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# WOOD'S NEW BREW

This Beer obtained 3 First Prizes at R.A. Show, Sydney, '12

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# The Co-operator



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**ALES AND STOUT**  
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One Quality—THE BEST.

LET the Co-operator do your printing cheaper.

VOL. XII., No. 52 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916. Eight Pages ONE PENNY

### SAFETY FIRST! SAFETY LAST! SAFETY ALWAYS!

Apply the SAFETY FIRST motto to yourself. Just figure to yourself how best YOU can safeguard your HEALTH, and in addition, your POCKET.

Here's how—  
**SEE SPENCER NOLAN ABOUT YOUR TEETH.**  
Teeth play a big part in life. I have had 20 years' experience in Dentistry, and I KNOW that I can give YOU a thoroughly satisfactory job at the right figure.

Here are my Fees—  
Painless Extractions . . . . . 2/6  
Painless Fillings, from . . . . . 2/6  
Upper or Lower Sets, from . . . . . 11/1/-  
Patent Suction Sets, THREE GUINEAS.  
ADVICE FREE.

AND—REMEMBER:  
You do not pay cash. I extend to "Co-operator" readers a special Easy-payment Method which cuts out the strain of paying cash. Prices are the same as cash patients pay. Will you see me?

**SPENCER NOLAN, The Dentist,**  
"Best in the Long Run."  
132 LIVERPOOL STREET (over Almsworth's), next SNOW'S.  
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### THE WORKADAY WORLD.

"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD."

#### MUSICIANS CONDEMN CANNED MUSIC.

Going into Business as Picture Show Proprietors.

At the Sydney Labour Council meeting last Thursday, the secretary of the Musicians' Union (Mr. W. O'Brien) stated that certain musical (?) machines were being used in the city at picture shows, and these were causing unemployment among members of the union. That union intended to go into the business for itself as picture show proprietors or amusement providers. They relied on the patronage of all unionists. The canned music provided in some of the shows would give a cow the stomachache, and it is high time that something was done in the direction indicated by Mr. O'Brien. The picture show patrons are mainly working class people and should be loyal enough to unionism to make the venture a success.

#### LABOUR FOR FARMERS.

"Assistance of a Very Special Character."

The supplement to the November issue of the "Industrial Gazette" has the following:—  
"The Minister for Labour and Industry desires to have it brought to the knowledge of farmers throughout the State that his Department is able to offer them assistance of a very special character at the present juncture when local reserves of labour are depleted and the prospect of carrying out harvesting and other agricultural operations promptly and efficiently is somewhat uncertain. The Department has means whereby the labour resources of the State as a whole can be organised and a concentrated labour power applied to special purposes. The Minister proposes to make it a matter of public concern that farmers shall during the period of the war have the labour they require."—What's the game?

#### SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Hundreds of Men Thrown Out of Work.

Last week the Government issued orders for the closing down of construction works at Coff's Harbour, at Coonabarabran, and at Stanwell Park.

A similar course is to be taken with regard to other works during the present week and, as a result, some thousands of men will be thrown out of work. According to Mr. Bodkin, general secretary of the Railway Workers' Union, who made enquiries concerning the Government's intention, it is proposed to dismiss the men on all of the duplication works, and the manager of the Norton Griffith Company has announced that the stoppage of all other construction works will take place this week. The men employed on these works are entitled to certain holidays at Christmas, but are being dismissed beforehand in order to deprive them of these privileges. This is the Christmas box that the "National" Government has prepared for the workers. There are two significant things to be noticed in connection with this general stoppage of public works: one is the commencement of the recruiting campaign and the other the announcement by the Minister for Labour that he was evolving a scheme which would have the effect of providing plenty of labour for harvesting. It is thought no doubt that lack of work will prove a big factor in recruiting men to the colours and that those who cannot go to the front will be glad to accept agricultural work at all. This policy has the sanction of a number of ex-Labour Ministers—Holman, Hall, Fitzgerald and the rest of them—who protested against their expulsion from the Party on the grounds that they were still good labour men. Every day that passes is providing evidence to show that their expulsion was more than justified apart from their attitude upon the question of conscription.

#### SHOP ASSISTANTS GET AN INCREASE.

#### LIMIT OF WAGES BOARD JURISDICTION.

Board Cannot Deal with Salaries over £225 per Year.

On Thursday last Mr. Acting Justice Scholes varied the award of the Professional and Shopworkers' Group No. 3 (Tobaccoists') Board on an appeal by the Shop Assistants' Federation. The principal grounds on which the appeal was based were that the rate of wages prescribed was too low; that the daily hour limit was too long, in that the time allowed for finishing was too late when starting before 8 o'clock in the morning; and that employees were not to be allowed to have meals on the premises. His Honor said he would vary the award by providing that females at 23 years of age should be paid 4/6 a week instead of 3/7/6; that inexperienced hands between 16 and 21 years of age might work in the industry for two years at 20 per cent. lower than the award rates, provided that any male employee of 21 years of age must be paid the minimum rate prescribed for that age. Time and a half must be paid for all hours worked over 48 hours per week; all work done on Sundays to be paid for at time and a half in addition to the weekly wage; and on public holidays ordinary time in addition to the weekly wage.

### A Practical Xmas Present

is a Savings Bank Account—one that you can give yourself, as well as your wife and children, and convert partly or wholly into cash when the necessity arises.

THIS BANK offers you 3 1/2 per cent. interest on every £ up to £500, with Government guarantee for the security of your savings.

£1 placed to a child's account every Xmas will amount to £12 3s 6d in 10 years, £20 2s 9d in 15 years, and £29 13s 6d in 20 years.

**GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**  
The STATE Savings Institution. Head Office, 11 Moore St., Sydney.

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**A. HINGSTON, V.O.A.,**  
643 GEORGE STREET HAYMARKET, Telephone—City 82.

**UNITED INSURANCE CO., LTD.,**  
Head Office: Corner George and Hunter Streets, Sydney.  
For FIRE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, and other CLASSES OF INSURANCE

### Arnott's Living Pictures.

For Breakfast, for School Lunch, and at all times, give your dear Children

## ARNOTT'S Famous Milk Arrowroot BISCUITS.

They Make a Delicious Breakfast.  
Soak these Biscuits in Boiling Milk, and add some sugar. Satisfying and Strengthening.

EDGAR MILTON HAYES,  
Sons of Mrs. R. E. Hayes, Rosebank Butchery, Botany-road, Botany.

AN ARNOTT'S MILK ARROWROOT BISCUIT BOY.

#### THE DISADVANTAGES OF BEING MARTHA WILKINSON.

The Humanitarianism of Militarism.

"Martha Wilkinson, working at the York (England) Munition Works, left without notice. She was suffering from inflamed knees (for she had to stand 10 1/2 hours seven days a week), and a piece of steel injured her eye. The doctor attending her testified she was unable to work; the factory doctor said she was fit to work. The firm prosecuted, and (under martial law) the court decided that, as the doctors disagreed, she should return to work for a month to test if she were really unfit. Compare this treatment with the N.S.W. Government's treatment of the Railway Commissioner who, when sick and unable to work, received £8 17s. per day for over a year.

#### "LEST WE FORGET."

A Choice Assortment of Abuse.

"The Woman Voter," a Melbourne publication has collected the following choice assortment from one "Age" editorial of September 20, that dealt with the anti-conscriptionists who issued the New South Wales Labor manifesto and described them as politicians, cowards, whippersnappers, cravens, milkops, weaklings, chicken-hearted rascals, refuse, rejects, froth of humanity, shufflers, skulks, shirks, poor churls, degenerates, natural sneaks, base metal, trembling panic mongers, drivelling dotards, traitors, fliggety, affrighted tremblers.

The same paper also alleged that the anti-conscriptionists refused to "play a man's part," wanting to keep "their soft billets," "save their own skins," to have "no taste except for slowing down," of playing "the dunghill cock," of being "types never known to rise to the dignity of one heroic action," "in the mire of contempt," of representing "funk, effeminacy, and failure," of sinking to the "lowest depths of unspeakable meanness."

And now these Billingsgate boasters complacently ask us to forget and forgive. We should smile!

#### GAZETTAL OF AWARDS.

Awards and Variations Published Last Week.

In the "Government Gazette" a number of awards and variations appear, consisting of the following: Food Supply and Distribution (No. 1) Group, No. 1 Board; variation altering the hours of work for bakers in county of Cumberland, for the present week. Furniture Trades Group, No. 7 Board (Blind Makers); variation increasing wages from £2 10s. to £2 15s. 6d. Domestic Group (No. 6 Board); laundries, award fixing wages, conditions, Iron and Shipbuilding Trades Group, No. 6 (Electrical, State) Board; variations, disallowing improvers, etc. Food Supply and Distribution (No. 1) Group, No. 3 Board (country bakers and bread carters); full award governing wages and conditions. Iron and Shipbuilding Trades Group, No. 6 Board (electrical trade carried on by the Council of the City of Sydney); full award covering wages and conditions. Manufacturing (No. 1) Group, No. 1 Board (makers of pottery, tiles—other than roofing tiles—chinaware and Bristol wares in the State, excluding the counties of Yaocowinna and Northumberland); full award covering wages and conditions. Manufacturing No. 1 Group, No. 7 Board (roofing tile makers in the State, excluding the counties of Yaocowinna and Northumberland); full award. Wholesale Transport Group, No. 10 (wholesale drug storemen) State Board; full award. Building Trades Group, No. 11 Board; variation as regards wages. Government Railways Group, No. 12 (Newcastle coal cranes); variation removing suspension. Professional and Shopworkers Group, No. 3 Board (grocers); rescinding and replacing the award. Manufacturing (No. 2) Group, No. 9 (Colonial Sugar Refining Company) Board; variation. Professional and Shopworkers Group, No. 3 Board; variation. Manufacturing (No. 2) Group, No. 1 (four mills, etc.) Board; variation. Miscellaneous Group, No. 5 Board (bill-posters); award providing wages and conditions. Furniture Trades Group, No. 5 Board; full award covering over fourteen pages of the "Gazette."

### FURNITURE

Houses furnished completely in every detail.

**AT REDUCED PRICES.**  
No Extra for Terms.

65 worth, 10/- Deposit, 2/8 Weekly.  
110 worth, 20/- Deposit, 5/8 Weekly.  
165 worth, 40/- Deposit, 11/8 Weekly.  
220 worth, 60/- Deposit, 17/8 Weekly.

Terms arranged for Larger Amounts.

Double Bedsteads, complete, £4 5/- up to £10 10/-.  
Single Bedsteads, complete, £2 10/- up to £4 10/-.  
Wardrobes, with Bevelled Mirror and Underneath Drawer, £2 15/-.  
Bedroom Suites, £7 10/-.  
Dining Room Suites, in leather, from £12 10/-.  
Ditto, in Oak and Maple, £12 10/- to £18 10/-.  
Sideboards, with Large bevelled mirror, £3.  
Sofas, in Oak and Maple, from £12 10/-.  
Drawing Room Suites, in Tapestry Genoa Velvet, etc., from £4 10/-.  
Occasional Tables, Whatnots, Cabinets, Music Cabinets, Carpets, Floorcloths, and all Kitchens were equally cheap.

**C. FORSSBERG,**  
78 WILLIAM STREET, EAST SYDNEY.  
Near Museum.

JUNKET made from these genuine Tablets is recommended by numerous doctors as being highly nutritious and invigorating for the digestive organs.

## JUNKET TABLETS

For INDIGESTION & DYSPEPSIA.  
One of these specially-prepared Tablets acts most beneficially when taken daily after meals.

## Victor Pianos

are made to our own design and will stand years of hard work in any climate.

They are sold fully guaranteed.

Call or write for free Catalogue showing Easy Terms.

## Paling's

335 George St. SYDNEY  
and at NEWCASTLE and LISMORE.

#### THE PERTH I.W.W. CASES.

Men Convicted and Sentenced, but the Sentences Suspended.

The nine I.W.W. men accused of conspiracy at Perth, W.A., were, last week, found guilty and were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but the sentences were ordered to be suspended on account of the men entering into two recognisances of £25 each for their good behaviour during the term of sentence.

#### IN DURANCE VILE!

Prominent Anti-Conscriptionist Advocates Doing Time.

John Curtin, secretary of the Trades Union National Executive (Vic.) was, on Nov. 24th, sentenced to three months' imprisonment for failing to enrol under Hughes's proclamation. Norman Grant, president of the No-Conscription Fellowship (Vic.) was sentenced to six months on a similar charge. Neither of the accused were present at the Court when the sentences were passed. Both were arrested on a warrant last week and lodged in the Melbourne gaol. Melbourne unionists are much annoyed at the action of the authorities.

#### LET US HAVE A PICNIC

Said Nancy to her married sister Susan who was down from the country for her Xmas holidays. "It would be lovely," replied the other, but wouldn't the catering be too much work for you?" Not all! "We can take some of these

## "REX" CANNED GOODS

that I always keep on hand. And the rest of the catering will be quite as easy." "Now where shall we go?"

"REX" SHEEP TONGUES, "REX" PORK AND BEANS, "REX" PORK SAUSAGES, "REX" OX TONGUES, "REX" CAMP PIE.

All are good for packing in the Picnic and Camp baskets. They come ready to serve, the Sausages and Pork and Beans are however easily warmed up, by submerging in hot water for ten or twenty minutes.

"REX" LUNCHEON CHEESE, "REX" VEAL & TONGUE PATE, "REX" HAM PATE,

are great for the Sandwiches and hunger supplies the Sauce.

SOLD BY ALL GROCERS EVERYWHERE. GET IN A SUPPLY TO-DAY.

## FOGGITT, JONES & CO., LTD.,

Curers of "Rex" Hams and Bacons. Packers of "Rex" Pure Food Products.

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Thursday, December 21, 1916.

THE SAFETY VALVE

MR. KEMPSTER AND HIS CRITICS.

In the "Co-operator" of the 7th Inst. there appeared an article by Mr. A. B. Kempster under the heading "Why I left the Tramway Union."

