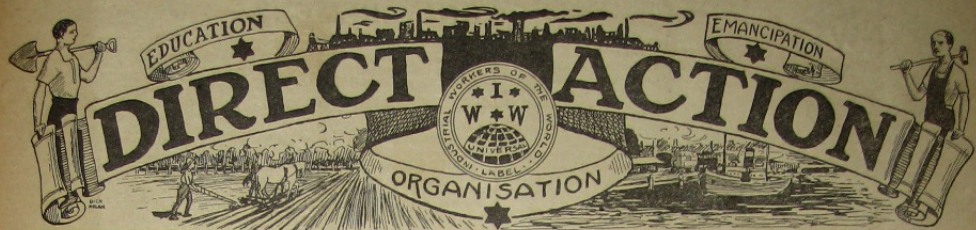


'An Injury Done an Injury to A.'



VOL. 4, NO. 114 Registered at the General Post-office, Sydney, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper. SYDNEY, March 24th, 1917. ONE PENNY.

Defence Agitation.

SYDNEY.

Propaganda for the One Big Union, and the case of the boys in jail is going on, very successfully in and around Sydney. Meetings are held in the city and suburbs through the week, and last Sunday afternoon saw two I.W.W. platforms in the Domain. Both meetings were highly successful, and good results are shown. If successful propaganda is any criterion, then the I.W.W. is in a very healthy condition.

MELBOURNE.

Local propaganda activities have been very brisk this last fortnight, and the position generally, is much better. Last week we had Fellow Worker J. R. Wilson to help us in the Yarra Bank meeting, which was spoke to a large crowd for about an hour.

The elements decided, however, that the meeting had gone quite long enough, so he sent down his torrents to impress us. Consequently, the meeting had an earlier finish than was anticipated. A good collection was taken up before the meeting had its equilibrium disturbed, so that the God of the "Dons" did not have it all in his own way. In the hall in the evening, J. R. Wilson again held forth, giving a clear-cut analysis of the Sydney cases. Afterwards for about half an hour on the same topic where he received a good reception, etc. A retiring collection was taken up for the expenses of the trial.

South Melbourne meetings have been more than successful, big crowds greeting the speakers on every occasion. "D.A." sales were good also. Last Friday, for the first time, a collection was taken up, which amounted to £5, 6d, being applied for the first time in South Melbourne. This procedure will be continued every Friday night, as funds are urgently needed.

On Sunday last, one of the finest meetings held for many a week was held. The speakers were all in good form, holding the crowd interested all the afternoon. The collection also was one of the best taken for some considerable time, £5 11s 9d being the sum for an afternoon's appeal, which was ably put by Fellow Workers Alf. Wilson and C. Dann. In the evening F. W. Jeffrey lectured on "The Preamble of the I.W.W."

Senator Watson's sensational, discredited in the Senate caused quite a flutter among the Liberal and Labor devotees. It is rumored that (?) Honorable Members are shocked beyond control. Some rude individuals, apparently with no respect for the honor of the Prime Minister and the House generally, have said that visitors to the House are compelled to put a white cloth over upon the faces as they are assailed by a pungent odour immediately on entering. Where it comes from is hard to say, although an investigation might disclose the fact that it comes from the direction of the Senate.

Anyhow, one thing the workers will be taught is the futility of depending on politicians. It should show them that working-class freedom is to be gained by means other than that of electing men to Parliament. Join the One Big Union of the I.W.W.
NORMAN JEFFREY.

Wretched is the infant's lot,
Born within the straw-roofed cot,
Be he generous, wise or brave,
Must toil only to be a slave.
Long hours labour, little rest,
Still to toil, to be oppressed.
DraINED by taxes from his store,
He must fight for better cheer.
This is the poor wretcher's lot,
Born within the straw-roofed cot.
—Robert Southey.

APPEAL.

Fellow workers, the Appeal Court has given its decision, the conviction of our fellow workers has been upheld, a new trial has been refused, then, despite the overwhelming evidence advanced to justify the granting of a new trial, which was their only hope from a legal standpoint. That they should have been granted a new trial is beyond all doubt, as politicians representing capitalism, and a powerful capitalist press were permitted to indulge in gross contempt of court, by referring to the men as GUILTY before the charges against them were investigated in the courts, thus prejudicing the public mind against them, and making it impossible in the early part of the trial to secure a jury unbiased, and prepared to consider the evidence and the evidence alone. That a gross outrage has been committed is beyond question, as a perusal of the depositions of both the higher and lower courts proves. In view of the injustice that has been done it is now up to ORGANISED LABOUR to take a hand, to take the case up, and conduct ceaseless agitation until the dilute wage earner understands, and compels the powers that be to do their justice. In order to do this, money is required, money to flood the country with literature, money to send out capable speakers to awaken the public mind to a realisation of the Wrong done. There must be no leaving the men where they are, there must be no letting their case drop, to do so would be an act of TREACHERY, despicable beyond words to describe.

Further, there is a danger of other men sharing their fate unless this is done, and it is not only the members of the I.W.W. that will suffer the organisers of no trade union are safe. Already a start has been made in dealing with trade union members, if Melrose, number and delegate of the A.M.A., having been convicted.

Comment upon his conviction and the sentence of six months' imprisonment passed upon him we cannot make at the moment, and do not intend to, as an appeal has been lodged, but unless ORGANISED LABOUR steps in and calls halt in no uncertain voice to those behind the persecution of MILITANT ORGANISERS of Labour, many will lose their liberty, and the working class movement suffer generally. Persecution petty and underhand of I.W.W. members continues, employers being approached by officers of the LAW and asked to dismiss even WOMEN members of the organisation for no other reason than that they are members of the I.W.W. In view of the injustice done, believing, yes, having, the MEN TO BE ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT, we appeal to you for financial assistance to enable us to carry on the fight on their behalf. WILL YOU ASSIST? If so, every reader of this paper is given an opportunity to contribute. No matter what the amount is, large or small, it will be thankfully received and promptly acknowledged. Let everyone assist, and send all cash to—

A. R. WILSON,
See Defence and Release Committee,
Box 98 Haymarket, P.O., Sydney.

LA CARMAGNONE. WORSE THAN THE I.W.W.

