

It will probably be news to most of our readers to be told that there is already in New Zealand a paper wholly and solely devoted to the advocacy of such views. We have before us a copy of the *Industrial Unionist*, 'A Monthly Advocate of Direct Action,' founded some six months ago in Auckland; and its columns are studded with even more vigorous expressions of precisely the same sentiments as those which it quotes from the Melbourne *Socialist*. Through and through, in every page, in every column, almost in every sentence, it advocates I.W.W.ism and sabotage. We give a few sample utterances: 'If the average worker clearly understood (1) the truth and meaning of the I.W.W. Preamble, and (2) that might is right, the wage system would last about as long as a fluttering fowl with its head chopped off.' 'Sabotage does not mean simply going slow on the job; it can be made drastic in different degrees—adjusted to meet the degrees of stubbornness shown by the employers, just as we use black letters or capitals in writing to emphasise a word or sentence.' 'When "wear your wooden shoe" philosophy (i.e., sabotage) becomes widely understood and warily practised by wage-plugs, it will widen out into something more than philosophy—into a powerful weapon for whipping the Boss.' Under the heading 'Sabotage,' the following is quoted, in heavy type and large capitals, from Arturo M. Giovannitti: 'There can be no injunction against it. No policeman's club. No rifle diet. No prison bars. It cannot be starved into submission. It cannot be blacklisted. It is present everywhere and everywhere invisible, like the airship that soars high above the clouds in the dead of night, beyond the reach of the cannon and the searchlight, and drops the deadliest bombs into the enemy's own encampment. Sabotage is the most formidable weapon of economic warfare, which will eventually open to the workers the great iron gate of capitalist exploitation, and lead them out of the house of bondage into the free land of the future.' And the whole trend and spirit of the paper is well indicated in the following footnote appended by the editor to a letter from a correspondent who writes with reference to provision for 'calling off' a strike: 'We are not really much concerned about getting strikes called off; the problem for N.Z. rebels seems to be how to get a decent strike on.'

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The precise meaning of the 'sabotage' thus talked of has been more than once explained in articles in our columns. It means the obstruction of the regular course of transport or production and the deliberate and systematic destruction of property by those who are entrusted with its care. It may range from a trifling injury to goods or machinery up to the wrecking of a train. In the French railway strike of 1910-11 perishable goods were sent to the wrong destination. Heavy boxes were placed on crates marked 'Handle with care.' 'Not a day passes,' said the *New York Tribune* of that period, 'but that a dozen acts of destruction are reported on the railways. Rails are torn up; blocks of stones or sleepers are put on the tracks; signal boxes are damaged; telegraph lines are entangled or cut; attempts are made by means of secret emissaries of the Labor Federation, and by the anti-militarist propaganda, controlled by the Federation, to seduce the soldiers from their allegiance, and to make common cause with the strikers. According to official statistics no less than three thousand attempts have been made since October to wreck trains; and there is good ground for the opinion that the official estimate was a thousand or more below the real figure. Already an emissary of the I.W.W. is on the scene in Wellington urging the adoption of similar tactics. 'He advocated I.W.W. methods,' says the *Dunedin Star's* correspondent, 'and pointed out how the waterside workers could annoy by quietly dropping cases overboard from slings, and suchlike methods.' There can be no question that the I.W.W., with its gospel of syndicalism, 'direct action,' and the destruction of property, is fostering a very ugly spirit in its followers. The same may be said, in a lesser degree, of such organisations as the N.Z. United Federation of Labor. In America

during the last year or two the strikes engineered by the I.W.W. have been accompanied by extreme violence and much bloodshed. A recent notable example was a riot in the hop fields of California over a question of wages, which resulted in the death of the district attorney, a deputy sheriff, and two hop pickers. The coroner's jury which investigated the killing of the four men found that 'the rioters were incited to anger by I.W.W. leaders and agitators.' We have every sympathy with the just and reasonable desire of working men to better their conditions; but for men who wish to keep their record clean and to observe the golden rule of doing as they would be done by, such associations, controlled by hot-heads and revolutionaries, are excellent organisations to keep out of.

Notes

Finding Their Mistake

At a meeting of the executive of the National Schools Defence League, which was held in Wellington on Friday last, Mr. A. R. Atkinson, who presided, said that in Auckland the number of signatories to the petition in favor of the present Act had increased to 8000, 4000 of whom had previously signed the cards of the *Bible-in-Schools League* under a misconception. If this statement is true—and we have no reason to doubt it—it is very significant as to the methods adopted by the League.

Plain Words from Mr. Asquith

The following plain statement of the Government's intentions in regard to Home Rule was made by Mr. Asquith in a speech which is summarized in Monday's cables: 'In a speech at Elibank Mr. Asquith dealt entirely with the Irish situation. He said the Home Rule Bill has been supported from first to last with undiminished majorities. So far from being carried by the Irish vote, it had received the support of a substantial majority of the British members of Parliament. Mr. Redmond and he had co-operated, and neither party was ashamed of the co-operation, of which the whole of the Liberal party and nearly four-fifths of the Irish people approved. There was abundant evidence of practically united support by all the self-governing dominions (cheers). There was, therefore, a complete constitutional case for the application of the Parliament Act. Next session the Government would make Home Rule operative. They would agree that the action of statesmen in a matter which had reached this stage ought not to be affected or deflected. The menace and forcible resistance doctrines preached in Ulster during the last two years and which, he regretted, responsible quarters countenanced, were a negation of the first principles of parliamentary and democratic government (cheers). If the minority was entitled to resist by force, what possible answer could be made to the mass of the Irish if they preferred a similar claim in the event of being frustrated in a perfectly constitutional demand wherein they were supported by the large majority of the British members of Parliament? "No," he added, "we shall not be intimidated by the threat of force." He said he hoped and believed that Home Rule would be brought into operation without recourse to the armed forces of the Crown, but if a deliberately enacted statute was met by organised and armed resistance it would clearly be the duty of the Executive to assert the authority of the law by appropriate and adequate measures. Recent proceedings in Ulster, so far from impressing the imagination or attracting the sympathies of the average citizen, had had precisely the opposite effect. However much one's taste, and even one's common sense, was tempted to take offence at these extravagant manifestations, it was their duty to deal respectfully with a deep-seated and genuine sentiment. He was prepared to consider with an open mind any adjustment of Ulster's position subject to certain simple governing considerations. These were:—Firstly, nothing should

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