics, the principles and aims of the I.W.W., and current events in the labor world, etc., should be dealt with in separate articles, when, if they are considered up to publication standard, they will be published. If not, they won't be grown at the Editor notwithstanding.

Neither should the feature of such reports be a "boost" for any particular unionist, no matter how worthy. Our space can be utilised for matters of more importance to the workers.

YOUNG MAN: When you are asked to enlist to go to the front to be used as food for cannon, be sure that you look before you leap.

Remember: The South African War, with its vile and unpardonable record of Embalmed Beef, Sleep Uniforms, Bum-fitting Boots, Leaky Tents, Lousy Skins, and a Louser Officialdom; Dangerous Guns, Insufficient and Indefinite Food, Malaria and Enteric Fever.

Remember: That the J.-s., Barabos, Robbisons, Rhodesses and their ilk, got the gold and diamond mines, and that the workers got miners' pthisis, enteric fever, and bullets last July at Johannesburg.

Remember: That the officers were well fed, while the rank and file were starving on a mouldy, hard-baked biscuit a day.

Remember: That those arrogant and overbearing officers were commissioned because they hadn't energy to work; brains enough to beg; or courage enough to steal.

Remember: That the Australian Workers had no quarrel with the Boers, neither have they with the German Workers.

Remember: That the acquisition of the South African Republics never raised your wages, shortened your hours, or otherwise bettered your conditions.

Remember: The pensions that the men didn't get.

Remember: Those who were maimed, mutilated and disfigured for life.

Remember: The boys that never came back.

Think of the Widows. Think of the Orphans. Think of yourself.

LET THOSE WHO OWN AUSTRALIA DO THE FIGHTING.

Put the wealthiest in the front ranks; the middle class next; follow these with politicians, lawyers, spy pilots and judges. Answer the declaration of war with the call for a GENERAL STRIKE. Make the slogan "Rebellion sooner than War." Don't make yourself a target in order to fatten the Horderns, Rockefeller, Carnegies, Rothschilds, Krupps, Vickers Maxims, Armstrongs and other industrial parasites.

Don't be fooled by jingoism: The workers have no quarrel with Austria, Germany or Japan. The workers in those countries are as ruthlessly robbed and exploited as the workers of Australia. All European and American heads are large investors in armament firms, and the Steel Trust. Therefore they want war, and insist on a demand for steel, guns and munitions.

The International Hierarchy of Capitalism have created war in order to unload their surplus stock of shoddy goods upon the various governments; to create financial panics, in order to compel the small investors and capitalists to relinquish their investments at an enormous loss; to strengthen their own position, and to consolidate the SURPLUS OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO ARE THREATENING TO OVERTHROW THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

General Sherman said "WAR IS HELL."

DON'T go to Hell in order to give practical, platitudinal parasites a bigger slice of Heaven.

WE'RES OF THE WORLD, ENITE! DON'T BECOME JOINED MURDERERS! DON'T JOIN THE ARMY OR NAVY!

TOM BARBER

A BEATITUDE

Blessed are the poor in pocket, for they shall be practised upon by physicians, aided by surgeons, patronized by patriotic philanthropists, protected by politicians, reserved for rest, Mercy, shown by lawyers, wept and we become, excited by news, starting, with what will minister to economic and social progress. Our cities aid by outside "Life" steaming, &

Direct Action



OFFICIAL ORGAN
Of the
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.
(Australian Administration)

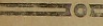
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Black Coated
Vultures Howl
for Blood.

Members of the I.W.W. and
readers of 'Direct Action,' will re-
gard it as news that the organization
has met with a disaster in its propa-
ganda.

The trouble began on Sunday, 9th
inst., when the Sydney Domain was
tainted and the atmosphere pollut-
ed by the presence of "reverend gen-
tlemen" of various denominations,
who gathered in the Domain to give
exposition to their "Christian-like"
opinions on war.