(New Translation.)

The people's aim, what shall it be?
To rise and fight for liberty.
Forthless promises we spurn,
The system we will overturn,
Like brothers, then, in peace we'll be.

Chorus—

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear,
Come, let us dance La Carmagnone,
Away with fear, away with fear,
Come, let us dance La Carmagnone,
The cannon's sound no more we'll hear.

Then our desire—what shall it be?
For the human race, equally:
So, let this be our battle cry, be led,
No more at tyrants' feet we'll lie,
But from our fetters we'll be free.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear,
Ah, had we but the common sense
To organise in self-defence.
Tasted of shedding our own blood,
Roll onward like a cleansing flood,
All misery would vanish hence.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear,
Oh, what do the people cry?
Arise and make all tyrants fly,
No more by liars we'll be led,
Each man must work to earn his bread,
Tyranny cold on earth shall lie.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear,
(Vic.) J. P. Q.

Workers never cease. Anyone who takes the "Sunday Times" as its advocate must have the idea that the I.W.W. is just about the worst thing that could exist in any country. The "Sunday Times" has adopted the yellow-press methods when talking of the I.W.W.—All lies, slander, and abuse that any "rag" could be guilty of has poured through the columns of Holman's and MacIntosh's journals. But now they have discovered something which is "rarer than the I.W.W. and shorter-sighted than the P.L.L."

The organization picked out for this denunciation is the poor, simple, harmless Temperance Association. The fact that the teetotalers are taking part in the present parliamentary campaign has been responsible for the above outburst.

It sounds very much as if we are becoming respectable when the cold-water crowd is branded by the "Sunday Times" as being worse than the I.W.W.

Very likely next week we will read of a raid that has been made on the meeting place of the teetotalers, and six several of them charged with treason and other crimes. Some funny things do appear in the press at times, and especially a yellow press of the "Sunday Times" stamp.

A fig for those by law protected!
Liberty's a glorious feast!
Courts for cowards are provided,
Churches built to please the priest.
—Robert Burns.

Defence Agitation.

BROKEN HILL.

Activities have been booming of late, though reports of some have not appeared in our paper. F. Worker Wilson visited here at a very opportune time, as the agitation for the defence and release of our fellow-workers has reached an impetus.

The local bosses' "rag" attempted to connect our Fellow Worker's visit with the somewhat sensational episode of the "bombing" of the "Miser" office. The attempt failed. It was no palpalty ridiculous.

The agitation of the Defence and Release Committee still continues, and the toilers of the Barrier are determined to see Justice given to the gaoléd agitators.

Propaganda meetings are held every Saturday and Sunday evenings, and the old battles of the cause up here hold forth to large and sympathetic crowds.

Speakers are not too plentiful at present and an additional speaker, or more, would be welcomed by the local.

Indications point to a sharp struggle by the militants against organised scabs in the near future.

An attempt may be made to force wobbles to join the A.M.A. We have no desire to conflict with any craft organization at present, but should any reactionary "crafties" attempt to bludgeon the I.W.W. as an organization to join a craft union, the boys must be on the watch, and resist.

Individual I.W.W. men can join any craft union, should they desire, but the organization, as a body, must refuse. We have no desire to fight any militant section of the workers. Our enemy is MASTER.

Three more slaves were blown to pieces recently. Fatal accidents are becoming far too numerous lately, but under the contract system—a system whereby master is enabled by economic pressure to favor the toilers to speed up to the utmost degree (wobblies excepted)—such revolting accidents are of common occurrence, and will happen again, until active in the minds of workers here with regard to the cases of these men; this has got to be shifted before much progress can be made.

HARRY METHERINGHAM,
Press Cor. to "D.A."

ADELAIDE.

A branch of the Workers' D. & R. Committee has been formed in Adelaide for the purpose of conducting a campaign for the defence and release of our twelve fellow-workers who are now lying in jail in New South Wales.

A great amount of prejudice and ignorance exists in the minds of workers here with regard to the cases of these men; this has got to be shifted before much progress can be made.

The small bunch who are active in running the meetings, etc. are doing their utmost to get a live agitation going, but we are handicapped by a shortage of speakers at present. I have therefore been instructed to ask through the columns of "Direct Action" for any speakers who may happen to pass through Adelaide from time to time, to see into touch with us as to the above address with a view to arranging meetings.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
R. T. WALL, Secretary.

Announced that the N.S.W. Police Force is 200 short. This immediately causes another announcement that crime is decreasing every day. The logical inference is that if the Police Force had its strengthened there would be no crime at all.

Direct Action

I.W.W. THE Round Central ONLY REMEDY. Queensland.

(By Tom Barker.)



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UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

In all ages and at all times, there have been fools who thought they could destroy a social idea, and fill a scarring ideal by repression and force.

All history teaches that Thought cannot be gagled and ideas cannot be hanged. Principles can never be suppressed, and stone walls cannot silence the voice of Progress.

If it were so, then the working class would be down in the dire depths of an awful slavery, such as the world has never known.

It is the "unkillable" spirit of agitation that has been responsible for the liberties the working class enjoy to-day.

The rack, the thumb-screw, the inquisition, and the stake FAILED TO KILL THE IDEAS AND TEACHINGS of the philosophers and scientists in the days of religious bigotry.

The very ideas for which men were stretched on the rack and burnt at the stake are now TAUGHT IN ALL THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS throughout the land. Force and persecution have never yet killed a growing ideal, and they never will.

It is only IN THE ORDER OF THINGS that the time would come when the I.W.W. would be branded as an unlawful association. It is only in the NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS that members of the I.W.W. would be denounced and persecuted by those in authority.

The master class in its attack upon the I.W.W. is only following in the footsteps of all its predecessors.

Right through history, from the earliest times, all working-class organisations which have been in the vanguard of doing the pioneering work, have met with persecution by those in power and authority.