Mr. W. J. Whiteley, of the Waverley Depot, writes as follows:—"The most regrettable feature of your issue of the 7th Inst. was that indiscreet and unwarranted attack on organiser Buckley by Mr. Kempster."

Consistency was Mr. Buckley's policy right through; determination and perseverance were among his many fine points.

I have been a member of the "All Grades" for over four years, and I remember Mr. Buckley's advocacy of amalgamation with the Amalgamated; but he contended that if he joined he would take 1000 others with him.

Men in the country who read this letter should remember the fight he has had to put up organising under the greatest of difficulties.

I have seen Buckley out at six o'clock in the morning advertising a meeting that he would hold that day at Randwick workshops.

No organiser of any union has ever had the fight that organiser Buckley has had, a fight that would break down anybody's constitution, but such is not the case with him; he has plunged headlong, despite all opposition, with a will and determination, a force of character and strength that is admired by all who have watched the progress of his great work.

The child-like attack on such a man by another such as Mr. Kempster should bring the condemnation down on him that he certainly deserves. However, Mr. Kempster is not, and never was, taken seriously by any tramway man.

Organiser A. W. Buckley also writes:—"Kempster's letter of the previous issue of the 'Co-operator' has its humorous aspects, in so far as Mr. Kempster, in applauding his own attitude in joining the Amalgamated did not make it clear that when the new union was discussed by tramway men it was for the purpose of, and did have the effect of, bringing the men together."

Mr. Editor, the audacity of a man to take office in the "All Grades" while remaining a member of the Tramway Union, and attending their meetings. No doubt, like others, Kempster saw that by joining the "All Grades" his job was in jeopardy, and stuck to a union that was more appreciated by the department.

MUTUAL AID AMONG SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY MEN

A LEVY OF FOUR SHILLINGS PER MONTH.

Mutual aid enthusiasts in New South Wales will be interested to know that the annual report of the Transvaal and Orange Free State R.M.A. Association is a very satisfactory one.

The gathering, of which Mr. Long was chairman, could have been larger, but the members present by their sincere expression of good will and esteem for the guest more than made up for the absence.

Mr. E. Wickham then presented Mr. Harris with a beautifully inscribed medal and a case of pipes. He did so with genuine sorrow at the loss of such an old and tried friend and trusted the recipient would live long to enjoy the gifts.

On rising to respond our guest was visibly affected. He thanked his many friends from the bottom of his heart for their kindness and would treasure the valuable gifts beyond anything he owned.

Mr. W. Hoy, later of the Chalmers-street box, was to have been presented with a memento also, but owing to illness did not attend.

The chairman has since seen Mr. Hoy and handed to him an inscribed medal as a token of esteem from his many friends.

At a recent meeting of the Bankstown Municipal Council, Ald. Branagan gave an outline of the growth which is likely to accrue to the district in the immediate future as the result of hundreds of railway employees working at the assembling yards at Robert's-road.

Mr. Fingleton said: "Quite recently, owing to the supposed shortage of coal—and the supply was not so short as they would have the general public believe—the railway employees who were justly entitled to annual leave, were told by the department that they would not receive a holiday pass; and for that reason many of them were not able to get away."

In last week's "Co-operator" there appeared a letter from gangster Winter, of Marrar, relating to the death of an employee named Charles Jones, asking the "Co-operator" to assist in locating Mrs. Jones, the widow of the deceased.

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RETIREMENT OF MR. G. HARRIS

CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAM SIGNALS BRANCH OF THE "ALL GRADES."

Mr. Harris, after 34 years' Service, Retires on a Well-earned Pension.

Mr. George Harris, Chairman of the Tram Signals branch of the "All Grades," met his many friends of the service at Rawson Chambers on Wednesday, the 6th inst.

The gathering, of which Mr. Long was chairman, could have been larger, but the members present by their sincere expression of good will and esteem for the guest more than made up for the absence.

Messrs. A. Paulson, E. Wright and several others testified to the worth of our old friend.

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Mr. E. Wright, Mr. Geo. Young and J. Lower entertained the company in their usual obliging manner until the "lights-out" order, 10 p.m.

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HOSPITAL TRAINS

A BOON TO SHATTERED SOLDIERS.

One of the most striking and important works of the railways has been the provision of hospital trains, which have been built in the different railway workshops for the Red Cross.

To one sincerely interested in this very important branch of Red Cross work, the story of how these trains are built and how they carry on their noble work of saving life and limb and mitigate the sufferings of the wounded reads almost like a romance, and yet it is really one of the many splendid facts of which the British Red Cross, aided by the willing help of the different railways, has reason to be proud.

The chairman expressed the pleasure, mixed with sorrow at the loss of their old comrade, it gave him to preside over such a representative gathering.

Messrs. A. Paulson, E. Wright and several others testified to the worth of our old friend.

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THE LATE MR. HARRY RICHARDSON

VOTE OF £1500 TO DEPENDENT RELATIVES.

In the Assembly on the 4th inst. Mr. Dooley said that he would like some explanation of the item—

"Allowance to dependent relatives of Mr. Harry Richardson, formerly Assistant Commissioner for Tramways, equivalent to the monetary value of 12 months' leave of absence due to the late official at the time of his death, £1500."

"I know," Mr. Dooley went on to say, "there have been instances where holiday leave was due, but the public servant entitled to it died in the meantime, and the leave was not allowed, although applied for."

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick: It is now generally done, I can assure the hon. member. It was not allowed formerly, but for some time past it has been.

Mr. Dooley: Is this amount in lieu of holiday leave?

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick: Yes. Vote agreed to.

HANDSOME TREATMENT

£60 Per Week For Doing Nothing.

Last year, on June 4th, Mr. J. Harper, Chief Commissioner for Railways, was granted a month's leave on full pay—£60 per week, £8 17s per day, including Sundays.

For travelling on the railway without paying his fare—Sydney to Redfern—and for delaying ticket examiner eight minutes, a man named George Lewry, last week, at the Newtown Summons Court was fined 20s., with 6s. costs, for each offence.

It is stated that the Government may decide to discontinue some of the construction works in the country districts, also the proposed city underground railway, with the exception of certain sections of it.

At Parkes on Sunday, 10th inst., a committee meeting was held to wind up affairs in connection with the recent social. It was resolved that the balance-sheet be adopted.

Mr. W. E. Crumpton, of Kendall, desires, through the "Co-operator," to thank the general secretary of the Amalgamated for having obtained from the Commissioners a refund of half the amount charged for the carriage of one head of stock.

DEBATE IN THE ASSEMBLY

RAILWAY ESTIMATES. CRITICISM OF RAILWAY MANAGEMENT

In the Assembly on Dec. 6th, the Railway vote, £7,846,340, was discussed and eventually carried.

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In the Assembly on Dec. 6th, the Railway vote, £7,846,340, was discussed and eventually carried.

Mr. Dooley said that he would like some explanation of the item—

"Allowance to dependent relatives of Mr. Harry Richardson, formerly Assistant Commissioner for Tramways, equivalent to the monetary value of 12 months' leave of absence due to the late official at the time of his death, £1500."

Mr. Dooley: Is this amount in lieu of holiday leave?

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick: Yes. Vote agreed to.

HANDSOME TREATMENT

£60 Per Week For Doing Nothing.

Last year, on June 4th, Mr. J. Harper, Chief Commissioner for Railways, was granted a month's leave on full pay—£60 per week, £8 17s per day, including Sundays.

For travelling on the railway without paying his fare—Sydney to Redfern—and for delaying ticket examiner eight minutes, a man named George Lewry, last week, at the Newtown Summons Court was fined 20s., with 6s. costs, for each offence.

It is stated that the Government may decide to discontinue some of the construction works in the country districts, also the proposed city underground railway, with the exception of certain sections of it.

At Parkes on Sunday, 10th inst., a committee meeting was held to wind up affairs in connection with the recent social. It was resolved that the balance-sheet be adopted.

Mr. W. E. Crumpton, of Kendall, desires, through the "Co-operator," to thank the general secretary of the Amalgamated for having obtained from the Commissioners a refund of half the amount charged for the carriage of one head of stock.

of men who will give every consideration to a question, and not be affected by outside influences. If that system were introduced it would do away with a long standing grievance. There are men in the service occupying positions they should not occupy, and there are capable men holding inferior positions. While we have that state of affairs we shall not have a contented service. If we give the men the right to have their cases dealt with by an impartial Board every case will be decided on its merits.

I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to certain increases in the department at a time when Ministers claim that the pruning knife must be used in connection with hospitals. I am one of those who do not believe that a man's salary should be cut down. If the salary is statutory I will never give a vote to reduce the amount. If a man is not capable of carrying out the duties of his position he should be dismissed. What might apply to other departments with regard to statutory salaries certainly does not apply to many of the cases I propose to refer to in the railway and tramway departments. So far as the rank and file are concerned, before the increase of wages can be obtained they must go before a wages board. No one objects to that. If a man is not in receipt of a living wage we have created tribunals whose special duty is to investigate each individual case, and to hear the evidence for and against. That is the procedure which applies to the rank and file; they have to demonstrate to the board that they are entitled to an increase, and they must produce facts in support. My contention is that what is good for one section of the service is equally good for other sections. But what do we find is the position amongst the higher paid officials? I propose to draw the attention of the Minister to certain increases which have been given by the departmental heads; and whatever comments I have to offer, it must be recollected that I am not dealing with the individual but with the principle involved.

(To be continued.)

NO WATCHES

The general secretary of the Amalgamated has received the following letter from the secretary for Railways:—"With reference to the request made by members of your Association at a deputation to the Deputy Chief Commissioner on 10th October last, that all railway employees in responsible positions such as timekeepers, permanent way gangers, train examiners, etc., be supplied with watches, I have to inform you that the matter has had the further consideration of the Deputy Chief Commissioner, who regrets that action cannot be taken as desired at the present time."

A GREAT MACHINE

There is one wonderful machine which the worker owns, but which the capitalist still controls—his brain. It's the greatest machine in the world, a machine from which has come all other machines. It's the machine that fashions all the dreams of men, and it's the machine that makes those dreams come true. It's the machine that gave the dream of Socialism to the world, and when those who own this most wonderful machine collectively supervise its workings, the dream of Socialism will also come true.—"Appeal to Reason"

STEWARDS WALK OUT

Obdurate Skipper Sails Without Them.

On Tuesday of last week the Canberra was lying at the wharf in Brisbane preparatory to sailing for Sydney, when the skipper was waited upon by the stewards and informed that unless one of their number was dismissed they would walk down the gangway. Captain Danton refused to grant their request and had to sail without their stewards, numbering about 40. Such is the report. The passengers, it is stated, with evident satisfaction, got on very well without stewards. They arranged among themselves to do the work of the missing men, a number of ladies officiating as stewardesses. The making of beds and other work was done by the passengers themselves, and honorary stewardesses and stewards were presented with mementoes at the end of the voyage. Quite a jolly picnic don'tcherknow, Eh, what! One person, who was a passenger, writes to the papers commending the work performed by the first and second class stewardesses in the absence of the stewards. They were on duty from five in the morning until midnight in the endeavor to cope with the emergency. The "Co-operator" is not possessed of a knowledge of the real merits of the dispute, but it isn't prepared to believe that 40 men would walk ashore and risk fine and imprisonment unless there were very good reasons for doing so.

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EDITORIAL MATTER.

It must be distinctly understood that "The Co-operator," Ltd., is alone responsible for all editorial matter appearing in this issue.

ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Space will be given for contributions and articles dealing with any helpful subject. We will do our best to authenticate all facts sent in, and where we cannot do so, will place matter in an open column where we will not be responsible for the opinions expressed.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Whilst all our business in connection with free services to our readers will be conducted in good faith, and the best service and advice given, it must be understood that all such services are of a friendly nature, and without legal responsibility.

AGENTS WANTED.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916.

THE POINT OF VIEW.

Time flies.

The finger on the dial has moved round, and we are again face to face with the Christmas festival, one of the pivots upon which the Christian calendar revolves.

Sir Walter Scott once wrote: "Our time is like our money; when we change a guinea the shillings escape as things of small account."

So it is with our days.

As Christmas approaches we cease to think much of the past, and look with hope to the future. There is, so to speak, another year jingling in our pocket like a new sovereign, and we conjure up visions of all the nice things we are going to buy with it. In another week or so we shall change it and commerce to spend it, and probably by the time the 365 units of which it is comprised are gone we shall have very little to show for it.

The sentiment of Christmas is popularly supposed to be spontaneous, natural joy, qualified by no defect or abatement.

It is a festival that has come down to us from a time long anterior to Christianity, probably from the time when our remote ancestors used to celebrate the birth of the sun-god with much mirth and revelry.

In the minds of most people, it is associated with the birth of Christ, who has been called the Prince of Peace. According to one of the evangelists (Matthew), He it was that reproved the impetuosity of one of His followers, who "smote the servant of the high priest and struck off his ear."

"Put up again thy sword into its place," he is reported to have said, "for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

This is no time for raising theological disputes, but in passing one cannot help wondering how those who accept such a clearly-expressed condemnation of bloodshed reconcile it with the pagan-like militarism so loudly and continuously expressed by the great majority of those who profess to be able to interpret the gospel of Peace as preached by the Jewish carpenter.

However, Christmas may be regarded, either as the anniversary of the Nativity, or as the half forgotten relic of a far-off pagan festival, revised and adapted to suit a new religion, the subject need not concern us very much.

The fact that it is recognised as a social rather than as a religious festival is more to the point, because men and women of diverse beliefs and opinions can share in the social pleasures and recreations that are a characteristic feature of the season—that is, if they have the wherewithal to do so.

To a great many of the class to which the "Co-operator" appeals, the approaching Christmas will not be the time of joy and pleasure that it ought to be.

The immediate outlook for the workers of this State is not hopeful or encouraging. Many of us whose duty it is to fight the battles of the wage-earners, to note the trend of events and to be prepared for eventualities, foresee troublous times ahead, in the shape of unemployment and attempts to undermine and destroy the efforts of organised Labor.