The event, of course, means that
there is a danger of its being im-
possible for peace-loving humans of
the I.W.W. type to continue their
propaganda in the vicinity of any
domestic Christian brethren, on ac-
count of the stench they create.

However, to be more explicit, the
churches of Sydney, doubtless in-
spired by our patriotic government,
organized what was intended to be a
counter-blast to the anti-war demon-
stration advertised by the I.W.W.

This event followed the "Prayer
of Peace" assembled in all their regalia. Some of them were
with him what appeared to be his
with a neat gown, and wore it with
out a blush. He reddened to an
during extent, however, when he
heard of the I.W.W. banner, and
merrily enquiring about "Was What
For?" "War what For?" he then
cried in truly Christ-like tones:
"Ha! shall we to drop in their
trains, they would know what for!"
This manner, Christ, did not at all
moment perform a miracle and drop
himself into the I.W.W.
of any lack of fervency on the Deans'
Christian deans.

"Oh, Christ, what crimes are com-
mitted in Thy name!"

The personal Dean's outburst,
however, was uttered under duress,
and was not intended to offend.
Notwithstanding the fact that
these fellows of the "peace-
loving" type got the Salvation
Army band to lead them there
through the Domain to the strain
of the "Marseilles" (the strains of the
Prayer Revolution) in an endeavor
to stampede the I.W.W.

The I. W. W. and the W. E. A.

Professor Atkinson Angry.

In our issue of July 15, appeared
an article in criticism of a lecture
delivered by Mr. Atkinson, Director
of the W.E.A., tutorial classes, at
the Trades' Hall, on "Industrial
Unrest." Mr. Atkinson wrote to
the writer of the article objecting to
the criticism and to the "garbled
report" in his lecture, which ap-
peared in the daily press, and fur-
ther requesting to be heard person-
ally before the I.W.W.

In deference to Mr. Atkinson's
expressed desire we did not publish
his letter, deferring further com-
ment until an opportunity occurred
of hearing his opinions first hand.
Arrangements were made with
the result that on Sunday evening,
9th inst., Mr. Atkinson lectured to
a packed audience in the I.W.W.
hall.

The lecturer began by taking ob-
jection to the method of organ-
ization pursued by the writer of the article,
and said that he (the writer) would
probably be the first to grumble at
being misreported by the capitalist
press.

To what extent the criticism
levelled at Mr. Atkinson's econom-
ics was unfair or where the report
of his lecture in the press was an
untrue, he did not, however, state.
Indeed, Mr. Atkinson conveniently
dropped answering the criticism
levelled at him by the usual stereo-
typed objection of taking exception
from their context," etc., and then
plunged into an elaborate defence
of the Workers' Educational Asso-
ciation.

As the I.W.W. members of the
audience, at all events, were re-
specting Mr. Atkinson to have some-
thing to say upon what his solution
of the "social problem" really
amounted to, there was considerable
disappointment at the conclusion
of his remarks, and more than
a suspicion that the "garbled re-
port" of his lecture in the construc-
tion put upon it by "Direct Action" was
not quite as "fair" and "dis-
honest" as Mr. Atkinson would
have us believe.

However, his defence of the
W.E.A. contained nothing new to
readers of this paper. It was an
unbiased, unorganised, unsectarian,
out propaganda body, but purely
educational, democratic in its con-
ditions, even to the extent of al-
lowing students to choose their own
text books, and aimed solely at
bringing University teaching to the
reach of those who would other-
wise be debarred from its benefits.
W.E.A. in essence, is Mr. Atkin-
son's case for the Workers' Educa-
tional Association, it does not differ
from what we have heard before on
the subject.

The Workers' Educational Assoc-
iation is so unbiassed, in fact, that
the Director of its tutorial classes
appeared before that patriotic body,
the British Empire League, at its
last annual meeting, and was hon-
orably elected "democrat," and
elected President of the League.
The President of the League, Mr.
Donald McMillan, who is, inci-
dentally, President of the Employ-
ers' Federation of N.S.W., and
educated workers could bring valu-
able suggestions to bear upon imper-
ialism.

ing, the thousands assembled around
the I.W.W. banner stood solid as a
rock.