One has only to let his mind run back far into the dim and distant past to a few hundred years B.C., and there is one THUNDERED TRAIL RUNNING THROUGH ALL AGES UP TO THE PRESENT DAY, which tells of the persecution handed out to the slave agitator.

But there is no power in the world that could back social and industrial evolution. And in time, evolution makes many changes and rights many wrongs.

There was a time in the history of England when the men who were fighting branded as CONSPIRATORS. They were plotting to interfere with the established constituted authority of the lords and bishops. Many of those men as a consequence, suffered torture and death.

The House of Commons to-day is a honours and respectability, and many members of that institution would be shocked and insulted if they were told that the early founders of the House of Commons were branded as criminals and tortured as such.

The Chartist Movement stands out prominently in English history as an organisation that had MANY HARD FIGHTS AND SUFFERED MUCH PERSECUTION. This simple reform organisation was branded as "unlawful" by those in authority at the time. Ernest Jones, the chartist, poet and agitator, was jailed and persecuted again and again. But despite the repressive tactics of the powers that were, the Chartist Movement continued to grow and in the shadows of the jail and the gallows, the members of this "unlawful association" fought on and on until their organisation was RECOGNISED, AND THEIR REFORMS LISTENED TO. Every reform the "criminal" chartists fought for, is now upon the Statute Book of England.

All who are familiar with the trade union movement, know full well that the early trade unionists in England were, according to law MEMBERS OF AN UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATION. Under the "Anti-Combination" laws, men were forbidden to join trade unions. But the apostles of trade unionism believed they were right and they fought on. Many leaders were arrested and thrown into prison. Their union funds were seized and their property confiscated by the Crown. Some unions sent their funds out of the country to prevent them from being seized.

In the face of great opposition and persecution, the early pioneers of the trade union movement continued to fight for their principles, and AT LAST, WON OUT.

The authorities at last saw that it was IMPOSSIBLE to suppress this growing and vigorous movement, and they were compelled to relax their tyrannical measures.

Trade Unionism is now a recognised and respectable institution in England, and in Australia we see the sight of "preference" to unionists.

When we recall the glories of trade unionism, Mr. Worker, always remember that the inaugurations of that movement were branded as criminals and many suffered jail and death for their principles. In the very early days of Australia, there have been men and movements that have been condemned as unlawful, but in time became lawful and respected.

Most Australians are familiar with the history of the Eureka Stockade. Peter Lalor, one of the leaders of the rebellious men, was OUTLAWED and the sum of DEATH OR ALIVE PLACED UPON HIS HEAD.

The time came when the very same man stood for parliamentary honors, and was afterwards made Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

Time plays some funny tricks, and makes some revolutionary changes.

No member of the I.W.W. has as yet been outlawed. Perhaps it is because we do not go as far as the agitators of the past, who were crowned with a martyr's crown and stand upon a hero's pedestal, honoured and revered by all fighters for Freedom.

The early history of the Australian Labor Party, what it was getting in its propaganda, it often bumped up against the law, and several of its members went to jail for its outspoken utterances on behalf of the working class.

The Labor Party, in face of great opposition, persisted with its agitation until they at last won out and got into power. Now they are assailing the persecution of men and women for preaching the same doctrines to what they did in their early days.

Last, but not least, is the A.W.U.

Most workers have a knowledge of that organisation's early history. The very mention of the A.W.U. was the signal for a torrent of abuse from the squatter fraternity. The name of a criminal was a very mild epithet for the squatters and the Government to call those men "criminals" who dared to attempt to organise the pastured workers. Many of the organisers of the A.W.U. were sent along to the penal colonies, and some of the pioneers who dared to attempt to organise the pastured workers, were sent along to the penal colonies. The Government has now grown and spread, and it has no today as a RESPECTABLE INSTITUTION. The Government gives its members preference on different jobs.

No need to cite any more cases. The few that have been mentioned should be CONVINCING PROOF that it is impossible to strangle social ideals and useless growing working organisations.

The persecution now being meted out to the I.W.W. is only another case of HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. The experience, having the same lights, is meeting with the same persecution, that

Owing to the very much disturbed state of the political field, the ever occurring ruptures in the industrial areas, and the death like silence of the majority of toilers, one is sometimes in a quandary as to what to do for the best.

We look around, and on all sides we see men aspiring for Parliamentary honours and other holding prominent positions in the land we would not trust with a candle. We see men dictating policies and endeavouring to run the country whom we would not trust in our back yard.

We find men in the industrial areas aspiring for place and pay, and seeking pick and self, who would sacrifice their followers to-morrow for a mess of pottage.

We behold acts of political injustice, that should stagger the public mind and shock the nation, but the perpetrators still go on their way, free and unchallenged.

Dark clouds of suspicion hover around many of our leading statesmen, and political crimes are heaping up against others.

The world seems to be in the hands of the enemies of mankind who are making it up to its own doom.

Above the din and roar of industry, can be heard, the monotonous tramp of the soldier's Army. Hunger and want stalk throughout the land, naked and unshamed.

The beneficent rays of nature's healing sun streams down upon poverty, misery, and crime, and reveals the revolting conditions of the poor. Slaves and tenants, share and small, and the beauty of this Austral clime. The outlook is sordid indeed.

After a diagnosis of human society, attempting deep into the social sources, only one remedy presents itself.

A multiplicity of political charlatans and industrial quacks have for many years past been dealing out nostrums of all descriptions to toiling millions, but the student of working class economies, has arrived at the decision, that "he who would be free, himself must strike the blow."

The working class must give up all hope of looking for any one to lead them out of the social quagmire, and drop the idea of waiting for some redeemer to come to their assistance.

After a long and deep study, there is only one sure and certain remedy for these social ills that afflict the working class. Industrial Unionism is the only way out.

If the working class wish to abolish all the ghastly sights and monstrosities which surround their daily lives, they must take part in the clean up themselves.

