

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

With which is incorporated the A.I.S.U. Estab. 1886, the G.L.U. Estab. 1890, A.W.A. of Queensland, the Rural Workers' Union, and the U.E.U. of S.A.
Registered under N.S.W. Trade Union Act 1881, and Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1905.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OPENED IN SYDNEY N.S.W.,
ON JANUARY 27th 1916.

TOGETHER WITH

FINANCIAL OFFICE AND WORKER ACCOUNTS



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OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

Thirtieth Annual Convention

OPENED IN SYDNEY, N.S.W., JANUARY 27, 1916.

TOGETHER WITH

Head Office and Worker Accounts.



SYDNEY:
The Worker Trade Union Print,
St. Andrew's Place.

1916.

Executive Officers for 1916-17

President:

Mr. W. G. SPENCE, M.H.R., Federal Parliament, Melbourne.

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. T. C. BUTLER (W.A.)

Mr. J. H. BLACK (Vic.)

Mr. T. FLEMING (S.A.)

Mr. J. BAILEY (N.S.W.)

Mr. E. G. THEODORE, M.L.A. (Q.)

General Secretary:

Mr. E. GRAYNDLER, St. Andrew's Place, Sydney.

General Returning Officer:

Mr. H. LAMOND, WORKER Office, Sydney.

Trustees:

Mr. R. BOW.

Mr. F. W. LUNDIE.

Mr. H. LAMOND.

Mr. JAS. MOONEY.

Mr. J. McNEILL.

E. GRAYNDLER (General Secretary)

Branch Secretaries.

Adelaide Branch—Mr. F. W. Lundie, Flinders Street, Adelaide, S.A.

Central Branch—Mr. W. H. Lambert, A.W.U. Office, Macdonnell House, Pitt Street, Sydney.

Victoria-Riverina Branch—Mr. J. McNeill, A.W.U. Office, Ballarat, Vic.

Tasmanian Branch—Mr. Jas. Mooney, A.W.U. Office, Launceston (Tas.)

West Australian Branch—Mr. A. J. Watts, A.W.U. Office, Perth (W.A.)

Western Branch—Mr. Arthur Blakeley, A.W.U. Office, Armidale.

Queensland Branch—W. J. Dunstan, "Worker" Building, Brisbane, Brisbane, Q.

District Secretaries (Q.)

South-Western District—J. McLean, A.W.U. Office, Charleville (Q.)

Western District—R. Bow, A.W.U. Office, Longreach (Q.)

Southern District—F. Martyn, A.W.U. Office, Bundaberg (Q.)

Northern District—J. Dash, A.W.U. Office, Townsville (Q.)

Far Northern District—J. Moir, A.W.U. Office, Cairns (Q.)

General Secretary's Annual Report.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—

A review of the work of the A.W.U. for 1915 will show that it has been a very strenuous year for the Union as a whole, and for Branches in all the States in every respect.

The long drought which in turn visited the pastoral areas in every State of the Commonwealth caused great losses in sheep, and resulted in fewer men being employed in the pastoral industry. The disastrous effects of the war, and its consequent disabilities and dislocation of industries generally made it extremely difficult for our members to readily secure employment in other fields than that to which they had been accustomed.

MEMBERS AT THE FRONT.

The large number of A.W.U. men who have enlisted has seriously affected our membership in all States. From replies to my inquiries from Branch Secretaries in each of the States as to the number of our members who have enlisted, I estimate that over 20,000 A.W.U. men have gone to the war.

The loss in membership thus sustained is enormous, and added to by the dire effects caused by the drought in the pastoral industry, it will be recognised that the energies of secretaries and organisers in all States were taxed to their utmost to gain new members to make good the deficiency. That our membership still exceeds 60,000, under the circumstances indicated, is a matter for congratulation.

The cash balances to the credit of the head office and branches at the present time amount to £25,700, and the capital and realisable assets directly controlled by Head Office amount to £85,024/15/1.

In addition to this, the properties held by Branches have been added to during the year, and the investments made are sound.

CANCELLATION CASE.

The proceedings of the pastoralists for the cancellation of the registration of the A.W.U. on 17 grounds in the Killen case was before the court from August, 1914, till finally disposed of in September, 1915. The court in April last, while declining

to cancel the registration of the Union at that stage, made an order directing the Australian Workers' Union to alter its rules and constitution so as to bring them into conformity with the requirements of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1904-14, and in particular to provide: (1) That employees only and officers of the organisation should be allowed to become members. (2) That employees only in connection with the pastoral industry should be allowed to become members of such registered organisations unless in the meantime the constitution was changed to include other industries in connection with which it was registered. (3) That no new subscription as members should be received after the rules had been altered from persons who had previously been admitted as members, and who were not qualified as employees, or officers of the organisation to become members under such altered rules or constitution at the time such subscription became due.

EFFECT OF JUDGMENT.

