UNEMPLOYMENT IN SYDNEY.

In the midst of prosperity and bounteous harvest, over 40,000 workers in N.S.W. are on the bread line today. 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 and not available at their disposal. As the machinery of industry becomes more perfect, more workers are displaced, and consequently the arms of the hungry grow. Countries that hitherto depended on imports are being converted into manufacturing centres, and, as there are no more new countries the markets of the older countries become restricted, and these arms 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 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 likely to be the beneficiaries. There is no one worker who is economically willing for an hour to be unemployed. The fight of the unemployed to-day will be fought for the community.

The master class in all cases use every measure to divide the workers, to prevent them from coming to the opportune time. Consequently the unemployed have 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 glory of our Empire, demand a share in this 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 which we have produced in the past, on the basis of the basic wage.

As a third proposition, in the event of neither work nor wage being forthcoming, we demand the right to receiving the equivalent to the basic wage in commodities. As this condition was evidenced by the chattel slaves in ancient Rome, whose owners fed them when working or not, we claim that our demand is reasonable, and we boldly express our determination of refusing to allow our women and children to starve amidst plenty.

Organisation.

Without organisation the unemployed are Helpless. 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, capable of doing 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 organise must not be passive. While keeping within the law, we must scientifically make our presence felt, and with the mighty weapon of unorganised power we can and will be successful. In this way we can carry our demands to the government, with the full realisation that we must make our masters realise at last that the unemployed are a mighty weapon for the control of the organisation.

Solidarity.

Finally, we conclude with the clarion call to all members of working class, soldiers and civilians, workers and worthless—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 to this day. 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 "out of work."}

"OUT OF WORK"

The Voice of the Unemployed

VOL. I., No. 1

SYDNEY, FRIDAY, JUNE 16th, 1922.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

WHY WE STARVE?

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

Capitalist: "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?"

This organisation will not be separate from the Trade Union movement, but a part of the movement. We know that in the Trade Union movement of this country there are many who have no more consideration of us and our demands than the employing class. Often, however, against these official organisations and this paper will wage a relentless war. We shall insist that THEY take up our demands, and that we, as unemployed members of our union be heard, not on the street corners and in Martin Place, but in the union meetings.

In every State, in every town and city to-day in Australia there are members of our class walking the streets looking for work. The capitalist press denies this army of unemployed; the Trade Union movement ignores it. It will be our work to force the people of Australia to recognise that right in the midst of their democracy men and women are starving.

Against a system of society which forces these conditions upon its working class, we make a declaration of war. We demand the right to work. If work is not available, we demand the right to live; we demand the basic wage, and, if every unemployed man and woman of our class will come into our organisation, we will get it.

We do not want charity. We were not born beggars; we were born men, and we demand to be treated as men. We are the victims of capitalism, and we demand that out of the colossal wealth which the employing class has accumulated by the exploitation of our labour, we receive enough to live.

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

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