We must recognise the principle of working class solidarity, unite into one Big Union, and uplift the banner, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

When once the workers accept the principles of the I.W.W., they will be on the right road to rid the earth of all social ills, and political diseases, and inaugurate a sane and harmonious system of peace and plenty for all.

Let us hope it will be long.

The British Board of Trade stated that the number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in November, 1915, was 216, an increase of 11 on a month ago, and of 32 on a year ago. The mean number in November during the five years 1911-15 was 232, the total number of fatal accidents to seamen during November, 1916, was 219, an increase of 73 on a month ago, and a decrease of 21 on a year ago.

all other working class organisations have had who dared to dignify the vanguard of Labor and pioneer the cause of industrial freedom. Because we believe in the right cause we believe our cause is just; because we believe our have Truth and Reason on our side, we intend to fight on until our ideals of Industrial Democracy are realised.

I am getting near the end of my wanderings in Queensland. There are great possibilities for the One Big Union in this part of the world. The A.W.U. officials, at least some of them, have missed an opportunity of maligning the I.W.W. It is a good sign when they seem to understand. However much they talk in the absence of an able propagandist, in the presence of an able propagandist, when an I.W.W. speaker takes the platform. Whether they are ashamed of their ignorance, or doubt about their knowledge is not discernable.

A meeting was held in Mount Morgan on Friday last. The weather was unpropitious, but notwithstanding the heavy showers, a large and generally appreciative audience turned up. A local store-keeper, whose store had recently grown up with its owner, provided the comedy part. He is one of the town fathers, they say. Anyway, after he had advertised himself well, recounted to him the fate of the "Big Union" and other "unlawful" forms of confining himself to the "unlawful" business of "filling 'em up" went into his side line breaking windows. The boss country jumper reckoned the boycott was a dirty business, which I replied coincided with his own. He then spoke of the defence fund and a side of literature. F.W. Clack was the chairman.

On Saturday F.W. Clark and myself journeyed to Innies to hold a meeting at a hotel. On our arrival at Innies we expected to catch a daylight train to the pit, which is about 12 miles away. We were disappointed, however, and had to hire a couple of fiery steeds, who, some-thing or other, had contrived to miss the Winter Day, and getting a couple of comical men to pull the horses, and a couple of milks on the wrong road, struck right. The rain came in torrents, and we both chafed, the time between much swollen creeks, with language that was more descriptive than polite. Anyway, it hurt no one, except the passkeys, who blushed eloquently in return.

At six o'clock we slithered into a canvas village that was liberally decorated with indignations that there was to be an open air meeting. After getting dry clothes, hobbling the fiery chargers, and filling up the inner man, the weather was ruffled up into a very large dining tent that was kindly let for the occasion. At 7.30 I opened out with the case of the treason of Innes, and the packed audience until after the arrest, convictions and appeals of the twelve good men and true.

After a 30 minutes question, and no opposition, I terminated the meeting, which was one of the most inspiring and encouraging I have held in Queensland. A little more propaganda will inevitably bring the bulk of these men into the ranks. P.W. Kelly acted as chairman and Hugh McFarlan rendered invaluable assistance in advertising and organising the meeting.

On the Sunday morning we were to have taken a trip to the end of the line (9 miles away), but the weather was unobtainable, so it had to be deferred. After a short conversation with the horses, and steering for the station, the Alton mightily turned on the water, and drenched us again and again as we pushed our way back to the hamlet. Once we reached the hamlet, the fence's tot to catch the elements, but they were sore with unaccustomed riding our sort and rightfully handed us "home and dried." We stayed in Innies for one night, and to get a meeting, but there is only a few in the township. On Monday we went in station train, that stops ten minutes and probably never see you don't see a soul, arrived after a century of puffs, eventually arrived at Innies, where there is only a few in the township. To-night we held a meeting at Barce, and to-morrow I leave (by train) for Brisbane, and then to Sydney one again.

PRESS REPORT.

At a meeting of the Press Committee, held on March 16th, Miss Worker N. Isaac, who has been active in the I.W.W. movement, was unanimously elected as editor of the Press Committee. G. P. Wilson, H. McLean, E. A. Gilroy, F. Brown.

International.

About 350 negro longshoremen at Savannah notified to the International Longshoremen's Association, suspended work when they were refused wage increases. They ask 20 cents an hour and 25 cents for overtime. They have been paid 16 to 18 cents and 22 cents for overtime.

A jury in the Federal court at Memphis, Tenn., on December 21, returned a verdict awarding \$2,000 to Malverne M. Malverne, a negro, in his suit against former Sheriff John A. Reichman. Harris was injured while resisting forcible entry into his home by a sheriff, whose police was searching for one of his relatives. In charging the suit for one of his police, Malverne declared "A jury judge is his castle, and he has a right to defend it."

It is reported that a boycott of Irish workingmen has been propagated in Lincolnshire, England. The Hutersfield "Worker" reports that Irishmen have been refused work by farmers. The Irishmen are being boycotted, it is said, because they are exempted from the Conscription Act, and because of the Irish rebellion.

Thousands of workers have been arrested and jailed in Russia, particularly in Odessa, Moscow and Petrograd, because they opposed the measures and attacked the high cost of living, or struck for more wages, and better conditions. In Warsaw, one of the two candidates elected on the Socialist ticket has been arrested.

Figures obtained as to communal feeding in Germany as the result of an official inquiry have been published. In the twenty-two towns taken into account, 223 war kitchens in all, were found to have been established. In ten of these towns there were in addition a total of twenty-six kitchens in the middle class, while fifteen towns had special depots for the labouring class. In most of these were seven travelling kitchens. In thirty-two of the towns inspected the system of communal feeding had been instituted by the municipal authority, and in three towns was being conducted as a purely private concern. The procuring of provisions was being effected in forty-seven towns by the town itself, and only in fifteen towns were the kitchens obliged to do this for themselves. In most cases in forty-seven towns, in fact, the system had been so arranged as to admit of the food served out being consumed on the premises or taken home.