With the State and Federal Governments in the hands of the reactionaries, it is certain that no efforts will be spared to undo much of the little good that has been done in the past, and to bring economic pressure to bear upon the wage-earning classes so that they will be unable to prosecute their demands for improved conditions and increased pay.

The cost of living shows no signs of gravitating to a normal condition. The Federal Government is piling up war expenses at the rate of tens of millions of pounds per year, and may be depended upon to ease the burden of taxation upon wealth as far as it is possible to do so.

We repeat the prospects are anything but reassuring from the point of view of the ordinary wage-earner.

Already the "National" State Government—so-called, though it is in no sense national, but rather a self-constituted junta composed of Labor rats and bowtell Tories—is providing a foretaste of what it is likely to do in the near future. Construction and deviation works are being stopped, and thousands of men are being turned off to fill up the ranks of the unemployed. The wives and children of these men will have their Christmas marred and saddened by the reflection that poverty and destitution are staring them in the face.

Some of their mentfolk will probably enlist in order to provide food for their women folk and their little ones, or for dependent relatives. Unemployment, starvation and poverty are evidently regarded as likely to be more potent recruiting agents than Hughes's impassioned speeches.

Labor organisations are going to have a struggle to keep the privileges they have won after many years of toil and self-sacrifice.

All this sounds very pessimistic and discouraging, and there is not much of a Christmas flavor about it; but it is of no use to disguise the facts that are so clearly apparent.

The duty of those upon whom the responsibility of leadership falls is to set the pace and commence a campaign for the consolidation of the Labor movement. The duty of the rank and file of the movement, and of those upon whom lesser responsibilities fall, is equally as obvious and as imperative.

The fight will be for the possession of the political machine, and will be made harder by the fact that the forces of Labor's natural enemies have been increased by the addition of renegades from its own ranks. To add to the obstacles that will have to be overcome, bogus Labor movements are already afoot, and will receive the ostensible support of the capitalist press.

There is, need, then, for every genuine Labor elector, and every unionist, to get into the political firing line, if the edifice which has taken so long to erect, and which is still a long way from completion, is not to come tumbling about our ears.

This is the position from the "Co-operator" point of view. It has no desire unduly to magnify the difficulties that lie ahead; but neither does it wish to minimise them. With the advent of the New Year, the paper hopes to commence a vigorous and sustained effort to assist in the work of organisation and education, believing that, despite all these difficulties, the solidarity of Labor in New South Wales is a reality, and that it will eventually triumph over its enemies.

This is not at all what we intended to say when we commenced writing about Christmas, but perhaps what has been said may be more to the point than a column of stodgy, hypocritical sentiment about how good everybody ought to feel, because it is Christmas. If the brotherhood of the workers is real, and not imaginary—and we believe it is real and is becoming more and more real as we understand the ethics that underlie it—then we should feel charitable towards our fellows always, not merely at stated times set apart for the purpose. If it is good to be jovial and friendly and charitable at Christmas time, it is surely still better to entertain these feelings one for another all the year round.

THE BOARDS.

EARLY HEARING OF CLAIMS.

As reported in last week's "Co-operator," the general secretary (Claude Thompson) has received assurances that there will be no further delay in regard to hearing of claims before No. 1 Board. In the course of his address to the Court, the general secretary, gave the following particulars of delays to some of the boards controlled by the Amalgamated Association:

No. 1 BOARD.

Elevator men, Darling Island (Interim Award): First sitting, 25th January, 1916; last sitting, 12th April, 1916; Award gazetted, 20th April, 1916.

From first sitting to Award: 12 weeks.

Per. Way and Signalling Branches (Interim Award): First sitting, 18th April, 1916; last sitting, 14th June, 1916; Award gazetted, 4th August, 1916.

From first sitting to Award: 15 weeks.

There were six sittings of the Board for the hearing of claims and one inspection, say seven sittings in eight weeks, an average of not quite one a week.

No. 2 BOARD.

Supplementary claims: Proceedings began on 9th August, 1916; there have been six sittings to date, 13 weeks, an average of one half a sitting a week.

No. 3 BOARD.

Traffic: First sitting, 6th June, 1916; last sitting, 3rd November, 1916. Twenty-two weeks, and the award is not yet issued.

There have been sixteen sittings and eight inspections, say twenty-four sittings in twenty-two weeks—an average of a little over one sitting a week.

NEW AWARD FOR CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

INCREASED WAGES AND ALTERED CONDITIONS.

The new award of the Building Trades, No. 1 Board, covering carpenters and joiners in the county of Cumberland and within a radius of 10 miles of Newcastle provides an increase from 1/6 to 1/8 in the wages of carpenters and joiners, bringing the weekly wage up to £4 from £3 12s. Bridge carpenters outside Sydney and suburbs are to receive 1/11 for work on bridges over 14ft. and 1/9 1/2 on truss bridges. There is a new provision in regard to bridge and wharf work, that employers must provide all augers over 1in. and hammers over 3lb. For country work employees must be conveyed with their tools to and from their work at the expense of the employers. Considerable increases will be brought about in the wages of apprentices and young journeymen. For the first year the former will be increased from 7/6 to 10/ per week, second year 10/ to 15/, third year 12/6 to £1, fourth year £1 to 25/, and fifth year 25/ to 32/6. Young journeymen during their first year are to receive 1/2 per hour in place of 1/, and in their second year 1/4 in place of 1/1 1/2. Apprentices starting in mill joinery must, at the expiration of the third year, be transferred from stock to detail work. Preference to unionists is provided for. The claim for a 48 hour week was not acceded to.

NEW AWARD FOR COMPS. AND OPERATORS.

Substantial Increases For Compositors and Readers.

A new award for compositors, operators, readers, and apprentices.

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT. No individual—in fact, nothing but a force as strong and compelling as a natural law—could have brought into existence such a vast solidarity as now exists in the world of Labour. Like food and drink, the organisation of Labour satisfies an inherent necessity. The workers crave its protection, seek its guidance, and possess a sense of security only when supported by its solidarity. Only something intuitively impelling as the desire for life could have called for the labour and love and sacrifice that have been lavishly expended in the disheartening and incredibly tedious work of labour organisation. The upbuilding of the Labour movement has seemed at times like constructing a house of cards; often it was hardly begun before some ill wind cast it down. It has cost many of its creators exile, imprisonment, starvation, and death. With one mighty assault its opponents have often razed to the ground the work of years. Yet, as soon as the eyes of its destroyers were turned, a multitude of loving hands and broken hearts set to work to patch up its scattered fragments, and build it anew. THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IS UNCONQUERABLE.—Robert Hunter.

No. 5 BOARD.

Building Tradesmen: As the first sitting on 14th March, 1916, was of a preliminary character, the second sitting, on 18th July, when evidence was entered upon, has been used as the starting date. Last sitting, 13th October; award not yet gazetted. There were twelve sittings and one inspection, say thirteen sittings in twelve weeks, an average of slightly more than one sitting a week.

Messrs. Clynne and Thompson are finally revising the claims and bringing them up to date. There is abundance of evidence available on behalf of fitters, gangers, all maintenance and workshop men, but there is very little evidence forthcoming on behalf of men in extra gangs. All the branches have had plenty of opportunity of securing witnesses. Those who are willing to give evidence are urged to send in their claims at once. If they do not it may be too late, and the case will be heard without it.

The fall of Mr. Asquith (leader of the British Liberal Party) is a victory for the Northcliffe press, and the Northcliffe press has recently shown a strong inclination to extend its baneful influence beyond the frontiers of the United Kingdom, and to poke its mercenary and malicious finger into Australian politics.—Sydney "Worker."

other than those employed in daily newspaper offices, increases the weekly wages from £3 5s. to £3 16s. 6d. in the case of compositors and readers, and continues the rates of the previous award to linotype operators, while raising monotype keyboard operators' rates by threepence per hour, thus making a uniform hourly rate for all keyboard operators. The piece rates for hand compositors are increased by twopence per thousand ems, machine piece rates being unchanged. Casual workers see an increased hourly rate if employed for less than a week. Apprentices' wages are increased in the fifth and sixth years by 5s. and 7s. 6d. respectively, and when overtime is worked provision is made for payment by 1s. tea money. The award came into operation on the 10th instant, and has a duration of three years, being enforceable within the County of Cumberland and the police districts of Newcastle and Maitland. On Monday last before the Industrial Court, an application was made for the suspension of the Printing Trades Group, No. 1 (Compositors) Board Award by the Master Printers and Connected Trades Association, Mr. J. Stuart Thom appeared on behalf of the applicants; and Mr. C. A. Coghlan for the Typographical Association of New South Wales, to oppose the suspension. After argument, his Honor granted the application, and suspended the award pending the appeal.

FIRSTLY: The "Head of the Firm" extends the Compliments of the Season to all "Co-operator" readers. SECONDLY: Thanks for your goodly amount of support extended to me since I opened. YOURS TO A TICK. FRED MIDDLETON Watchmaker & Jeweler. (Late Manager, Orchard's). 767 GEORGE ST., SYDNEY "Fred Slices Prices."

DESTITUTE SOLDIERS. It is disappointing to discover that a large number of returned soldiers, many of whom are married, will not have the necessities of life at this season. One applicant to the Returned Soldiers' Association is reported to have said the other morning, "I wish I had been killed, then my wife and kiddies would have had the pension and not have to worry about their Christmas dinner." There are hundreds of these men out of work through no fault of their own, who have neither money nor credit. The R.S.A. wants £500 by Friday night or Saturday morning in order to help them.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY MEN'S GRIEVANCES.

Departmental Board Proposed.

A few days ago the Victorian State Cabinet considered the question of granting wages boards to the railway service. The Cabinet's original proposal, as announced in the Budget, was for the appointment of a departmental board, with the right of appeal for employees. The Cabinet reviewed the whole position. The Railway Commissioners hold that to secure financial stability they must retain final control over wages, and the Cabinet agrees with the Commission. The Cabinet, it is understood, will adhere to the proposal for a departmental board with the commissioners retaining final powers. This board is expected to consist of representatives of the Commissioners and employees.

SAWMILL AND TIMBER YARD AWARD VARIED.

Last week end Acting Justice Scholes delivered judgment, varying the Sawmill and Timber Yard Award in certain respects. The alterations were principally of a technical nature. The question of wages was referred to a board, with the direction for them to find whether the principles laid down in the Government Tramways Group No. 3 Board's award were applicable to this industry. If they were found to be applicable the board was ordered to apply them.

PERSONAL

Mr. Roberts Gillespie, gas fitter, Hornsby, has retired after 30 years' service. He was a man held in high esteem by all his fellow-workmates, who wish him every success.

A Vancouver message states that Mr. J. H. Catts, M.H.R., has arrived at that city on board the Niagara.

News has been received of the death, from wounds, of Private Raymond Lord, youngest son of Sergeant Lord, of Parkes. The late Private Lord was 26 years of age, and was for some time in the railway service.

Information is to hand to the effect that Gunner E. J. Woolnough, has been wounded. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the timekeepers' staff at the head office of the Tramway Department.

A few weeks back it was intimated to the car and wagon shop men that one of their comrades required treatment at the Wentworth Falls, or some other sanatorium for incipient tuberculosis. The secretary of the R. and T. Hospital Convalescent and Consumptive Fund was not able to do anything because Mr. Blackwood was not a member of the Consumptive Fund. His comrades then said they would take up a special collection if Mr. Cuneo would draft the lists. This was immediately done and the following results obtained: Mr. J. W. Nicholson 36/6; Mr. C. Peake 137/6; Mr. Swanson 75/6; Mr. Wallace 53/3; total collected £152/6. Mr. Blackwood is reported to be doing well and is expected to be able to resume work soon.

Official information has been received that Gunner E. G. B. Malcolm, aged 22, second son of Mrs. J. K. Malcolm, of Torrington, Woolahra, was killed in action in France on November 14. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the electrical staff at the Waverley Depot. He went through the Gallipoli campaign, and took part in the evacuation.

P.L.L. SELECTIONS.

King Division: Mr. T. J. Smith, organiser of the A.W.U., has been selected by the King P.L.L. to contest the King State electorate. Mr. Smith on the first count received 147 votes, J. J. Rynn 93, and J. Woods (the secretary of the Wharf-labourers' Union) 58. Woods then dropped out. On the second count, the figures were: Smith 177, Rynn 120.

Newtown: The result of the ballot held on Saturday last, was as follows: F. M. Burke, 75 votes; T. Caserly, 19; R. G. Roach, 14; O. C. Pennington, 8; informal 3. Mr. Burke, the successful candidate, is president of the local league.

Enmore: D. Mulcahy, president of the Enmore League, was successful in the ballot for the Marrickville electorate nomination. He secured 72 votes—two more than his nearest opponent, G. Bodkin.

Anandale: The selection ballot was held on Saturday, with the following result—W. J. O'Brien, 216; G. Radford, 79; A. C. Wallace, 41; G. M. Davidson, 29; W. Hutchinson, 21. Mr. O'Brien is a son of the late Alderman W. O. O'Brien, of Anandale, who at one time occupied the positions of vice-president of the Political Labour League and president of the Sydney Labour Council.

The Perth Electric Tramway Employees' Union decided at a mass meeting held at midnight on Saturday that unless the Commissioner of Railways conceded the men's demands for higher wages and better conditions they would cease work on Tuesday night last.

MOSTLY POLITICS.

The total amount of commission paid to Norton Griffiths & Co. in connection with their contract to Oct. 31st was £46,146/15/5.

The amount paid to date for resumed properties in connection with the underground city railway project is £251,121. The remaining liability for resumptions is £970,000.

Mr. Nielsen and his staff in America costs the N.S. Wales Government £3305 per year. This is for salaries only. The staff consists of Mr. Nielsen, a timber inspector, two clerks, two messengers, and a deputy commissioner. The total expenses are £6000 per year.

Mr. Durack wants to know whether the Liberal party swallowed Mr. Holman or whether Mr. Holman swallowed the Liberal party.

