

# "OUT OF WORK"

The Voice of the Unemployed

VOL. I., No. 1

SYDNEY, FRIDAY, JUNE 16th, 1922.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

## WHY WE STARVE!

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN SYDNEY.

In the midst of prosperity and bounteous harvest, over 40,000 workers in N.S.W. are on the bread line to-day. This enormous burden is the direct result of the capitalist system of production. In the past we have, with the aid of machinery, produced an abundance of commodities, which remain locked up in storehouses because markets are not available for their disposal. As the machinery of industry becomes more perfect, more workers are displaced, and consequently the army of the hungry grows. Countries that hitherto depended on imports are being converted into manufacturing centres, and, as there are no more new countries to exploit, the markets of the older countries become restricted, and the growth of the enormous industrial reserve army is the inevitable result.

### The Workers' Part.

The unemployed problem is the vital concern of every worker in the community. Those who are at present in a job are inclined to overlook the fact that they were once on the bread line themselves. A slight swing of the pendulum, and they are also seeking the wherewithal to live. There is not one worker who is economically secure for an hour. The fight of the unemployed to-day will be your fight to-morrow.

The master class in all cases use every measure to divide the workers, to more easily shatter them at the opportune time. Consequently the unemployed is a mighty weapon in the hands of our class enemies, while it remains in its present unorganised state.

### Our Demands.

The unemployed, knowing that master is always boasting of the glories of our Empire, demand a share in that glory in the shape of work. The employers have complete control of industry, and we insist that they open the gates and allow us to work. If they are unable to find us work through the failure of their system, then we demand that we receive a share of the wealth that we have produced in the past, on the basis of the basic wage.

The Court has fixed as the basic wage the money required to purchase the minimum of commodities necessary to keep life in a man, wife, and two children, and we consider it an insult to be asked to try and live on less in a country overflowing with the good things of life.

As a third proposition, in the event of neither work nor wage being forthcoming, we insist on receiving the equivalent to the basic wage in commodities. As this condition was enjoyed by the chattel slaves in ancient Rome, whose owners fed them whether working or not, we claim that our demand is reasonable, and



### "OUT OF WORK"

The "OUT OF WORK" is a paper for the unemployed. It is written by the unemployed for the unemployed. We hope to make this paper a bitter voice of protest against a system which continuously starves a section of the working class by throwing them on to the streets.

We, the editors of this paper, realise that unemployment is the result of capitalism, and will continue to exist as long as the working class allow capitalism to dominate their lives.

But we also realise that to accept these conditions without a protest would mean that we would become brutalised, spiritless, and incapable of even living the lives of normal men.

Consequently, this paper will be an expression of our demands upon society; it will be an expression of our hatred towards the class which starves our women and children, and an expression of our solidarity towards the working class as a whole.

This paper will attempt to organise the unemployed, because we realise that unless we are organised our demands can never be made effective. By organisation the unemployed must learn that in unity there is strength.

This paper will also attempt to educate the unemployed to an understanding of the system under which they live, then they will also understand that in knowledge there is power.

We will attempt to lay down a line of organisation which will extend throughout Australia, an organisation which will gather into its ranks the thousands of unemployed scattered from North Queensland to West Australia. Only by so doing can the voice of the unemployed be heard and their demands granted.

### Capitalism:

"Don't be despondent, my unemployed friend; you may be worse off now than in 1913, but think how much better off you are than you will be in 1923!"

we boldly express our determination of refusing to allow our women and children to starve amidst plenty.

### Organisation.

Without organisation the unemployed are powerless. We must act as a body, as it is impossible to expect men to travel long distances to demonstrate, owing to lack of fares. It must be our duty to see that committees are formed in every suburb. A nucleus must be formed, meetings arranged. The committee will send speakers and provide advertising, and as a result definite autonomous groups must be formed to carry out tactics under the guidance of the central committee, which will be composed of delegates from the district committees. By these means we will erect a live machine, efficiently directed, ready to apply tactics at a moment's notice, and working in complete harmony with the machinery of organised Labour.

### Tactics.

This question is one of utmost importance, and can only be successfully met when the machinery is in working order. But it must be clearly understood that the tactics of the unemployed organisation must not be passive. While keeping within the law, we must scientifically make our presence felt, and with the mighty weapon of irritation skilfully applied we must make our masters realise at last that the unemployed are in earnest. To openly advertise our tactics would be to play into the hands of our enemy. We must let him know our plans when it suits us.

### Solidarity.

Finally, we conclude with the clarion call to all members of working class, soldiers and civilians, workers and workless—step in boldly and lay the foundation of the organisation that will convert the unemployed from a rabble of beggars into an organised body of hungry men, fully alive to the justice of our demands.

Your class brothers in England created machinery that shook the Empire to its foundations. They are getting full sustenance while idle. You in Australia can do the same. The "Out of Work" is the organ of hunger and unrest. We challenge the master class to cure unemployment. Their best argument will be to cure it.

Rally to your district committee, and do your share in winning bread for hungry women and children.

On behalf of the Unemployed Committee,

H.R., Sec.

The object of capitalism is not to find employment for workers, but to make the greatest amount of profit from the least number employed. Workless of the World, Unite!

So spread the "OUT OF WORK," pass it on, bring it under the notice of everyone; sell it, give it away—