One hundred thousand Chinese workmen are being imported into France, including carpenters, joiners, and masons, whose workmanship is said to be of the best. Viewed through European eyes, their pay is small.

Male and female workers in Japan are taking up the organized labor movement with vigor, according to Rappi Suzuki, president of the Labor Union. Recently the American who told the convention of the American Federation of Labor that during the last eight months the members of the society be represented had increased from 10,000 to 20,000.

The "Daily News" forebodes an important amendment shortly about the employment of women in agriculture. The idea being to raise 200,000. Several schemes have come before Mr. Prothero for special consideration. He is referred one to the National Service Director, Mr. Chamberlain. It provides for recruiting billeted and paid is a day in factories.

That the French government take over and operate all mines throughout France is proposed in a measure recently presented to the French Chamber of Deputies. This bill provides for nationalization of the mines, so that they will be exploited exclusively by the Government. It stipulates that no further mining concessions shall be granted and that concessions already granted, but unexploited, shall revert to the State. The mining companies are to be liquidated and the State transferred to State management within six months after the promulgation of the proposed law, the Government to pay for the buildings, the equipment, and the existing material at an inventoried price determined jointly by representatives.

A movement for a conference of national federation of labor was started recently by several Italian unions. It was learned that the conference was to be held in Switzerland, but the organization in the latter country objected on the grounds that the meeting would not be representative. It is probable that the federation in some of the other countries will agree to hold an informal gathering at some later date.

The Militant Proletariat.

To-day in the industrial movement, in the midst of prosecutions, and persecutions, when the word MILITANT is mentioned with bated breath, it would be perhaps a pertinent question to ask: Who are the militants?

If we glance back through the working class movement to its infancy, we find that a certain section was always in evidence, was always in the forefront; prepared to agitate for better conditions, prepared to act as the mouthpieces of their apathetic fellow members.

In addition to the persecutions, goadings, victimizations, and general anathema hurled at them by their economic masters, they had to withstand the jibes, vilifications, and betrayals of members of the class for which they fought, the class to which they belonged.

History is full of instances of cases in which members of this militant section of labor, have been applauded and almost worshipped while they were in the van of the slightest struggle, and when arrived and persecutions began, they were deserted by the very men who previously applauded them.

Ignorance, apathy, jealousy, or sheer pig-headedness may all be said to have been contributory factors.

Despite the fact that these militants, who are the ever watchful vanguard of the vast industrial army, realized that perhaps these factors would militate against them, and that the luxuriant laws of capitalism would pounce on them at the slightest opportunity, they stuck manfully to their post.

It is to these men, and to them alone, that the working class movement owes its present status. It is these militants of the present, who are prepared to come out and tell the world, that the future generations will thank.

Right through that bloody drama that men call history, open it where you will, and you will find its pages soiled and reddened with the blood of the crushed and broken masses, crushed for the sake of gold and power, crushed by the myriads of the powers that be, coming at by the church, in retaliation for some crime on the part of the submerged class.

In all these risings we can plainly discern the figures of men who have had the courage to speak on behalf of their class, to give expression to the unspoken thoughts of the huge majority.

Such is also the case to-day, such will continue to be the case if the workers do

not awake from their sleep-like slumber, rouse themselves from their criminal apathy and callous indifference, and demand that these persecutions cease.

The position that confronts the working class of to-day is not a new one. It is the same. With twenty millions of the world's manhood at each other's throats on the corpse strewn battlefields of Europe, and as a result laws, in existence which make it unsafe for men to give free expression to their thoughts, the lot of the propagandist is a hard one. Almost daily we read in the press of some member of the working class being gaoled on charges of sedition, conspiracy, for breaches of some acts which have been cunningly worded to entrap the unwary. These cases will occur as long as the class war continues. Interminable wars only add to the frequency of the prosecutions.

But despite these master class activities the struggle must and will go on.

There can be no industrial peace while the class struggle lasts, until it will last just so long as the workers remain unorganized and divided amongst themselves, and allow those members of their class, those valiant fighters for freedom, to be persecuted and gaoled.

Fellow workers, the issue rests with you. The militants are prepared to fight your battle for freedom. All they ask of you is that you grant your co-operation. Do not desert them in their hour of trial. This is your chance. Reason with yourselves, what would be your position to-day, had not sacrifices been made in the past by members of your class?

These men are prepared to voice your opinions, to give expression to your thoughts, to fight for you in the present and in the future, off the platform and through the press.

Will you let your voices be heard in a mighty protest, should these men be gaoled? Are you prepared to fight for those already there, or will you let it go down to history that you were afraid to speak? Ask yourselves these questions, read these lines of the past, as you, fellow workers, what will your answer be!

Oh! man bowed down with sorrow,
Oh! heart, young yet old;
Oh! woman oppressed in the toiler's breast,
Crushed by the weight of sorrow,
Go on with your weary battle,
Against triumphant might,
No question is ever settled,
Until it is settled right.

LEWIS MELROSE

Progress.

"Since the advent of civilization, the outgrowth of property has been so immense, it has so diversified the interests, and its management so intelligent in the interests of its owners, that it has become, on the part of the people, an unmanageable power. The human mind stands bewildered in the presence of its own creation. The time will come, nonetheless, when human intelligence will rise to the mastery over property, and define the relations of the State to the property it protects, as well as the obligations and the limits of its power. The streets will be open paramount to individual interests, and the two must be brought into just and harmonious relations. A new property error is not the final destiny of mankind. If progress is to be the law of the future as it has been of the past, the time which has passed away since civilization began is but a fragment of the past duration of man's existence; and if progress is to be the law yet to come, 'The dissolution of society bids fair to become the termination of a career which property is the end and aim; because such a career contains the elements of self-destruction. Democracy in government, brotherhood in society, equality in rights and privileges, and universal education, foreshadow the next higher phase of humanity, and the elements of intelligence and knowledge are steadily tending. It will be a revival of a higher form, of the liberty, equality of the ancient peoples'."

LEWIS H. MORGAN, LL.D.

What We Want.

(By J. HILL.)
(Tune: "Rainbow").