The Director-General of Public Works reported to the Auditor-General that the Norton Griffiths Co. paid an architect to design furniture for their office and charged the Government commission upon such payment.

"The expenditure connected with the Norton Griffiths contract, Mr. Nielsen's office, the State Governor, and the Legislative Council could be saved without detrimentally affecting anybody."—Mr. McGirr.

"We have had the appointment of Mr. Beeby to a portfolio and a seat in the Legislative Council. That is one of the greatest outrages with which any Government could be charged."—Mr. Boston.

The Newcastle and Merewether Labour League have, it is stated, refused to call for fresh nominations for the Newcastle seat, being determined to stick to Mr. Gardiner, M.L.A.

Mr. Durack, leader of the State Labour Party complains because the Party is not represented on the Public Works Committee. It seems a pity, but the Wade crowd must be placated in some way for keeping the "National" Bunyip Government in office.

The "National" Government does not believe in preference to unionists. Let us not allow ourselves to be deceived on this matter. Answering a question in the House last week Mr. Holman said that it was not proposed to make preference compulsory, but to leave it to each union to prove to the Court that it was representative of the employees in the industry concerned.

In the House of Representatives last week, the assistant Minister for Defence informed Mr. Mahoney that the salaries of the censorship, in salaries alone was £2550 per month, or £30,600 per year.

FRANK TUDOR.

The New Leader of the Federal Labor Party.

In selecting Mr. Tudor as their leader the Labor Party has paid a great compliment to one of its most popular members (says the "Adelaide Herald"). The choice places him in the direct line of succession to the Prime Ministership. Mr. Tudor has been a member of the Federal Parliament ever since its inception. He has held the Yarra seat with ever-increasing majorities, and now has a grip on it that nothing could shake. He was chosen by Mr. Fisher as Minister for Customs, and has by universal consent made one of the best administrators of that department who has ever been in it. Mr. Tudor is a good speaker, although by no means an orator. He lacks the brilliant debating ability of Mr. Hughes, and makes no pretence to the fine periods of Mr. Watt. But he can hold his own, and when leading the House during the absence of Mr. Hughes in Europe surprised many by his grip of things. The role of leader of the Opposition will be a novel one for him, but no doubt he will be helped by his unflinching good temper, and by the faculty of being liked even by his political opponents that distinguished him. The next year or two should see Mr. Tudor blossom into one of the leaders of Australia.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Mr. A. D. Sellars, of Paddington, writes to the general secretary as follows:—"I wish to acknowledge having received money order for £2 10/2 on the 8th ult., being the amount you received on my behalf from the Railway Department. I must again thank you for the attention and promptness you displayed on my behalf. I wish the Association every success and the season's greetings."

RAILWAY RED BOOK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. 2/- EACH. may be obtained from— E. S. RICHARDS, "Fernleigh," Watkin-st., Canterbury, Sydney, or N.S.W. Bookstall Co.

OBSERVATIONS.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

(By "BILL.")

When we were having tea last night I said to "Liza," says I, "The Editor of the 'Co-op' wants me to send him some notes."

Says she, "Well you'll do nothing of the kind—Johnny if you don't sit up straight and eat your tea properly I'll smack your face—we want all the notes you can earn. I had to give 4/ for a leg of mutton to-day, things is that dear—just look at that Lucy plastering the jam all over the clean cloth, my word me lady I'll give it to you, and me spending hours an hours washin' an ironin', did you ever see such children—we can't afford to give him no notes."

"I don't mean money," says I, "I mean writin'; notes about things in general for people to read."

"Oh," says she, "that's different, but what do you know about writin', anyway—there I told you what would happen, there's the tea all over my clean cloth (spansks and howls as Lucy is dragged from the table). I'm worried to death with them children, is it any use for a woman to try and keep the place clean? I don't know who they take after at all—I hope if you do write you'll tell 'em about them people next door as is drinkin' all day Sundays and prying into other people's business."

"I gotta write about politics and things like that," says I, when the noise abated and I had a chance to get in a word or two sideways. "Polityticks, polityticks," says she, "what's the good of that?—here take the baby while I try to get a bite for myself. I'm that fagged I can hardly stand—as far as I can see all them polityticks think about is themselves, they don't care how us folk have to struggle—I wonder where that boy Tom is, why can't he come to his meals at proper times?"

I didn't pursue the subject further, but when they were all in bed and asleep I sat down to write.

Talkin' of politics, there's Senator Hooley. Hooley came out in the same ship as me thirty years ago, and we took him for a poor idiot boy. An' now look at him. He's a Senator. I always tell 'Liza that its not safe to judge by appearances. Well the other day Hooley was entertained by his constituents—he contracted pewras theeniah, which all politicians seems to get as a result of their strenuous labours—and his medical adviser ordered him a long rest an' a sea voyage, an' he's gone home to buy Ireland, so 'tis said. Now Hooley is not a man that tries to hide his humble origin; in fact he's rather proud of it, and says he, in response to the toast of his health: "When I first landed in this country I was Mick Hooley," he says, "an' I wurked on the roads, an' it was damnd hard wurk, too," he says, "an' all I got was six bob a day." "But," he says, "livin' is cheap in them days, an' I saved a bit and bought a tip cart and some tools and commenced to take contracts, an' be that time I was Mister Hooley. Then, as ye will remember," he says, "I got into the Council and I was Aldermahn M. Hooley, an' it wasn't long before I was made a Jay Pay, an' I was Aldermahn M. Hooley, Jay Pay." The glasses jumped on the table and the rafters rang with applause (I think that's the way to say it). "An' thin," continued Mister Hooley, "ken the call of duty in the political arena, an' you will remember," he says, "that you elected me as your representative in the State Parlymint, an' I became Aldermahn M. Hooley, Esquire, Jay Pay, M.L.A." More applause, and Hooley wiped his dome-like brow. "Thin," he says, "the years rowled on, an' Federation was carried, an' wider speers of activity opened out," he says, "an' the electors made a Senator of me, an' I was Aldermahn M. Dooley, Esquire, Jay Pay, M.L.A. an' Senator." Loud and prolonged applause, hoorays for Hooley, and a shower of stones rattled on the roof of the Town Hall. "An' the other Sunday," Hooley went on, "me and the wife went to church, its part of our public duty," he says, "an' just as we entered the sacred buildin' the quire struck up the grand refrain 'Hooley, Hooley, Hooley, Lord God Almighty.'" The rest of the speech was drowned by the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," in nineteen different keys.

I see by the papers that they are going to have a film censorship. "Liza has a great opinion of them picture melo dramas; says she hopes they won't cut out the love scenes. "Them picture play actors," she said, "do make love so beautifully, just like you read about in books and magazines." "But they're only acting," says I, "perhaps if you could see them at home you would find them just the same as anybody else. All this gyver, bowing and scraping and kissing women's hands, may be very well on a picture, but it would look damnd silly in real life." "Liza snorted and tossed her chin—chins I should say—in the air. "You don't know nothing about 'igh society," she says, "my father's brother was butler in the Duke of Devonshire's family for generations," she says, "an' I ought to know something about it." Talking of the censorship of pictures reminds me of what Ike Batten, a friend of mine whose son is an operator, said about it. Says he, "As

far as nude figures and things of that kind are concerned," he says, "there's no need for a censor, the operators do his work as well as their own, and without extra pay." "They haven't got a union or a wages board," I replied, "perhaps they believe in one man two jobs." Ike laughed, "It's this way," he says, "if there's anything at all spic in a picture the operator at the show where it is first screened snigs out a foot or so, and the operator of the show at which it is next screened snigs out another foot or so, and so it goes on until the worst part—that is the part most likely to shock the feelings of right thinking people—is gradually expunged from the minutes, so to speak." "You don't say so?" says I, "them operators surely deserve a bonus from the Society for Promoting Public Morals."

As far as I can make out this Christmas isn't going to be a jolly for some people. Here's 'Liza's brother George, who's been working on the construction works at Coff's Harbour, writing to say that the works are to be closed down, and that all the men, over a thousand of them, are to be sacked. George is like a good many others that have families to keep; he just manages to oke out a living and the sack means that in less than a fortnight there won't be a bit of tucker in the house and no money to buy any with. Nice sort of Christmas holidays these chaps will have; it seems that thousands of men that have been working on construction and duplication works all over the State are being put off, and that work is to be suspended owing to shortage of funds. This, it seems, is the policy of this new "National" Government we've heard so much about. It makes a fellow wild enough to chew glass bottles. Ike says that the "National" Government is a Government formed for the purpose of assisting the recruiting campaign by depriving men of the means of making a living, and, incidentally, for the purpose of finding jobs for renegade Labour Ministers such as Cann and Hoyle; I begin to think he is right. He says, "These political rats and job hunters are a disgrace to the country; they will be crawling into snug billets made for them by Billy Holman and his Liberal pals to escape the retribution that would fall upon them were they to face an outraged people." Ike is sometimes very—what you would term expressive.

AT IT AGAIN.

COMMISSIONER MILNE ON THE IGNORANCE OF RAILWAYMEN.

"AWFUL RISKS AND CERTAIN PENALTIES."

Mr. Milne, Assistant Railway Commissioner, speaking at the opening of the Orange branch of the N.S.W. Railway and Tramway Institute, it reported to have stated that Mr. Fraser and himself were more than pleased to note the efforts to establish these institutions. There was an immense scope for their activities. One of the outstanding evils to be contended with was ignorance. He did not mean ignorance in the ordinary scholastic sense, but ignorance of the responsibilities of the individual in relation to the industrial problems; ignorance of the value of time and opportunity; ignorance of the duty of the individual as a factor in the State and national prosperity. The Commissioner hoped that these branch institutes would be important factors in the war against such evils. The present condition presented a happy hunting ground for exploitation by the unscrupulous and the disloyal. It would almost appear that the possibilities of awful risks and certain penalties of the future had been completely forgotten in effect, as if there was no future.

As regards the work of the service generally, Mr. Fraser's message was economy. There must be no misunderstanding or misapprehension. The position was most serious. Their business was transport, and the finances must be kept on an even keel. It would be a calamity of the worst kind if it were not so. A most potent factor in this good work was economy in time and effort, economy in production and use of power, economy in stores and material, economy all along the line.

"The stern necessity for this," he said, "is self-evident from the following figures:—For the year ended June 30, 1916, a total increase of £234,943 was granted by wages boards to the staff, and on the basis of further awards already issued provide for increases during the financial year ending June 30, 1917, totalling £338,841. These are legal awards, and the law must be obeyed. At the present moment there are eleven sets of claims pending before wages boards, representing £901,455. The increasing burden also caused by the added cost of material is appalling. To meet these demands each and every member of the staff must rally to the call for economy and maintenance of efficiency, which in itself is a guarantee of the best form of economy."

CO-OP MAIL BAG.

J.B.—The report of the November meeting of the Superannuation is not yet to hand, but it will be published as soon as it is made available to us.

HOSPITAL FUND

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee of the Railway and Tramway Hospital Fund held a meeting in the Railway Institute on December 1st.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was read:—From Mr. G. H. Keddie and from Mr. Sheenstone (works manager, Randwick Trams) re the case of Mr. Ryce, and reply thereto; from Mr. W. A. Mowatt, of Rozelle Tram Depot, announcing his resignation and nominating Mr. Thos. Palmer, tram driver (Rozelle), in his place; to the Superintendent of Lines re weekly notice calling in lists and half-fare rates for the secretary, and reply thereto; to the matron of Wagga Hospital re the claims of two patients; to the secretary of Bulli Hospital; to the secretary of the Werris Creek branch of the Loco. Engine-drivers and Firemen's Association at Werris Creek, asking for a nomination for a collector in lieu of Mr. W. Edwards, removed; to Mr. J. W. Wright accepting his resignation and an application for a refund from Mrs. W. J. Layton, who was a patient in Lester P. Hospital; also a letter from Mrs. Carr.

Apologies from Mr. W. E. Newell, Mr. W. A. Hayes, and Mr. O. Joyce were read. With regard to the correspondence the secretary explained that it had been treated in the manner indicated by the replies thereto. It was often necessary to read the papers in order to show the trend of the business. The matters he refrained from dealing with were matters of administration, and he would only ask for an endorsement of what had been done if it was satisfactory to the committee. The application for a refund by Mr. Layton was found in order; receipts were produced and membership proved.

The action taken by the secretary was endorsed. It was resolved that the refund to Mr. Layton be paid.

ACCOUNTS.

The following accounts were presented, checked, and passed for payment:—

Table with columns: Hospital, No. patients, No. days, £ s. d.

REFUND ACCOUNTS. Mr. W. J. Layton, Chatswood Lister Private Hospital 28 £3 0 0

GENERAL BUSINESS. In reply to Mr. Nicholson, the secretary, stated that the amount collected for Mr. Blackwood, of the Wagon branch, was held in trust. Mr. Blackwood not being a member of the Consumptive Fund, and the date for joining being closed, he had to deal with it as a trust account only. He was pleased to say that he was informed by Mr. Swanson that the man was an inmate of Waterfall Sanatorium, and was reported to be doing well. He could call up the money at any time, which, from memory, aggregated about £15.

In regard to printing the annual report the secretary said that he found that the coal strike made it difficult to get tenders, but he hoped to have a definite statement to lay before them at next meeting. It was difficult to make a forecast, but was absolutely certain that the increased cost of paper and production would not tend to cheapen it this year.

The president said it gave him much pleasure to receive from the secretary the very kind and appropriate worded letter the committee saw fit to send him during his illness. It went to prove that no matter how much they might differ in opinions there was at the bottom that good feeling and respect that he was anxious to earn from every comrade in the service. He was pleased to be able to say that he was going strong in harness again. (Applause.)

The secretary introduced and welcomed Mr. Palmer, the new representative from Rozelle. He also welcomed Mr. W. A. Angell, the North Sydney representative. The president feelingly drew attention to the decease of a very old and efficient trustee of the Hospital, Mr. Edward Monk, one of the oldest men of the railway service at the Central Station. He retired some few years back, and had now been called to the bar which we must all cross. He moved that the secretary be instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mr. Monk's mourners. The motion was carried.