When these wolves in sheep-
clothing—reverend Christians shriek-
ing in Latin in garments emblematic
of Peace—were introduced as the
subject of their meeting, their audience
of "democrats" distinguished that the I.W.W.
demonstration was considerably super-
ior in consequence.

The result was a meeting which
sold out, numbers and enthusiasm
all previous meetings held in the
I.W.W. in the Domain. Literally
hundreds of copies of the I.W.W.
papers broke all records (Mr. Maiden
said that more than 600 cop-
ies of "Direct Action" alone being
disposed of during the demonstration).

The anti-baneful effects at the con-
clusion of what was in every respect
a remarkable and successful meet-
ing, will surely re-echo in the ears of our
"peace-loving" Christian brethren, when
his keys.

Probably Mr. Atkinson may com-
plain that this is another "garbled
report" in the daily press, and, as
a "sentence torn from
context." But, be that as it may,
intelligent workers might well be
wary of an organization, the leaders
of which find themselves in a
strange company, and which meets
with the unanimous endorsement
and approval of their foremost ex-
plorers.

In the article to which Mr. Atkin-
son took objection was implied that
the W.E.A. was an
organization expressly brought out
to be fair-minded "education-
ists" who have no sympathy with
working-class economic aspirations,
for no other purpose than to MIS-
educate the workers on industrial
and social problems, and Mr. Atkin-
son's defence has in no wise in-
duced us to alter that opinion.

The sophistry that students have
the privilege of selecting their own
authors and text books for study
is a student's no privilege. If would
be students who are so advanced that
they were capable of knowing be-
forehand which books on economics
contained the most truth, obvious-
ly these would be no students, but
attending the W.E.A. for education
on the subject. If they are not
capable of choosing, then it is
equally obvious that they are at
the mercy of their teachers, whose
economics may even be limited to,
or "problems of Imperialism."

Capitalist education for the work-
ers, whether in the elementary
schools, the University, or even
where they are taught under a
class name, cannot if it would, and
would not if it could, be of a nature
which, in its ultimate consequences,
would endanger the social order
upon which capitalist society is
based.

The idea of the capitalist class,
who finance and control the Uni-
versity, as indeed every other insti-
tution of capitalism, allowing their
interests to be endangered by the
propagation of economic truth at
the instance of that institution, is
so absurd that it is only the extreme
gullibility of the workers that jus-
tifies the notorious humbug of
W.E.A. propagandists.

These were the gist of the argu-
ments and questions which Mr. At-
kinson met with at the conclu-
sion of his address, from various
parts of the hall.

Needless to say, Mr. Atkinson
did NOT meet them. Instead, in
his University professor style, he
evaded the question at issue, and
angrily seized upon some remarks
made in the course of the discussion
and offensive to him, to stere-
type remarks as to the nature of
Mr. Atkinson's social environment
since his advent to Australia, and
were most certainly pertinent and
appropriate when it is remembered
that Mr. Atkinson was endeavouring
to justify the existence of the W.E.A.,
of spirits, to an audience of work-
ing men and working women, who
have every reason to be suspicious of
all those who move in the environ-
ment referred to, and of all movements
which emanate therefrom.

F. G. G. G.

Wellington Notes.

(By Frank Hanlon)

The labour situation was bad
enough before the declaration of
war, but the recent European devel-
opments are having such effect on
industry in New Zealand, that it is
impossible to forecast any line of
difficult to decide on any such
activity even. Already several large
bunches of men have been dis-
charged up and down the country.

The secretary of the Employers'
Association, doubtless anticipating a
state of affairs that would put the
workers at the mercy of the masters,
brought out a suggestion that the
Arbitration laws be suspended dur-
ing the war. The suggestion has
been turned down, for the time
being at any rate, and the plea
press says it was made "at the
moment."