We want all the workers in the world to organize
Into a great big union grand,
And when we all united stand
The world for workers well demand
If the working class could only see and
Understand the conditions
What mighty power labor has
Then the exploiting master class
It would soon fade away.

Chorus:
Come all ye toilers that work for wages,
Come from every land,
Join the fighting band,
We are one, and we are united,
Then for the workers well make upon this earth a paradise,
When the slaves get wise and organize.

We want the sailor and the tailor and the lumberjacks,
And all the cooks and hungry girls,
We want the men that work for peace,
The pretty maid that's making curls,
And the baker and staker and the chimney sweep,
We want the man that slings his hash,
The child that works for little cash,
In one big union grand.

Chorus:
We want the finner and the skinner and the chambermaid,
We want the man that spikes on sees,
We want the man that stinks his holes,
And the trucker and the mucker and the hired man,
And all the factory girls and clerks,
We want the man that stinks his holes,
In one big union grand.

O.B.U. AND PARLIAMENT.

Parliament, navy, etc.—are possessed by Parliament, how is the O.B.U. or any other organization going to bring its principles and ideas into force, if it does not first capture Parliament by getting the workers to give there and getting the power that is represented in these forces into their own hands?

In granting you your hypothesis: "That all the powerful forces—police, army, navy, etc.—are possessed by Parliament," one presupposes Parliament, with a huge sum of money—constantly in its possession—for their upkeep, as none of these forces are capable of keeping themselves. With this in our mind, we say, knowing that what Parliament gets possession of this money through the taxes, we shall see who pay taxes.

The workers' wages being determined by the bare necessities of life, it presents itself clear to all, that as a class they must spend all of their wages to live. So the workers are not in a position to pay taxes.

There are two classes in society—the working class and the capitalist class. It must be clearly felt that the one class does not pay taxes, the other must.

Although the capitalist pays the taxes in ordinary times, the question you have got to ask yourself is: "Who will pay for the support of the State, when they are working in the interests of the working class, if the capitalists refuse to pay taxes? This form of action the Capitalists used in America, and so challenged the financial position of the Government of that State, that in the end the Government was upon the bum. This explains clearly the uselessness of the next part of the question, "That the O.B.U. in capturing Parliament, and using the same for the workers, and getting the power that its representatives there and getting the power that is represented in these forces into its own hands."

Only power that the working class has is the power to produce wealth, and the fight between the working class and the capitalist class, is not fought in Parliament, but in the industries where the workers are robbed of the greater portion of that which they produce.

The preamble of the I.W.W. clearly states: "The array of PRODUCTION must be organized, which can only be brought about by the education of the workers in the field, factories, and workshops, to the necessity for One Big Industrial Union, but the necessity of a shorter work day, followed by a rise in wages, and a reduction down in the surplus; that the master class would have fun. Not satisfied with this, the I.W.W. proposed to further educate and organize the working class to reduce their output by an hour, and a shorter workday, and a still shorter workday, until the point is reached where the working-class will not be producing one minute's surplus, thereby cutting the capitalist class, by means of the education of the labor power, which they at the present are able to live upon in luxury, and explaining "How the O.B.U. is going to bring its principles into force."

MATTHEW.

The workers of New South Wales will presently be asked for an expression of opinion re the matter of wearing the chains. The approaching day of the election is a real thing, and the question is conscription or non-conscription? Should Labor-renege Holman and his gang of freebooters, and his hounds, be entrusted with the goods. But what is virile, vigilant labor going to do?

Capitalist's existence depends upon our working in the workshops, the factories, and the mines, etc., our freedom and the freedom of the future depends upon our not wearing them.

WYLLIUST THE WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA A THOUSAND YEARS OR SLAVERY!
Remember your lethargy
WYLLIUST THE WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA A THOUSAND YEARS OR SLAVERY!
Working men and women! This is the "cry out," either you will be on the other side of the struggle (which may last for a decade) or you'll be at the bottom with no hope of escape. The day of reckoning is here! It will come to struggle, or death!

A. MACK.

Spasms

By Tom Barker.

The Defence and Release Committee in Queensland are making a heavy bet in propaganda and financially. Cash is rolling in from all parts of the State, and assurances of future support are many, and much appreciated. The income to date is not far from £250, of which about an £25 is clear above expenses of printing, travelling expenses, etc.

The State has been flooded with literature dealing with the case, and the proceeds created by the long press and the presence of Labor are being counteracted, and quite a feeling of determination is being displayed everywhere, to effect the release of the boys in goal. Other cases will engage the attention of the Release Organizations. The British sentence upon Harry Neilson in Sydney for public speaking, the equally stupid imprisonment of Mick Sawtell over in the West, and the heavy fines inflicted upon Fred Holland and Norman Anderson in Melbourne, are all matters for immediate agitation. And we may as well say that we expect little more from the official Laborites if they are returned. I'll gamble that the Hibernian Associations and the Crime Amendment Act will be used in less than 12 months after they get in.

An union tickets for the wives and children of the boys are now ready for sale. Books are being obtained from G. Johnson, of "Daily Standard," Brisbane, by reliable industrialists. We welcome all assistance to make the matters a success. The first prize is a £25 piano, the second a £25 bedroom suite, and the third a £100 wardrobe and chair. Several other valuable prizes are also offered. The tickets are in books of 25. The drawing will take place in the Trades Hall, Brisbane, on the 7th June, and results will be published in "Direct Action," "The Standard," "Timothy Democrat," "Barrier Daily Truth," and the Melbourne "Labor Call."

The Brisbane Committee are also running a concert and dance to be held on the evening of next Monday, the 7th May, at the Cafe Majestic, George St., Brisbane. A splendid programme is being arranged, and a large balance will be available for the dependants of the boys. The brothers on this committee are the salt of the earth, and they know no defeat.

A large sum is expected to come from the hundreds in Rockhampton. On my way through the Dawson Valley, I addressed a meeting and received a very good reception. Members assured me of their determination to fight for the boys' release, both morally and assist their dependants financially. The hundreds are the most powerful organization in Queensland.