Mr. Crossman said that, seeing that they would not meet until the new year was ushered in, he would take the opportunity of wishing them a happy and prosperous new year. Mr. Crossman's good wishes were recorded and re-echoed amidst members.

THE SURRY HILLS SEAT.

ORGANISER A. W. BUCKLEY A CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTION BALLOT.



Organiser A. W. Buckley is as full of energy as a dynamo. He seems to have been born with a desire to get around and do things. Even while a callow youth of twenty or so he commenced to engage actively in the work of agitation, and he still remains a firm believer in the glorious gospel of discontent. Away up in North Queensland he was, as early as 1909, one of the chief spokesmen of the sugar workers of North Queensland. Being a ready speaker and an exceptionally good organizer, he is well known in the industrial world, and possesses the confidence of all who know him. As already stated, Mr. Buckley took an active interest in unionism, being appointed representative of the A.W.U. at the age of 19. In 1911 he was the leader and advocate in the big Queensland sugar strike, and coming from that State to N.S. Wales he entered the tramway service. His ability was quickly recognised by tramway men, who eventually appointed him to the Management Committee of the Tramway Union. From then on he was always in leading Labor circles. At Newtown tram depot he was appointed the representative of the Tramway Union, in the face of great odds, and in opposition to men of long service, who had held the confidence of the members for years. Further proof of Mr. Buckley's popularity is to be found in the fact that he succeeded in defeating some of the most respected officers for the position of vice-president of the Tramway Union, and he was successful in defeating the union secretary, Mr. Warton, by three votes to one, for the position of delegate to the P.L.L. Conference. To-day Mr. Buckley is an organiser of the Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Association, and is recognised as a power in unionism. During the recent no-conscription campaign the "Amalgamated" loaned Mr. Buckley's services to the No-Conscription Committee, and he was appointed organiser for the Northern suburbs from Hornsby to Manly. Though North Sydney carried "Yes," he was responsible for considerably increasing the Labor vote in that district. To the backbone Mr. Buckley is a unionist and industrialist. He is a most persevering agitator, and is a most determined upholder of the rights of the workers.

BONUS FOR DISCHARGED EMPLOYEES.

At the meeting of the Sydney City Council, held on Monday night, Alderman Burke moved,—"That one day's pay for every month's service to all men put off through shortage of work or other causes for which they are not responsible, in cases where such men have had six months' service or over, be granted." The voting being equal, the Lord Mayor (Ald. Meagher), gave his casting vote in favour of the motion. Notice of intention to move for the rescission of the motion was given by Alderman Sir Allen Taylor.

THE "CO-OPERATOR."

In order that the "Co-operator" staff may have a few days holiday the issue for the 28th inst., will be reduced in size and will be published a few days earlier than usual. Reports and contributions that arrive too late for insertion will be carried over for the first issue of the new year.

Attention to the decease of a very old and efficient trustee of the Hospital, Mr. Edward Monk, one of the oldest men of the railway service at the Central Station. He retired some few years back, and had now been called to the bar which we must all cross. He moved that the secretary be instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mr. Monk's mourners. The motion was carried.

Mr. Crossman said that, seeing that they would not meet until the new year was ushered in, he would take the opportunity of wishing them a happy and prosperous new year. Mr. Crossman's good wishes were recorded and re-echoed amidst members.

I.W.W. SENTENCES

A QUEENSLAND OPINION.

The following letter appears in a recent issue of the "Daily Standard," Brisbane:—

Sir,—I am sure that I am voicing the views of the great majority of your readers and of the intelligence of the population when I say that the sentences passed upon the I.W.W. members charged with incendiarism constitute one of the most disgraceful blots on the history of Australia. We know that the lives of many of the finest literary men and noblest workers in the cause of working class emancipation in Ireland were recently sacrificed as victims to class hatred. Johnson of dictionary fame gave a definition of patriotism which still applies to-day in a vast number of cases both locally and internationally.

Australia has so far been tolerably clean in her treatment of alleged political offenders at least since the great shearer's strike 25 years ago, when many innocent men were gaoled on a similar charge. It stands to her credit, but the recent treatment of members of the I.W.W. would do much to tarnish that fame. I have followed the trial of the I.W.W. members as closely as press reports allow. I cannot see any clear evidence against the prisoners, while much in the evidence suggests a conspiracy among intending defrauders of insurance companies to carry out evil designs and blame an unpopular working class organisation. The vile attacks of certain politicians on this body are cowardly and criminal. Some at least of these politicians know sufficient of economics to be aware that they lie, and by lying prejudice many people who have never studied the subject for themselves.

While it is possible that one or two of the accused may have had some knowledge of intended incendiarism, I cannot believe that all were guilty. Nor can I see clear evidence against any one of them. However, the jury found them guilty. We know what juries are, and also what to expect of them. A jury composed of middle-class men of meagre intelligence and expanded paunch has vast dignity and great gullibility. Such a one falls an easy victim to the diatribe of political tricksters and society tonguesters. If he made up of three officers, two controllers, ten stationmasters, seven clerks, ninety-two drivers, ninety-two firemen, eight steam raisers and boiler washers, one timekeeper, eight blacksmiths, eight fitters, seven fitters (tube), eight fitters (Westinghouse brake), eight assistant blacksmiths, eight assistant fitters, seven assistant fitters (Westinghouse brake). The section will be quartered at the Agricultural Ground, Moore Park. A similar contingent of railway men is being raised in South Africa.

struggle. It was not for Judge Pring to dispute the justness of the verdict. It was his business to sentence, and in times of war treasonable incendiarism is a heinous crime deserving the severest punishment. But who with any sense of fairness can allow that Judge Pring was with in his right in criticising the I.W.W. in the manner he is reported to have done. His remarks show him to be the victim of bitterest class-conscious bias. He ignorantly refers to the I.W.W. as a gang of criminals. No person with a knowledge of economics or of modern working class movements could make such an assertion. "World of Labor?" If not he should study there what the I.W.W. stands for. His only knowledge of the lying misrepresentations of the Tory press. It is indeed a pity for the country to have politicians and judges receiving high salaries who are too indolent to keep abreast with economic developments, and who will stand up and insult a considerable, and, on the whole, very respectable section of the working class rather than worry their headpieces with the study of political and social facts. I am not a member of the I.W.W. nor do I have any other Labor union, but my mind revolts against such scurrilous and slanderous remarks as the Judge is reported to have made.

While this country is fighting Prussianism on the battlefields of Europe we can, if we look around intelligently, see Prussian political methods, Prussian judicial methods, and Prussian espionage introduced into this country by a circle of self-styled patriots. The people should realise this, and public meetings should be held throughout Australia in protest until the I.W.W. prisoners are given a fair trial by an unbiased bench.—I am, etc., H. J. JENSEN, D.S.C. New Farm.

RAILWAY UNIT FOR FRANCE

Over 600 Applications Received.

Over 600 applications have been received from railway men in New South Wales willing to join the railway unit for France, and it has been decided to form one complete section in this State. The section will comprise 269 men of all ranks, and will be made up of three officers, two controllers, ten stationmasters, seven clerks, ninety-two drivers, ninety-two firemen, eight steam raisers and boiler washers, one timekeeper, eight blacksmiths, eight fitters, seven fitters (tube), eight fitters (Westinghouse brake), eight assistant blacksmiths, eight assistant fitters, seven assistant fitters (Westinghouse brake). The section will be quartered at the Agricultural Ground, Moore Park. A similar contingent of railway men is being raised in South Africa.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

The purpose of this article is to clear up the misunderstanding of industrial unionism and explain what a real industrial union is and should be. To bring this out clearly it will be necessary to go into a brief analysis of capitalism and the conditions it has brought with it.

The first basis we set down is the class struggle. Upon this is built up the entire superstructure of Socialist thought.

Capitalism is a system of production by capital. This necessarily implies owners of capital and non-owners of capital, termed capitalists, control all the mines, mills, factories, and other means of production. The non-owners, or workers, are those who work for wages in the mines, mills, factories and other means of production.

The wages that the workers receive come from the product of labour. The profit that the capitalist retains comes from the same source. Therefore, when the workers get more wages, the capitalists get less profits, and vice versa. Thus, under capitalism there is a constant struggle going on between the workers and the capitalists, each trying to secure more and more of Labour's product. This briefly is what the Socialists call the class struggle.

Evolution plays a great part in shaping the social structure. Where at one time we saw the workers break up the machines, which they thought were the cause of their impoverishment, we saw them later organising into their unions to try and better their conditions. They organised when upon craft lines, that is, each craft organised separately from the other. For a time this method was successful in combating capital and wresting concessions from it, but, as stated above, the development and concentration of capital rendered craft unionism useless as a weapon of Labour.

To-day a new unionism has sprung up to meet the new conditions. Concentration of capital makes imperative a new alignment of Labour organisations; it demands the concentration of workmen into one big union, an industrial union. This new unionism embraces all the workers of an industry; it brings them into an organisation which is a united whole; it does not comprise the mechanics merely of a particular branch in a shop or industry; it takes in clerks, bookkeepers, packers, shippers, and everyone engaged in productive work directly or indirectly in any particular establishment, and unites them in an industrial department of their industry. Its slogan is, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

In case the workers in any establishment are dissatisfied with their conditions, and serve notice on their master to that effect, and the master refuses to grant the workers their demands, then not only the dissatisfied workers go on strike, but the workers of the entire establishment go out as well. No contracts or anything else can make them stay on the job and scab it on their fellow workmen, as has, unfortunately, often been done by the craft unions.

What does this mean? It you have a sewing machine, and happen to lose a screw or any other small part of the machine, it is very easy to replace the same. But if the whole machine suddenly goes wrong it will take some time fixing, and it is well impossible to assemble enough different parts in order to have the machine operate as smoothly as before.

So with unionism, it is very easy to replace the workers in one branch of the industry, but it is an extremely difficult task to replace the workers in an entire industry, and no capitalist would be foolish enough to venture doing that.

BATTLE PICTURES BY PATRICK MACGILL

Patrick MacGill was wounded at Loos, and finished his book "The Great Push" in the hospital at Versailles. Most of the book was written in the trenches, and deals with the Allies' offensive movement in September, 1915.

MacGill describes war as it is—just as it is—without veneer or polish, in plain, everyday, substantial English, and his battle pictures impinge upon the imaginative mind with the force of a blow.

Trench Mates.

A man was standing on the parapet of a trench, his mate being below. There is the bursting of a shell—and then: "Get off, matey," I yelled; "I'm squeezed to death!" "Squeezed to death," they was my words. But he didn't move, and something soft and sloppy ran down my face. It turned me sick. I wriggled out from under and had a look. . . . He was dead, with half his head blown away. . . . When is the whole damned thing to come to a finish?"

The Stretcher-bearers.

He described how the stretcher-bearers won experiences that linked earth with hell when "the shells were loosened" and "men's lives were flicked out like flies off a window pane."

"Stretcher-bearers at the double!" We met him, crawling in on all fours like a beetle. . . . We dressed a stomach wound in the dug-out, and gave the boy two morphia tablets. . . . He sank into unconsciousness and never recovered. . . . His grave is out behind the church of Loos-Gohelle. . . . A man had the calf of his leg blown away; he died from shock; another got a bullet through his skull; another. . . . But why enumerate how young lives were hurried away from young bodies?

Effect of High Explosives.

A shell fell where a number of men lay on the ground: The shell burst, and the wounded and dead rose slowly into the air to a height of six or seven yards and dropped slowly again looking for all the world like puppets worked by wires.

"This," said the postman, who had observed the incident, "is a solution of a question which diplomacy could not settle, I suppose. The last argument of kings is a damned sorry business."

He tells of how on one occasion a woman was washing her baby at a pump in the street, and a shell blew her head off. Pieces of the child were picked up a hundred yards away. A soldier "came crawling toward us on his belly, looking for all the world like a gigantic lobster which had escaped from its basket. His lower lip was cut clean to the chin and hanging apart; blood welled through the muddy khaki trousers where they covered the hips."

"Wife and Two Kiddies."

A man lay wounded, a shell having torn away part of his side: "In much pain, chummy?" I asked. "Ah, Christ! Yes, Pat," he answered. "Wife and two kiddies, too. Are we getting the best of it?"

His legs shot out from under him, and muttering something about rations being fit for pigs and not for men, he fell back and died.

The Dead.

The dead were many. "All the way from Loos to the churchyard," he says, "the bones of the dead stick out through the parapet. . . . They lay six deep in places. . . . One bare-headed man lay across the parapet, his hand grasping his rifle, his face torn to shreds with rifle bullets. . . . When we came to the place where the dead lay six deep we had to crawl across them on our hands and knees. . . . On either side we could hear the wounded making moan, their cry was like the yelping of drowning puppies."

"You should see the road to Maroc. Muck to the knees; ladders, carts, waggons, guns, stretchers, and God knows what going up and down. Dead and dying mules; bare-legged jocks flat in the mud and the wheels going over them."

What the Moon Saw.

Later all was quiet. It was moonlight, and the guns had died down: "The wrecks of the previous day were still lying there; long-eared mules immobile in the shafts of shattered limbers, dead Highlanders with their white legs showing wan in the moonlight, boys in khaki with their faces pressed tightly against the cobblestones. . . . Many wounded were still lying out in the fields. I could hear them calling for help and groaning. "How long had they lain there?" I asked myself. "Two days probably. Poor devils. . . . My heart was filled with gloom. "What is the meaning of all that?" I queried. "This wastage of hell!"

THE RAILWAY APPEALS BOARD

Names of Representatives and Deputies. Department's representatives: Messrs. J. Spurway (secretary to the Railway Commissioners), C. A. Hodgson (superintendent of lines), E. Heydon (locomotive superintendent of staff), H. Fox (goods manager), R. W. Brain (chief electrical engineer), and E. J. Doran (tramway superintendent). If Mr. Fox goes to the board of commissioners, as is expected, his successor at the goods office will automatically take his place on the appeals board.

