

RYAN'S BLOW FOR FREEDOM.
EXTRACTS FROM QUEENSLAND "HANSARD."
SEIZED BY HUGHES'S MILITARY.

(Page 3147—November 22, 1917.)

The adoption of the conscription proposals of the Federal Government for military service will automatically enforce industrial compulsion in the workshop, in mine, in the factory, on the wharf.

To admit the case for military compulsion gives way the case entirely against industrial compulsion. Conscription places military law above civil law. The conscription machine can, and undoubtedly will, be used to paralyse the biggest efforts of organised labor. Trade unions may exist in name, but their power is gone once conscription is established. Industrial coercion is the inevitable corollary of conscription. The workers of Australia dearly prize the conditions of labor won by the trades unions after years of hard fighting. Remember that conscription is destroying unionism in France, in Britain, in New Zealand—in every country where the conscription curse is in operation.

The real reason for the adoption of conscription in Australia by the union-hating "Win-the-War" Government is not for military purposes, but in order to destroy the power of Unionism.

Three years ago the Secretary of the French Federation of Labor warned the British workers as to the evil results that would accrue to the unions if conscription was adopted.

Conscription would be for the British workers the first step towards industrial slavery and the end of their free action in the economic field both before and after the war. It would be as terrible a weapon in the hands of the British employer as it actually is in the hands of the French employer. The British workers cannot resist conscription too strongly unless they wish, after the war, to be condemned to industrial slavery and put at the mercy of their employer.

That the result of conscription in Britain as thus foretold eventuated in a bitter, irrefutable fact, as the British workers know to-day to their cost.

"INDUSTRIAL LIBERTIES SWEEP AWAY."

In Britain to-day under conscription military control is paramount in all industries. Unionism has been trampled in the dust. The eight-hour day has given place to twelve and even sixteen hours. Child and women labor have been firmly established in every industry; it threatens to permanently displace the adult male laborer.

In all countries wherever conscription becomes the law of the land unionism vanishes; the unfortunate and helpless workers are reduced

to the state of chattel slaves at the beck and call of a callous military autocracy.

Let the Brisbane "Daily Telegraph" of October 16, 1916, testify to the indisputable charge that the Tory Government of Australia desire conscription against the workers. Said the "Daily Telegraph" in this leading article:—"There remains in our midst a powerful enemy called political trade unionism. The political trade unionist is a man to be dealt with both before the end of the war and after. Voting "Yes" by a majority will be the deadliest blow ever dealt trade unionism!

Here is the sinister motive behind the whole conscription plot. Enslavement of the workers—not reinforcements for the soldiers in the trenches. The destruction of labor organisation in Australia, not the destruction of Prussianism in Europe. Military control of the workshop—not military supremacy on the battlefield—this, and this alone, is the real conscription desired by the bitter labor antagonistic Hughes cum Irvine cabal.

In every country where conscription is the law it has been used to render null and void all the achievements of trades unionism — to destroy customs, rights, and practices—to dilute and whittle away—to put unskilled in the places of skilled—women in the place of men—children in the place of adults.

It is used not merely as an instrument of national defence, but as a merciless bludgeon to break down the standard and rights of the industrial classes.—When conscription commences, from that moment every worker is a slave—every act of protest a crime, and every worker who dares to rise in just indignation against the violation of hard-won rights can be seized, interned, or deported.

"YES" STANDS FOR HATE, TYRANNY, AND DEATH.

"NO" STANDS FOR LOVE, LIBERTY, AND LIFE.

VOTE NO.