CO-OPERATION.

Co-operation is a good thing. It is a grand ideal. It is something worth while striving for. When once the working-class understand the principles of co-operation and commence working for that end, the world will become much brighter and the lot of the working-class much lighter.

A labor journal in Sydney, trading under the grandiloquent name of "The Co-operator," starts off in its issue of March 15th to violate its own name and sacrifice the principles for which it is supposed to stand.

In a report of the conference of the Railway and Tramway Service Association, a motion was put to expel all I.W.W. men from the Association, who help to bring ruin from the I.W.W. and sever all connection with I.W.W. workers.

If some working men really think the I.W.W. is a danger and should be expelled, they are at perfect liberty to think so, but when they show themselves as rank hypocrites, their word cannot be taken for much. In trying to expel I.W.W. men from the Association, the Railway and Tramway workers are acting contrary to the name of their paper, and helping to bring about dissension and division in the ranks of Labor.

We hope that the "Co-operator" will cease advertising itself as a journal of hypocrisy and start helping to get co-operation amongst the sections of the working class, by writing articles on the I.W.W. which help to bring about the ideals and aspirations of organized Labor—political and industrial freedom.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES TO "DIRECT ACTION"

The subscription to "Direct Action" to any address in the Commonwealth, including Postage, is as follows:
 A Yearly, 10/-; Half-Yearly, 5/-.
 Apply, The Melbourne Office, Box 10, Macquarie St., Sydney.

Abiast from Industrial

BELLOW WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA.

Helen and Men! Rally to the standard of the working class—your class—the oppressed class—the opposing class to capitalism in the war of all wars—of all the many wars, the longest in duration—that can have no ending "while millions of working people suffer hunger and want, while the few who make the employing class have all the good things of life." The great class war is now raging. Where is your place in this conflict. No fences or rails to sit on in this mighty of fight—your place must be for or against your class.

Everyone of the men who languish in Long Bay Penitentiary—while you read these lines of appeal—can, with all the force of his being, say: "He who is not with me is against me." These men of the working class are under the ban of the unjust and cruel imprisonment for the common cause of all the women and men of their class, not alone in Australia but in every land on earth.

Don't misunderstand the great import of this term, "working class." You, by being a "living wage" earner, are a member of that class only—and remember that all other classes constitute your oppressors, opposers, and exploiters, the capitalist class, the employing class, who have all the good things of life, out of your toil and waste of issue—on a bare "living wage." To rally to this simple fact, that on this earth there are two classes, the working class, and the employing class, is the common, but with all its ever increasing hostility, THAT constitutes the "Class War."

When you understand this state of THINGS (three things)—TWO classes, and the war between them—then you are a fully class-conscious worker, and you will be able to sense a bonehead, and have become a brainy-headed worker who will, without any prompting know your place and line of action to best help to effect the liberation of the men of our working class, the friends of Long Bay. And remember, you are under no obligation to anyone BUT your class. There is no duty

"This war," wrote the late Lord Roberts, in his essay "New Givens to the World," was virtually necessary to all the nations engaged in it." Not only necessary, but salutary. Europe had, it seems, arrived at a stage of "over-civilization," of "anæmia," of "degeneracy," from which it was necessary to recover it. The symptoms of this over-civilization are as follows: "The labor market becomes unsettled, demagogues seize every opportunity to show their strength, and labor is organized against capital, trade unions break out of their shell, men, women and children speak out of conformity to the religious observances of a former generation; all men begin to live above their incomes; a grotesque extravagance on women's dress follows; schoolboys and undergraduates think it necessary to begin where their fathers left off; a political corruption begins to be the smart thing," etc. Hence Germany, in precipitating this war, "is the Allied States, and this war is not in the least a necessary evil, but a necessary blessing of the last. "It will come up with the swing of the pendulum. IT IS SALUTARY, NECESSARY, AND IS THE ONLY NATIONAL TONIC THAT CAN BE PRESCRIBED."

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.

In the historic times there were not very many slaves; but as the Greeks grew more rich and took more and more to tithing in cities, the number of slaves increased and the citizens came to depend more on slave labor. It became a common thing for the citizens to live in the town and leave the cultivation of the farm entirely to his slaves, Trades and men who employed slaves in their businesses, and there was no difference in the position of slave labor. A slave might be employed as the clerk or secretary of his master, and he might be the friend of his servant, or he might be treated as a brute. If he were a brute he was made to pass his life of misery and suffering. In reading the history of Greece we must bear in mind that we are reading the history of the masters only, not of the slaves, and that all the greatness and interest of Greek life belonged only to a part of the population. There was another part. The slave population—whose history, if it existed, would perhaps be too full of misery and suffering for us to bear to read it." (History of Greece by C. E. Fyfe, M.A.).

Is there an difference today? The industrial system knows all civilization is founded on slave-labor, chattel, feudal or vassalage.

DIRECT ACTION.

the Bugle of Defence Fund.

superior to, or above the one you owe to your class. You owe no faculty or good faith, no service of valor, or intellect, only TO YOUR CLASS, and until the working class of Australia and the planet are animated by this devotion to mutual service of "each for all and all for each," Labor will remain enslaved. You will perceive from the foregoing the need of EFFICIENCY in life organized effort to release to liberty and restored to the full service of their class, for which past, effort they are now the victims to capitalist tyranny. This is no work for faint hearts—no task for workshams. Our tyrants have matched our ranks—twelve times—and each a valiant champion of the people's cause. They can't be spared. They can be restored to their places again—some of them to home circles of affection—to wives and children. Some united front of the organized working class of Australia and our Fellow Workers can be free, and their liberation will demonstrate the power of the solidarity of Labor to ensure to itself freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and a free press, free from the penalties of a life time in goal, and a wholesale confiscation of our printed thought.

Workers of Australia, from Barrier Reef to Indian Ocean, surge—from Carpentaria to the Right, rally financially, rally in your moral strength and myriad numbers! Rally to the rescue from the injury of federal coils, the twelve free-sold plunderers in the class war—your class war—forward!