The employees' representatives (the name of the deputy-representative being given second in each instance) are as follow:—Accountants' branch, Messrs. J. J. Davoren and David Cumming; locomotive branch (clerical and running staffs), Messrs. A. S. J. Clappison and R. C. Walton; locomotive branch (mechanical staff), Messrs. Charles C. London ("All Grades") and G. A. Hughton; traffic section, Messrs. M. Kelly ("All Grades") and H. Messer; permanent way section (officers, including signalling and interlocking), Messrs. E. D. Campbell ("All Grades") and F. W. Oliver; tramway permanent way, Messrs. D. Maguire and J. Buckley; electrical officers, Messrs. V. G. Kavanagh ("All Grades") and J. Connell; tramway traffic section, Messrs. J. Falvey and A. G. Paul ("All Grades").

About 50 cases are waiting to be heard, and it is expected that the new board will make a start upon these during the present week.

VEREAL DISEASES

ICONOCLASTIC MEASURE.

COMPULSORY PROVISIONS.

DEFINITION OF A PROSTITUTE.

The outstanding feature of the new Queensland Health Bill, is the provision relating to venereal diseases. If that were the only feature of the bill it would be sufficient to stamp the measure as one of exceptional interest and importance, for at least a real attempt is to be made to grapple with an evil, the very name of which has been suppressed in a sense of false modesty. The appalling awfulness of the disease is shrouded in mystery and ignorance, but the bill, when it becomes law, should certainly effect an improvement.

The mere publicity that is given to the subject should certainly have some beneficial effect. The bill will provide for compulsory notification of those suffering from syphilis, gonorrhoea, and similar diseases, and it will also be compulsory for the medical to notify any case of disease coming under his notice. Of course this clause may be difficult to enforce in some cases, but a substantial penalty should go a long way towards effecting a radical change from the present "system."

As a corollary to compulsory notification is compulsory treatment, and the system of "lock" hospitals is to be abolished, the patients being treated in the various general hospitals. The object of that is to induce patients to come forward voluntarily, and where no stigma attaches, as is the case in a "lock" hospital, this effort is considered more likely to be successful. Patients will be obliged to continue treatment till a cure is effected or till they are discharged.

Hitherto the word "prostitute" has been difficult of definition, but an attempt is now made to define it, and probably for the first time in history it will be possible to class a man as a prostitute. This provision is expected to have a far-reaching effect, as a few moments' contemplation will show.

The bill is drastic in many regards, but probably the most iconoclastic of all the many features is that whereby a marriage with a syphilitic can be annulled, if complaint is made within 12 months after the ceremony. A lot more will be heard of the bill before it is disposed of, and indications show that unusual interest will be displayed in the measure.

LOCO. FIREMAN INJURED

FELL OFF HIS ENGINE.

A fireman named George Primmer, engaged on the Clyde to Carlford line, fell from the engine between Camelia and Rosehill stations, and was seriously injured. He was looking out to see if the sand box was working and fell. The driver, who was looking out the other side, did not miss his mate until he pulled up at Rosehill. Primmer was found on the side of the track with a deep wound on the side of the head. The injured man is reported to be progressing favorably.

Advertisement for R. B. Orchard Ltd. featuring "QUALITY GUARANTEED AT ORCHARD'S" and various watches and jewelry items with prices.

Advertisement for Goldsmid's Furnishing Warehouse, "I SAY RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY MEN" and "TO THOSE ABOUT TO FURNISH" with contact information.

WHAT IS AN IDEAL WIFE?

This Question is Often Asked, but Still Remains Unanswered.

Many Women Share Husbands' Business Secrets.

What is an ideal wife? How many times has this question been asked, and how many times has it been unsuccessfully answered?

Perhaps no one person could explain the qualities of an ideal life partner because, perhaps, of different ideas expressed on this matter by those who would like to possess one.

Women Broadening Their Sphere.

As the years go by women are taking interest in all that concerns their country, their loved ones and their own selves, and, possibly, this advancement has something to do with the lack of home ties which is becoming more prevalent every day.

Men, too, in these days, are heart and soul in their different occupations, and the cause might be attributed to their love of other places outside of the fireside.

Girls of Fifty Years Ago.

Were the women of fifty years ago ideal wives? Were they the pink of perfection in every conceivable way a man might mention? To be sure, some have said so, some who should know, but would that sort of a woman reach the goal which is expected of her to-day?

In those days home was first in thought of both man and woman, and the cares and anxiety of business were left to solve itself. The good and patient wives were not weighed with the troubles of the wage-earning occupation.

Share Husband's Cares.

To-day it is entirely different. Women are given full particulars of their husbands' business, and who should have a better right? Cares must be disclosed to some one, and why not to man's chosen partner?

Women of to-day are capable in any emergency. They have been allowed the privilege of knowing what the world is doing, and, although they have advanced far beyond what was expected, why are they not considered as good and faithful wives as those of years ago?

Self-Denying Female Extinct.

Perhaps it is true that the self-denying female is not in such strong evidence as formerly, but why should she be? Is she not entitled to as much consideration as men, and is there any plausible reason why she must give up all of the good she gets from this earth for the sake of man?

The wife of to-day is a helpmate for her husband—a something he could not do without. She is often the means of saving through her forethought, which few men possess, and many a calamity has been averted by a woman's judgment.

The wives of to-day are ideal, even more so if everything is considered than those of the nineteenth century.

SPLENDID REMEDY FOR CHILDREN'S COUGHS.

Mothers all over Australia are making in their own homes as good a remedy as money can buy for Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, Croup, Influenza, Bronchitis, and Sore Throats. All they do is buy from their chemist or store Two Shillings' worth of HEAN'S ESSENCE, and add to it water and sweetening matter enough to make up to one pint.

Best Orange Lemon and Mandarin Trees, Stone Fruits, 1/6 each. Choice Zone Plants 1/- each, 10/6 doz. English Privet, 10/- per 100. V. R. CAHILL City Markets, Every Friday up to 2 P.M. NURSERIES: BIRMINGTON.



Ladies! Be Patriotic Ask your chemist for KRESOLVO The Antiseptic Disinfectant for all purposes. MADE IN AUSTRALIA

THE AFFAIRS OF WOMEN. I am Always at the Disposal of our Women Readers. THIS PAGE is devoted exclusively to the interests of women. Those who desire advice are invited to write direct to Violetta Boyce, care of the "Co-operator," and every communication will receive prompt attention.

WOMAN WRITER DEFINES "SCAB" AS HUMAN BEING WITHOUT SELF-RESPECT

A "scab" is a creature over whom men and angels weep—a human being without self-respect, says Jane Whittaker, writing in the Tacoma "Labor Advocate."

"Scab!" There is no word in the English language so fraught with hatred as this one word, when it is used by strikers against strike-breakers. Girls cry it with tears of rage in their eyes and every primitive instinct aroused against the man or woman who is jeopardising their fight for better working conditions.

If you ask them just what is a "scab," you always get an answer like this: "A low-down fink who is taking our jobs." "A gutter bum that's scabbing on the job and sucking in with the boss," or even some unprintable definition; but always from the same angle—that the "scab" does to the worker.

The thing you never get and which has always seemed to me to be of no much more importance, is what the "scab" is to herself or himself.

A few years ago I had occasion to talk to the wife of a man who remained working while the rest of his shop went on a strike for better conditions.

His two children, both of them old enough to realise the word that was being called their father, sat in the room with the mother as she talked, and while her eyes were bright with defiance, the boy looked down at the pattern of the carpet and the girl looked out of the window.

"I told my man to work," the woman said defiantly. "I told him we ain't got no time for strikes. He'd been out of work for months before he got this job, and me and the children need the money. We got bills to pay."

Her voice was hard. She talked feverishly. She said too much. She realised she was the wife of a man who was a traitor to his class, and though she urged him on, though she justified him then, she was tasting the bitterness of loss of self-respect.

THE MULE OR THE GIRL?

John Jones, farmer, went to his barn one morning and found there a brand new mule colt, says the Indianapolis "News." He raised it until it was three years old, when 200 dollars was offered for it. Instead of selling it, he rented it to the city of Indianapolis for 85 cents a day, including board, stall, shoeing and medical attendance. The mule worked 250 days the first year, earning 212 dollars and a half, or 200 dollars net after taxes, etc., were paid. Mr. Jones bought another mule with the 200 dollars, which he also rented to the city, and at the end of the second year he had two mules and 400 dollars cash, which he invested in two more mules. He kept this up five years, till his first mule colt was eighteen years old, at which time he owned 32,767 mules worth an average of 100 dollars each, or 3,276,700 dollars. The nineteenth year they earned him a net income of 6,553,400 dollars.

Alice Allen, daughter of Albert Allen, living across the road from John Jones, was born the same day the mule colt registered his first kick. Her father fed, clothed and educated her for seventeen years at a cost of 125 dollars a year, and then sent her to business college for a year at an expense of 400 dollars, making her total cost at eighteen years 5252 dollars. When she was eighteen she got a situation as stenographer and office girl with an Indianapolis business house at eight dollars a week, paying for her own room, board, street car fare, shoes, doctor's bills, and as much clothing as what was left would permit.

All of which merely shows that some things are different from others.

FREE.

Every woman whose health is causing her anxiety is invited to write for a copy of our new booklet of valuable information, which should be in every home. Send 3d. for postage to Dept. C.O., Ladies' College of Health, 54 Oxford-street, Sydney.

POULTRY KEEPING reduces living expenses if "SCAB'S WAY" is followed. Poultry Notes posted free monthly to all interested. THEOPHILE LTD., POULTRY FOOD SPECIALISTS, 215 BUNNET STREET, SYDNEY

respect. And the children were tasting it with her. They would never be proud of their father again, for he wore the brand of a traitor, and they would not be able to forget it.

The loss of the respect of others is a terrible price to pay, but it is little beside the loss of one's self-respect. One may get away from others; one cannot get away from one's self. Judas, who betrayed his Master, hanged himself to escape his conscience. There is always the "still small voice" to taunt; there is always the sense of shame that only the traitor knows.

If the fight is lost, his is the consciousness that he helped to defeat the workers who fought, and the industrial slavery that binds itself still more tightly about the mass was caused by the treachery of one.

If the fight is won, he has no part in the victory, for he did nothing to make the fight a success.

He has not even the satisfaction of receiving the gratitude of the bosses for whom he betrayed his class. The briber has naught but contempt for the bribed. The capitalist despises the worker who will sell out his class. He wouldn't trust the traitor when his need of him is gone.

"Scabs" they start, and who do they finish? You will get your answer in front of some of the shops to-day where men who bear on their faces the brand of failure, and, more—the look of a traitor—are earning a few dollars a day hired out to the bosses to slug men and women clothing strikers. These sluggers are the fotsam and jetsam to-day. They are the men who began as traitors to their class, and to-day have no class to which to return.

They haven't the respect of the bosses; they haven't even the respect of the coppers, and they have the hatred of the class to which they once belonged.

If I were asked for a definition of a "scab" I would not give the one the majority of the workers give, I would say a "scab" is a creature over whom men and angels must weep—a human being without self-respect.

MY MATE.

Of the many gifts that God has given There's none more dear to me Than my little baby daughter— My bonny girl of three. She wakes me in the morning (No chance of sleeping late) With her merry childish prattle— She's "Dadda's Little Mate."

If I'm working in the garden, Or I sit me down to write, No matter what I'm doing, She wouldn't think it right If she didn't try to help me; And she tells me very straight, For fear I should forget it, That she "Dadda's Little Mate."

When the morning prayers are ended, And the Bible lesson read, And to wife and darling children A fond good-bye I've said, She waves her "hanky" to me, As she stands beside the gate; And through the busy day I think Of "Dadda's Little Mate."

And, when the day is over, And I hasten home to tea, I love to see my girlie Stand looking out for me. I know a welcome's waiting At the little wicket gate. From the sweetest child I know of From "Dadda's Little Mate."

As I come across the paddock, I can hear her merry laugh, And my business cares and worries Are reduced by more than half. I hurry on to meet her, Lest I should be too late; I am greeted with a fond caress By "Dadda's Little Mate."

She tells me all her troubles, As she climbs upon my knee; As there's nothing suits her better Than to have a romp with me. And, as I stroke her golden curls, I don't have long to wait Till she kisses me, and whispers, "See Dadda's Little Mate."

William Metcalfe & Co. Funeral Directors and Embalmers 117 Church Street, Parramatta Telephone 99 & 47 Parramatta

THE NEW TRUANCY ACT.

Will Operate from Jan. 1st, 1917. To Prevent Wagging.

The Public Instruction Amendment Act, better known as the Truancy Act, received the Royal assent on October 4, 1916, but the provisions will not be put into operation until the beginning of 1917.

The necessity for some amendment is apparent from the fact that the statistics of the Education Department show that the average attendance is only 80 per cent. of the weekly enrolment. In other words, 20 out of every 100 school children in New South Wales are absent every day that the school is open. Of course wet weather and epidemics of juvenile complaints are responsible in some measure for the absence of these children, but not to any very great extent. For instance, in the March quarter of 1915 the average attendance reached high-water mark with 85 out of every 100 children present. At the end of the year an epidemic of measles swept the country, with the result that the average attendance was only 78 out of every 100. It may be assumed, therefore, that the epidemic was responsible for the absence of 7 out of every 100.

Two provisions of the old Act made attendances ineffective. In the first place the Act required a minimum attendance of 70 days in each half-year. It was, therefore, not possible to take any action against a defaulting parent until after the close of each half-year. The child might have been kept at home 110 days, but this constituted only one offence, for the parent had merely to show that the child was attending some alleged private school, at which no register of attendance was kept, to defeat the object of the Act.

Under the new provisions these two defects have been remedied. The present Act has been based largely upon the experience of other States of the Commonwealth. At first sight the provision that a parent is liable if the child is absent for a single half-day appears to be very drastic. This condition, however, is rather preventive than punitive. In other words, the provision will prevent truancy rather than punish it, for parents will exercise a stricter supervision on boys suspected of truancy when they know there is a penalty. Under the Act all private schools must be registered and certified, while the principal teacher of every private school is now required to keep a register of attendance, which must be produced when required by the authorities.