This means, in
horse-sense English, that the rapacious
bourgeoisie are not yet able to
judge whether there will be a big
shortage or a big over-supply of
labour as a result of the war, and
they don't yet know whether the
suspension of the Arbitration laws
will be to their advantage or not. But if
the blocks don't see now how much
their masters' respect Arbitration they
never will.

The enthusiastic demonstrations
of patriotism reported by the
press, and doubtless still more ex-
aggerated abroad, consisted chiefly
in Wellington, of a small crowd of
youths, mostly in knickerbockers
and led by college larrikins, parading
the streets at night and making a
din with kettles and tin. Labour cir-
cles there is a wholesome absence
of pigmism, most men over twenty
freely expressing the very sane op-
inion that "war is no good to us."

The self-styled "heads of Labour"—
the Trades' Hall gentry—met to
oppose the suspension of the Arbitra-
tion Act, and, in handing "peti-
tions" to the Government, "re-
quested" that the Government
press, one Carter, a local trade
artist, presumably speaking for all
intention to disgrace the "best
of the Empire" (?) dur-
ing the crisis.

The work of the militant "Reds"
has been carried out in New Zealand
less openly, but more the less effec-
tively than before the Big Strike.
Certainly, the reactionists are in the
saddle, for the time being, but the
politicians are prattling the same
message is being delivered quietly
to the job.

The Wellington I.W.W. meet
every Tuesday and Friday, and
have the assurance of a strong mem-
bership when things return to the
normal. When the European
is over and the shambles cleaned
up the plugs will be something a bit
harder and "dominion."

Short Arm Jolts.

Charity is scant poured on the
sewers of capitalism.

There never was a slave but a
soldier made him one.

Sectional agreements are the out-
come of craft Unionism. Stand for
the One Big Union.

The Revolution is on right now.
Get in and help us construct the New
Society.

Gustave Hervé said: "There is
only one war worthy of intelligent
men. Social war—social revolution."

The scarlet banners of freedom
wave bravely. To work, to work
for the One Big Union.

There never was a slave remain-
ed a slave longer than a soldier kept
him one.

Shorten the hours of labour, ye
workers, and wages will automati-
cally rise.

The Preamble of the I.W.W.

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 mil-
lions 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 centering of the
management of industries into
fewer and 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 pitted against
another set of workers in the same industry,
thereby helping to defeat
one another in wage wars. Moreover,
the trade unions aid the employ-
ing 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 interest of the working
class upheld only by an organization
formed in such a way that all its
members are a strike or lockout, or in all industries
if necessary, cease work
an injury to one is an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto:
"A fair day's wages 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
every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to
carry on production when
capitalism shall have been overthrown,
by organizing industrially we
are forming the structure of the new society
within the shell of the old.

How to Join.

Any wage worker wishing to
join the Industrial Workers of the World
can obtain information by applying to
the nearest Local I.W.W. secretary,
member by making application through
the post to any secretary
listed in the paper.

If you agree to abide by the constitution
and to diligently study its principles
and make yourself acquainted with its purposes?
Occupation
Industry
Street Address
City
State

The above applicant, having subscribed to
the principles of
and is therefore recommended for membership.
Initiation
Occupation
Industry
Street Address
City
State

By
Initiation Fee
Out this out, fill in Post to Sec. Treas., with Initiation Fee.

THANKS!

A Timely Present.

Local No. 2, Sydney, Australian
Administration, stands most heartily
thanks to Local 52, Victoria, B.C.
Local 52 donated to them, it will
supply a long felt want to the many
workers, and in a few days it will be
a new bookcase, which has been
donated by the Local by Fellow worker
Walker.

D. RAMSAY, Librarian.

The conquest of capitalism is the
conquest of the I.W.W. by
MIGHT, the only arbiter, will we
conquer.

Initiation Fee
Occupation
Industry
Street Address
City
State