Oh! Inevitably of Labor, while our fellow-workers languish in Long Bay Bastille, it is a pity to prevent, and no man worthy of our class, can waste to speak his mind.

Arise! Oh, Australian! "Snatch from the ashes of your sires the embers of EUREKA flicks," and if any in the strife expires, "we'll add his name to the list of the dead, and he shall quake to last."

Forward, as a One Union! Unite, protest until our fellow-workers of our class are FREE again.

MONTY MILLEN.

Perth, West Australia.

OH, GRAND DEMOCRATIC AUSTRALIA.
 Where the people's choice governs according to the dictates of their own will.
 Where Labour rules impartially, via, your newspaper print.
 Where men of "Big Business," Experts etc., declare fifty million people can live with abundance, and the world is full.
 Where the working class portion of five millions are without a continuing employment, a holiday (seeking a home is not a holiday) a decent place to live in and proper nourishment, and a numerous starve though there be wheat in abundance, and the storehouses be full.
 Where men speed up to give more luxury to the idlers and more misery to the workers.
 Where unionists, yet men availing that they have a kindred interest, race one another up the boss's side-alley to get the chance to do the work.

Where men who have given the full working capacity of a lifetime get twenty-two pounds a year; and men who have done nothing get thousands to still do nothing.
 Where all the rest of our laws, our Government, makes and gives, our Labor Government, makes and gives, with the swing of the pendulum. IT IS SALUTARY, NECESSARY, AND IS THE ONLY NATIONAL TONIC THAT CAN BE PRESCRIBED."

The worst, the Parliaments and some individuals against them, are suffering a terrible slump though—Judge Pring, notwithstanding.
 Where the few producers of everything for the many are satisfied with an arduous system, which measures their necessaries of life in the same manner as the big business measure coal to a locomotive, food to a working horse, and oil to machinery.
 Where a worker can be employed as the man to knock up and the fat dog long before blow-up time. Can the same thoughts be found from one living in ease and plenty, as delivered in our cut-throated minds of those poor displaced, ever-yet-hungry driven fools.

Where's the medicine to cure our ignorance, laziness and self-interest, and to give us the knowledge and courage to make better things for all?

The I.W.W. has the remedy.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Previously acknowledged | 489 11 |
| Collection, Port Kembla | 1 15 |
| Woomera | 1 0 |
| Scarborough | 1 15 |
| Langham Park | 0 12 |
| Donation | 0 2 |
| St. George | 0 2 |
| Transport | 0 4 |
| St. George | 0 10 |
| A. Mavakas | 0 2 |
| V. Crisp | 0 6 |
| Collection, H. Clark | 0 6 |
| Donation, Friend | 0 1 |
| Collection, Bathurst Street | 0 12 |
| Bathurst Street | 0 9 |
| Donation | 0 1 |
| A. Mack | 0 4 |
| Lady Friends | 0 10 |
| J. Wilkie | 1 0 |
| J. Wilkie | 0 5 |
| Collected, J. Clark | 1 10 |
| R. Jones | 3 12 |
| Collection | 3 1 |
| Collection | 0 12 |
| "Shawcross" | 0 10 |
| Collection | 1 0 |
| Collection | 2 12 |
| Donation, C. Hobbs | 1 0 |
| C. C. Timorow | 1 0 |
| H. Durbanham | 0 5 |
| F. Falsa | 0 5 |
| A. Manx | 0 5 |
| C. A. Dillon | 0 2 |
| W. Olves | 0 4 |
| Jack Chubb | 0 5 |
| McMahon | 0 5 |
| Collection, Bathurst St. | 0 5 |
| "Duddell," Coff's Harbor | 10 0 |
| Donation, Timbers Workers' Union, | |
| Melbourne | 5 0 |
| Collection, Defence and Release Com- | |
| mittee, Queensland | 15 0 |
| Donation, Fire Brigade Linton | 0 10 |
| Collected, Port Kembla | 0 14 |
| Bull | 0 12 |
| V. Graham | 0 2 |
| Joe Laverick | 0 10 |
| Scarborough | 5 9 |
| Collection | 0 5 |
| Collection | 0 5 |
| F. Loudin | 14 4 |
| A. Foley | 4 5 |
| Donation, J. Malsena and Sympe- | |
| three | 2 0 |
| R. Strange | 0 4 |
| Collection | 2 0 |
| J. E. C. | 0 13 |
| W. Crawford | 0 10 |
| M. T. Hanlon | 0 18 |
| J. C. | 0 2 |
| B. W. Griffiths | 0 2 |
| B. Grey | 1 0 |
| J. Corles | 0 4 |
| Collection, Fitters' and Engineers' | |
| Depot | 0 13 |
| Collected, J. O'Malley | 4 11 |
| Donation, W. O'Malley | 0 5 |
| S. Wallis | 0 5 |
| S. Payne | 1 0 |
| H. Rice | 1 0 |
| S. Booth | 0 2 |
| A. Miles | 0 4 |
| A. Sloat | 0 5 |
| S. Nyberg | 0 10 |
| E. Moyle | 0 10 |
| Loan | 100 0 |
| Donation, D. C. | 0 10 |
| E. C. Roberts | 1 0 |
| Friend | 0 5 |
| Collection, Lithgow | 1 10 |
| Lithgow | 1 13 |
| Donation, J. Barry | 0 5 |
| J. Morris | 0 5 |
| Chas. A. Lee | 0 2 |
| J. Woods | 0 2 |
| Miss Cullinan | 0 2 |
| Collected, Jessup | 0 13 |
| A. Church | 1 0 |
| Gus Ballal | 0 15 |
| G. Ferguson | 1 10 |
| Total | £715 4 11 |

Total income ending 7th February, 1917.

J. R. WILSON, Secretary, Defence and Release Committee.

For dearer the grave or the prison, blimed by one patriot's mine, Than the trophies of all who have risen, On Liberty's ruins to fame.

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