THE WONDERFUL INFLUENCE OF FLOWERS.

Years ago while (says a writer in the New York "Sun") I saw half a dozen policemen trying to put a drunken amazon in jail. And what a time they had! She was a drunken fury. Her fingers were like tiger claws. She was making ribbons of their fine uniforms. The air was sulphurous with her horrid oaths. Finally they landed her. In her cell she was like a caged demon.

A delicate little woman saw the performance and pitied poor, wild Mag. She went into a flower store and bought a beautiful bunch of roses and had them done up in a neat box. She called at the jail and wanted to see Mag. The jailer said, "It won't be safe. She will tear you to pieces." But she was insistent. The frenzied woman glared at her. "What do you want here?" "I love you, Mag, and dropped in to see you." "You lie! There don't anybody love me! Everybody hates me and I hate everybody! Now you get out of here or I'll throw you out." "No, Mag, you wouldn't do that. Just see what I have brought you." She undid her package and showed the fragrant flowers delicately wrapped in tissue paper. As soon as Mag saw their beauty and breathed their fragrance her woman soul was touched, and great tears rolled down her cheeks. The little woman put her arms around her and their tears mingled.

ADVICE TO SINGLE WOMEN.

An American writer's advice to single women is embodied in the following doggerel:—"Get married then, Jinema dear; don't fiddle with a cheap career. Select a man who's true and good, whose head is not composed of wood; a man whose sound in wind and limb, then round him up and marry him. Oh, rush him to the altar rail, nor heed his protest and his wall. 'This is, you'll say when he's been won, 'the best day's work I've ever done.'"

WHERE DOES GOD DRAW THE LINE?

A HEART-GRIPPING STORY.

Recently we read an intensely interesting story of a young girl who loved too well but not wisely, but who, when she made the horrifying discovery that she had been deceived by the man she trusted, did not feel ahead of the gossip's scourge to the end that most girls do when they find themselves in a like position.

Neither did she take her trouble into court in the hope of "giving her baby a name," as many another wronged girl has done. She probably figured that the name of the beast who would gain an innocent girl's confidence and then desert her to face the world alone, was not a name good enough to give her offspring—that so-called illegitimacy was far preferable to such a condition, and in that we agree most heartily with her. An innocent baby is far too sweet and pure a thing to have to accept forced fatherhood.

This young woman, so the story goes, being as sound of mind as she was of body, took her "sin" to a far-off town where the gossips could not reach, and there was born a baby boy. She bravely faced the world to-morrow, it, suffering all the hardships and making all the sacrifices that go with true-blue motherhood, and it grew to splendid manhood, did this boy "without a name."

He excelled in school, and when he left his studies and took on his share of the world's work he made a high place for himself, and was loved, honored and respected. But that is not all: In his growing boyhood and in his young manhood he did not forget the little mother, not for a minute—they were always sweet-hearts, a God-given reward for the mother's devotion to a son that would have been spurned by society had it been known.

This mother's life was not wrecked by what the world is pleased to call her cardinal sin—it was made more beautiful; it brought out the love and strength that might never have been manifest had her babe been born in what us damned hypocrites call the "holy bonds of lawful wedlock."

And who is there of us to say that this mother and her "shame baby" will be excluded from the heavenly reward, if there be such a thing? It is really a heart-grIPPING story, and we hope it is true, but we doubt it. We doubt it for the very reason of its beauty—depleting what should be rather than what is.

The theory of our social structure is that the girl must remain "pure," while the man—well, he's a man and that's different, you know. The hand that pushes back the maid with the scarlet letter is reached out in welcome to the man who is responsible for the insignia of shame she wears upon her breast.

Let her take her "sin" to the remotest corner of the earth, and yet the long tongue of the gossip will seek her out; the heart wound will be torn afresh that her life blood may continue to keep crimson her shame, and an equal burden is placed upon her innocent babe.

The baby is the fairest flower in God's garden, and we wonder, did you know it to be a "shame child," would your heart go out to the little thing made after the image of the Creator. We wonder.

We wonder, too, if God makes a distinction.

INTERIOR.

In reprinting the following verses by Muriel Stuart, taken from the "Westminster Gazette," the English weekly review, "Public Opinion" says: "These striking lines enshrine a whole philosophy of life. We are beginning to realise that our soldiers really do protect our homes. But do we realise that these homes are made possible for us by the workers—'Who with their tears have furnished them'?"

When I sit down to read at night I hear a thousand voices call— The painted cups, the mirror bright, The crazy pattern on the wall. The curtains, whispering that they were Plucked from the bosom of the sea, The coal that knew the Flood, the chair Remembering when it was a tree. They told of those who beat and broke, Blasted and burned their lives away, And with them other voices spoke, And spoke more dreadfully than they.

Terrible sounds of woe and strife Made thunder in this quiet room— Women who gave the mill their life, And men who shuddered at the loom. The noise the snarling hammers made, In maddened ears the foundry's roar, The hands that stitched the rich brocade, That beat the brass, that hewed the door. How can I read while round me swarm Creatures that strove and wept and died To make this room rich, safe, and warm, To keep the weather-beasts outside?

How can I rest while in the gloom From mine and garret, den and pit. They pass who built in blood this room, And with their tears have furnished it?

THE GIRL THAT WORKS.

God bless the girl that works!

She is not too proud to earn her own living, nor ashamed to be caught at her daily task. She smiles at you from behind the counter or desk or printer's case. There is a sweet memory in everything she touches. She is like the brave mountaineer, already far up the precipice, climbing, struggling, rejoicing. The very sight is an inspiration. It is an honor to know this girl, and to be worthy of her esteem. She's a queen in the realm of womanhood. She's a princess among the toilers. Her hand may be stained by dishwashing, factory grease, or printer's ink, but it is an honest hand. It stays misfortune from the home; it supports an invalid loved one, maybe; it is a moving potent factor in the world.

Stew six large apples. Beat very smooth while hot, adding one tablespoonful of butter, six tablespoonfuls of sugar, a grating of nutmeg and half a teaspoonful of rose extract. When quite cold add four eggs, first the beaten yolks, and fold in the beaten whites. Put in a deep dish, which has been warmed and buttered. Bake in a moderate oven to a delicate brown.

APPLE OMELET

Save the bitter word and thought, Save the epithet that stings; Earth with so much good is fraught, Keep the heart that laughs and sings. Malice is so cheap, so blind; Anger is so commonplace; Keep the golden rule in mind, Show the world a smiling face. —Exchange.

TYPHOID FEVER

Caused by Eating or Drinking the Germs of the Disease. Typhoid fever is an infectious disease caused only by eating or drinking these tiny typhoid germs live and multiply only in the body of man. They do not grow spontaneously or "spring up from nothing."

Every case of typhoid fever comes in some manner from eating or drinking a few of the millions upon millions of typhoid germs that are daily passed off by some other infected person. It is this fact that makes typhoid fever so disgraceful.

It shows that for every case of typhoid fever the discharges from some other case were not properly disinfected or disposed of, and some one else has had his food or drink contaminated thereby, or, in other words, that we are careless or dirty in our habits.

Ordinarily these typhoid germs do not live long outside the human body. A few days, or a few weeks at most, represent the usual life of these germs outside the human body. If we could kill all the typhoid fever germs from typhoid patients and "carriers," or if we could keep from swallowing these germs, or if we could prevent them from growing if they should get into our bodies, there would be no more typhoid fever. Typhoid would be eradicated.

THE SMILING FACE

Save the bitter word and thought, Save the epithet that stings; Earth with so much good is fraught, Keep the heart that laughs and sings. Malice is so cheap, so blind; Anger is so commonplace; Keep the golden rule in mind, Show the world a smiling face. —Exchange.

THE GIRL THAT WORKS.

God bless the girl that works! She is not too proud to earn her own living, nor ashamed to be caught at her daily task. She smiles at you from behind the counter or desk or printer's case. There is a sweet memory in everything she touches. She is like the brave mountaineer, already far up the precipice, climbing, struggling, rejoicing. The very sight is an inspiration. It is an honor to know this girl, and to be worthy of her esteem. She's a queen in the realm of womanhood. She's a princess among the toilers. Her hand may be stained by dishwashing, factory grease, or printer's ink, but it is an honest hand. It stays misfortune from the home; it supports an invalid loved one, maybe; it is a moving potent factor in the world.

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LADIES' SILK GLOVES.

LADIES' SILK GLOVES, double-tipped fingers, nicely finished, 2 domes. Stocked in Black or White. Prices 2/3, 3/6, 3/11 and 4/6 per pair. LADIES' LISLE GLOVES—SCARLE LINES—3 buttons or 2 domes. THE VALUE IS EXCELLENT. Stocked in Black or White. Prices, 2/3, 2/6, and 2/11 per pair. LADIES' PURE LINEN KERCHIEFS, excellent value, in Black, White, Beaver, or Grey. Price, 3/6 per pair.

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YOUR MONEY'S WORTH AND A LITTLE MORE! DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT MARK FOY'S, LIMITED

CHRISTMAS IN SIGHT AT THE "PIAZZA."

You can see it; you can taste it; you can feel it. Ladies, The Merry Crowd evidence it. Busy Buyers prove it, and Full Departments clinch the fact that it is so.

In "The Piazza" are many sections dealing with every commodity under the sun. Some are fanciful, others are, so to speak, plain. Of the latter, the Up-to-date Housekeeper knows them all, while the calculating man makes it a point to see that his better half shops nowhere else. She, good soul, needs no persuading, for by sweet experience she very well knows that her shillings go further, her crowns last longer, and her pounds are worth almost twice as much when laid out at

MARK FOY'S. MILLINERY SECTION.

A VISIT TO OUR MILLINERY SALON will convince you that we are showing the correct style of HATS for HOLIDAY and present-day wear. Our semi-trimmed section is full of SMART SHAPES, trimmed up-to-date, and very KENNEL PRICED, bringing them within the reach of all. We describe just a few, giving an idea of shapes and prices.

NEW, STRAIGHT SAILOR HAT, IN FINE TAGEL STRAW, one of the most fashionable shapes. It is smartly trimmed with corded ribbon, finished with straw ornaments. All colors . . . . . 7/11

NEW "BRETON" SAILOR, IN TAGEL, with silk crown, trimmed swathe of silk, finished Tagel Ornaments, in all good colors . . . . . 7/11

STRAIGHT SAILOR, in fine PEDAL TAGEL, with silk crown, band of corded ribbon, laced with straw. All colors . . . . . 8/11

IN VERY FINE PEDAL TAGEL, we have some most becoming shapes, one is the newest "BRETON," trimmed with corded ribbon, forming a cockade in front of crown, in newest colors . . . . . 12/11

BECOMING SAILOR, in very FINE PEDAL TAGEL, trimmed band and most of corded ribbon, in such good colors as Black and White, Navy and Emerald, Mastic and Emerald, in fact, they comprise everything that is novel in the way of shape, trimming, and coloring, on view in our Showroom to-day . . . . . 13/6 to 14/11

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF SMARTLY TRIMMED READY-TO-WEARs, in finest TAGEL, with underbrim, lined with Aeroplane, Silks, etc., trimmed in novel ways with ribbons and ornaments. These hats are only to be found at Foy's. They are our own ideas, and no two hats alike. All one Price . . . . . 15/11

TO THOSE WHO PREFER TO TRIM THEIR OWN HATS, our un-trimmed section should strongly appeal. We have just received some very smart "Breton" Sailor shapes, in Black, White, Navy, Mastic, and Emerald. FINE QUALITY . . . . . 6/11

SPECIAL LINE IN PANAMA HATS, in pure White, nice fitting heads, plain and ridge crown. They make an ideal Sports Hat. SPECIAL PRICE . . . . . 9/11

LARGE SHAPE, in FINE, evenly-plaited, pure White PANAMA, good fitting head, smart ridge crown, and nice, soft shabby brim. These hats have opened to-day just in time for the holidays. SPECIAL PRICE . . . . . 14/11

IN TRIMMED HATS we are showing some very SEASONABLE STYLES, in TUSCAN and LEHORN. These are ideal for summer wear. They are trimmed with flowers and ribbons . . . . . 22/6 to 27/6

SPECIAL LINE IN GIRLS' HATS, made in SILK, soft crown, brim edged with lace, trimmed flowers, and rose tubing, in White, Pink, and Sky. SPECIAL PRICE . . . . . 11/6

SPECIAL TABLE OF WASHING HATS in Pique, etc., White, Tussock, and Black . . . . . 1/11 to 2/6

LADIES' KID GLOVES.

We are splendidly stocked with a full range of LADIES' KID GLOVES, which prove such acceptable gifts at Xmas. A Gift Glove that gives good service is sure to hold in memory the giver. See your Gift Glove is a "Foy's" Glove.

LADIES' FRENCH KID GLOVES, 8, 10, or 12 button length, in Pastel, Beaver, Brown, Grey, White, or Black, all sizes. EXTRA SPECIAL VALUE . . . . . 4/11 per pair

LADIES' FRENCH KID GLOVES, 10 button length, in Black or White only, all sizes . . . . . 6/11 per pair

LADIES' FRENCH KID GLOVES, 16 button length, in Pastel or Greys only, all sizes. Extra Special Value . . . . . 5/11 per pair

LADIES' FRENCH KID GLOVES, 12 button length, in Black or White only, all sizes . . . . . 7/6 per pair

LADIES' FRENCH KID GLOVES, 16 button length, Den's Compere, in Black or White . . . . . 6/11 per pair

LADIES' FINE GLACE KID GLOVES, 3 button, 3 cord points, fashionable shades of Tan, Beaver, or Grey; also in Black or White. All sizes. A reliable glove . . . . . 4/11 per pair

LADIES' FINE GLACE KID GLOVE, 3 button, 3 cord points, in Black, with Beaver, Brown, or Tan. All sizes. Price . . . . . 5/11 per pair

LADIES' FRENCH GLACE KID GLOVES, 3 Buttons or 2 clasps, 1-cord points, in White, Black, or Colors. All sizes. Price, 6/11 per pair

LADIES' PIQUE SEWN FRENCH GLOVES, 2 large buttons, Black only, with Black or White stitching. All sizes. Price . . . . . 6/11 per pair

LADIES' WASHING SUEDO GLOVES, in Chamol's Color, finished with Gaudet's Cuff and dome at wrist. This color is serviceable. All sizes. Price, 6/11 per pair. Same quality in 2-button, 6/6 per pair

LADIES' WASHING DOESKIN GLOVES, 8 button length, Pique sewn, extra fine quality. Price, 6/11 per pair. Also in 2 or 3 button. Price . . . . . 5/6 per pair

LADIES' SILK GLOVES.

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LADIES' HANDKERCH



MR. KEMPSTER AND THE TRAMWAY UNION

SOME INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. A. B. Kempster forwarded for publication the text of three letters written for publication in another paper as far back as June last, but which for some reason or another did not appear in that paper. He says:—

"In last week's 'Co-operator' I narrated the circumstances which led up to my resignation being handed in to the Tramway Union. The following is the text of the three letters written to the editor of 'The Record,' which were never published in that journal:—

"As I delivered them personally to Mr. Warton's clerk at his office no question can arise as to the possibility of any of them having gone astray through the post.

"After carefully reading the letters I think your readers will agree with me that their non-publication is proof of deliberate suppression, and that it clearly demonstrates the following facts: That Mr. Warton is not prepared to enter into an impartial and open-minded controversy on the respective merits of industrial and craft unionism; that he does not recognise the right of members of his union to express their opinions in the paper they pay for unless those opinions happen to coincide with his own; that he does not recognise their right to know where the money goes that is paid into the organisation known as the Tramway Union:—

UNIONISM V. DISUNION.

(To the Editor of 'The Record'.)

Dear Sir,—As a member of the Tramway Union, who is also a member of the Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Service Association, I wish to enter an emphatic protest against the spiteful and vindictive tone of many of the articles which have appeared in 'The Record' of late against members of a kindred organisation. I have not yet seen a single valid argument advanced by one of your contributors in opposition to the principle of amalgamation and unity of action. On the contrary, the petty personalities and puerile abuse indulged in by them as champions of craft unionism tend to condemn the principles they stand for quite as effectively as the weighty arguments and incontrovertible logic of industrial unionists. In your issue of June 13th your contributor 'Australian' writes:

"A renegade tramway unionist who is now an active propagandist for the R.A.T.S. Association is informing all and sundry that 1000 members of the Tramway Union have ratted to the Amalgamated. Other members of the said association have computed the number at various figures between that number and 1400. For general information it is just as well that the true position should be known, and the veracity of these assertions at their true value. The position is, at time of writing (May 30th), that 484 members have resigned from the Tramway Union; six of these have withdrawn their resignations; this has reduced the number to 478. During the time these resignations have been coming in 511 new members have been enrolled, and the union membership has, therefore, increased to the extent of 33 members since the 'body-snatching process started.'"

The chief point which I wish to take exception to in your contributor's remarks is his careless assumption that every new member that the Amalgamated Association has secured has resigned from the Tramway, or some other craft union. There are probably at least 500 men in the Tramway Union alone, who, like myself, are members of both organisations, and intend to remain so until the Tramway Union is properly and constitutionally merged into the Amalgamated Association. We regret the actions of Messrs. Buckley, Davidson, Denford and Price in severing their connection with the Tramway Union before this end had been consummated, and when they had secured a decisive victory over the reactionary and conservative element; but because they acted unwisely in this respect it does not prejudice the principle that "United we stand, divided we fall." At present we are illustrating the truth of the latter part of the motto, and are making ourselves the laughing-stock of non-unionists and the enemies of unionism by childishly quibbling and squabbling amongst ourselves and calling each other "scabs" and "rats." Let us get on to the first part of the motto and try to calmly and dispassionately reason together.

The Amalgamated Association throws its doors open to the tramway unionist, and the man who honestly believes that craft unionism is a better thing for the workers than industrial unionism is welcome to come along to Bowen's Buildings any Sunday morning and give us his reasons for the faith that is in him. Yours for unity and solidarity,

A. B. KEMPSTER.

The above letter was handed in to Mr. Warton's clerk at his office on July 5th last.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE TRAMWAY UNION?  
(To the Editor of 'The Railway and Tramway Record'.)

Dear Sir,—One of the first objects of an honest workers' union should be to induce its members to take a live interest in their industrial and political welfare. The Tramway Union does the reverse. It puts every obstacle in the way of its members becoming active unionists, and leaves the control of the organisation in the hands of a small body of elected persons, some of whom have not had to face a general ballot of members for a number of years. Part of Rule 29, clause (c) reads:—

"Quorums. A branch meeting consisting of 2001 members or more, fifty (50) financial members or more, a quorum, exclusive of the branch committee. A branch meeting consisting of 501 members and not exceeding 2000 members, twenty-five (25) financial members shall form a quorum, exclusive of the branch committee. A branch meeting of less than 500 members, twenty (20) financial members shall form a quorum, exclusive of the branch committee. Should a quorum not be present at 8 p.m. at night meetings and fifteen minutes after the time stated for day meetings, the committee of the branch shall proceed to transact the business of the branch."

This fixing of the quorum for general meetings has the effect of preventing any general meetings ever being held, except at times of special excitement and stress, and when committee meetings occur on dates fixed for general meetings, owing to the necessary quorum for a general meeting not being present, it has the effect of debarring members who are not committed from taking any part in the business of the meeting. Vide Rule 29, clause (d):—"At committee meetings only committee members shall be entitled to speak or vote, except that a member may be heard by the committee to explain a grievance."

A member has the privilege of explaining a grievance, it is true, but the rule does not state whether it refers to a grievance against the Department or a grievance against an executive officer, and it certainly would not protect a member who wanted to obtain information regarding the administration of the Union which executive officers might be desirous of withholding.

In the smaller branches of the Union an additional obstacle is placed in the way of the private member who may be desirous of discussing the administrative policy of the executive. Rule 29, clause (b) reads: "It shall be competent for branches and sub-branches to control all industrial matters of purely local concern, but all questions affecting finance and general policy shall be referred to the executive or delegate meeting. Any question as to power or function of a branch shall be determined by resolution of the executive, subject to delegate meeting. Thus a branch chairman who does not wish the actions of executive officers to be discussed can rule any speaker out of order if he ventures beyond an expression of opinion on 'industrial matters of purely local concern,' and the private member's only chance of dealing with finance and general policy is to secure a seat on the executive or election to the delegate meeting, which is only in session for a few days once a year.

In conclusion, I would be glad if you would answer a few questions, which, although I have been a member of the Union for over twelve months, I have not yet had the opportunity of asking at a general meeting.

1. How many bodies is the N.S.W. Government Tramway Employees' Union affiliated with?  
2. What is the total amount per annum paid in sustentation fees to each?  
3. How many reports from delegates to these bodies have been received at general meetings during the last twelve months?  
4. How many general meetings have been held during the last twelve months?  
5. What benefit, if any, does the Union derive from its affiliation with the Australian Tramway Employees' Association?  
6. What salary, if any, does Mr. L. Hill receive for holding the position of president of the Association?  
7. What other positions does Mr. Hill hold, either inside or outside the Association, and what is the amount of the salary attached to each?  
8. Is it a fact that your journal, 'The Railway and Tramway Record,' is published at a loss of £25 per week to the Union? If not, please show by statement of receipts and expenditure for the last financial year that this rumour is not true.  
9. Who is the editor of the 'Railway and Tramway Record,' and what is the amount of his salary?  
10. Have you any other paid contributors on the journalistic staff of 'The Record'? If so, kindly mention their names and give particulars as to the articles they write and the amounts they receive for same.  
I am, yours for live unionism,  
A. B. KEMPSTER.

SOME LESSONS FROM THE COAL STRIKE

SUCCESS DUE TO STRENGTH OF ORGANISATION

W. Davies contributes an article entitled, "Some Lessons from the Strike," to the "South Coast Times." The writer is apparently a plain-speaking man, but what he has to say is to the point, and should be of interest to every unionist. He says:—"The alarm clock has got into its stride again, and at quarter to five it rattles off with that familiar buzz that makes one's heart flutter and brings his mind rapidly away from dreamland.

Muscles that have been out of action for five weeks work very unwillingly, and it requires a certain amount of will power to insist upon getting the rust off. The hip joints ache with every movement on the chair, as a protest against being disturbed.

Instead of having half an hour for breakfast and no train to catch or any whistle to disturb the peaceful mind, one has once more to don the industrial uniform and put some 'hurry-up' on in order to take his place with his comrades where the sun cannot penetrate. But amid all the worries of the working day he has one pleasant thought, and that is: That he has emerged from one of the most successful strikes in the history of this or any other country. The strikes are not always successful, for various reasons.

Failures of Sectionalism. In the past we have had a number of failures through faulty organisation. The South Coast endeavored to fight the question of eight hours on its own, and it failed miserably, and would have failed again if it had not had the help of the other districts and States.

It has learnt us a lesson in this respect, that when we have a national question to fight it must be fought with a national organisation. It doesn't mean that we will have to call in the assistance of the national organisation on every question any more than one would use a steam hammer to crack a nut. But we must watch that the employers are not allowed to suck the life's blood from our union by provoking local disputes as they have done in the past.

Sectional stoppages must be reduced to a minimum in order to keep our strength for something worth while. Behind a number of the sectional stoppages there are great national principles that require the strength of something more than a section of the organisation to fight successfully. Take the question of the minimum wage, that local lodges are called upon to fight continually, and is the cause of the majority of the disputes at the various collieries. Not only are the mines of the South Coast affected in this way, but nearly all other districts that comprise our organisation have this trouble to contend with. There is nothing more vital to an organisation than seeing that every member of it has his wages guaranteed. If this question were settled once for all by the national organisation, then it would mean so many less stoppages locally.

Success Due to Strength of Organisation. Our success in the recent strike was due, not to the tribunal which sat under Mr. Justice Edmunds (although we appreciate his sympathy toward us), but to the strength of our organisation. Mr. Justice Edmunds was simply the channel through which our demands were conceded. Mr. Hughes could have passed legislation as President Wilson did in America, and given us eight hours, but he probably thought that it would weaken the arbitration system, and help us to realise our strength. However, we have learnt the lesson, and the fact of Mr. Hughes referring it to a Board does not detract from it by any means.

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"Those Common Miners." We had won the strike the moment the candles were stuck in the ginger beer bottles in the shop windows of the city instead of the bright electric light; when the light was cut off from the mansions of the parasites and the train and tram services curtailed; when the city was threatened with darkness, and the well-to-do had to breakfast before eight o'clock in the morning. People who looked upon the miner as one of the common herd realised his importance for once in his life. The ladies who dress in the latest Parisian styles, and turn their noses up and wend their way to the other side of the street in disgust at the sight of the miner, no doubt thought differently on their way to bed with a wax candle each in their hands.

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Going to Sydney during the strike an elderly lady in the railway carriage said "She was quite surprised to learn that coal had anything to do with electricity!" Evidently the strike has increased her knowledge of science, and she has learnt the lesson, like a good student.

THE YOUTHFUL PATRIOT.

Juvenile views on economy are expressed thus:—  
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Don't give things to the cat; eat them yourselves.  
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"That the Superintendent of Lines be written to, asking that a diagram of all auto signals in use (the same as is to be seen over the mantel-shelf in the guards' room, Sydney), be placed in the guards' room at Newcastle, for the benefit of the Newcastle guards."

"That the general secretary write to the Superintendent of Lines protesting against any of the obsolete type of barracks, such as those now in use at Singleton and Clyde, being erected at Muswellbrook. We ask that an up-to-date barracks, similar to that in use at Hornsby and Murrumbidgee, be erected."

STAFF CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

RAILWAYS.

WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 9th.

PER. WAY BRANCH.

Promotions.

Fettlers to Gangers: Herbert E. Randell, Parkes-Ondobolin; William Sken, Peak Hill-Parkes.

Appointments.

Fettlers: James Symes, Harden-June; Harold Schroeder, June-Albury; William Hudson, Nyngan-Cobar; George D. Hill, Byrock-Brewarrina; John Doyle, Nyngan-Bourke.

Resigned or Left the Service.

Stationary Engine Driver: William Tapping, Bathurst.  
Gangers: Thomas Gibbons, Harden-June; John Connors, Goulburn-Harden; William C. Lowe, George's Plains; Henry Robinson, Nyngan-Bourke.

Fettlers: George Wormes, Harden-June; Walter Linsell, Finlay-Tocumwal.

TRAFFIC BRANCH.

Appointments.

Porters: Reginald Stone, Henry Dollin, Darling Harbour; James McSullie, Albert Richardson, Goulburn; Matthew Murphy, Binalong; Francis Kearney, Cobar; Hubert Wicht, Cootamundra; William Dwyer, Mt. Victoria.

Junior Porters: John McHugh, Darling Harbour; John Goulding, Goods Manager's Office; William Hayman, Darling Harbour; Clement O'Neill, Goulburn; Silvester McCann, Harden; James McLean, Eskbank; Walter Hall, Wellington.

Gatekeeper: John McGregor, Cullagrain.

Removals.

Assistant Guard: John Byrnes, Sydney.

Shunter: John Ryan, Wallerawang.

Porters: Tom Cranfall, Alfred Hardcastle, John Burgess, Sydney C.C. Sheds; Atchison Johnson, Sydney; Stanley Snow, June; Edmond Green, Cobar; Ernest Hudson, Brewarrina.

Junior Porters: Lloyd Roberts, Percy Astill, Orange; Clarence Tohey, George Richards, Sydney C.C. Sheds; Bert Morrison, Waterloo; Stanley Thorp, Campbelltown; Cecil Wing, Redfern.

Deceased.

Porter: Benjamin Travis, Ashfield.

LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.

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