The effect of part 2 of the order of the court was to restrict the constitution of the Union to a "group of industries" in connection with the pastoral industry. The A.W.U. certificate of registration was up to that time confined to the pastoral industry, and there was no provision in the Act for the A.W.U., or any other organisation, to amend its registration to include other industrial pursuits.

When amalgamation took place it was believed that the words "groups of industries," under the definition of "industry" in the Act of 1904-11 enabled the Union to extend its scope to other industrial fields, and, accordingly, by amalgamation with existing Unions other industries were included. No judicial interpretation of the words "group of industries" had been made by the court, but later the Chief Justice, in the case of the Federated Engine Drivers v. Broken Hill Proprietary, expressed an opinion which gave a very restricted meaning to these words.

But as the Federal Arbitration Court had tacitly recognised our extended scope, and had in the public interest made awards

In favor of the A.W.U. in industries other than that covered by our certificate of registration no great uneasiness was felt. The case of the pastoralists for the cancellation of the registration of the A.W.U. on various grounds (one of which was that members other than employees in the pastoral industry were admitted as members) definitely raised the issue of the standing of the A.W.U. and other Unions under the Act, which had extended the scope of their organisation after registration. When the court finally made an order directing the A.W.U. in the terms before-mentioned to amend its rules and constitution, it was recognised at once that this could not be done under the Act as it stood without dismembering the organisation, and splitting it up into several groups of industries, connected by some definite common character.

AMENDING THE ACT.

The necessity of a further amendment of the Act, in order to validate the position of the A.W.U., brought about by the extension of its constitutive and scope since 1912, was imperative. With this in view, I approached Mr. Hughes, and other Ministers, placing the situation fully before them, and urging an amendment of the Act that would in the plainest manner validate the constitution of the A.W.U. and other organisations similarly circumstanced, and also make it possible for still further extensions of the scope of the A.W.U. into other industrial fields by amalgamation and absorption, when such steps had been fully determined upon by the different organisations concerned.

The Federal Cabinet was deeply engaged in the conduct of great national issues as a result of the war, and after repeated visits to Melbourne and interviews with Mr. Hughes, who was then reluctant, from reasons of political expediency, to make further amendments until such time as the whole Act could be recast and constitutionally amended, the only course left was to appeal to the whole of the members of the Federal Labor Party. Our President assisted me during the long period occupied in pressing our claims on the party, and Senator Barnes did specially valuable work in the

Party meetings, and later when the desired amendments were brought before Parliament. The Act was amended in the direction indicated. The position of the A.W.U. was made doubly secure, and the result was a decided gain to all industrial organisations.

INCREASED RATES AND IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

During the year just closed important increases in wages have been secured by the A.W.U., notably in the fruit-growing industry, where the minimum adult wage was raised from 8s. to 9s. 4d. per day in a compulsory conference held before Mr. Justice Higgins.

The minimum rate of 13s. per day in the construction work of the Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta railway, with improved conditions, was obtained in a conference between the A.W.U. and the Minister for Home Affairs. In South Australia decided increases have also been obtained for general laborers in all directions. Increases in wages have also been secured by agreements in West Australia for members.

In Queensland, by conference with employers' representatives, and by awards of the court, big advances in wages have been gained in several industries, not the least important being the recent Award covering employees in the Cloncurry mining district.

The Award provides for a minimum of 1s. 7d. per hour and a 44 hour week.

Generally speaking, great activity has been shown by the A.W.U. in all States of the Commonwealth during the year towards securing an improvement in wages and conditions for members in various occupations embraced by our organisation; and, despite the war, and other adverse circumstances, a very great deal has been accomplished.

With the hope that still further improvement in the lot of the workers may be secured during the present year.

I am, yours fraternally,

E. GRAYNDLER,

General Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVENTION.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

not receive A.W.U. men why should the A.W.U. Convention receive them?

Mr. Coyne considered it would be wrong to condemn the whole of the Labor politicians of Australia merely because the South Australian Branch had met with some alleged discourtesy at the hands of the Federal Labor Party.

Mr. McCormack, M.L.A., remarked that the idea behind the resolution was a good one, because delegates met to get through the business placed before them. He considered, however, that a resolution setting out that no one but a delegate should address Convention would meet the position.

Mr. Ryan agreed with the view put by Mr. McCormack. They should only have to listen to those who had direct business to do with Convention.

After further discussion, the resolution was defeated by 17 votes to 6 in the following division:—

For—Messrs. Ryan, McNaught, Cullinan, Blakeley, Lundle, and Harvey.
Against—Messrs. Barnes, McCormack, Martyn, Mooney, Collins, Kelly, Bailey, White, Watts, Butler, McNeill, Black, Coyne, Holloway, Last, Dunstan, and W. Murphy.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President, in welcoming delegates, said that the present was the thirtieth Annual Convention of the A.W.U. At one time, thinking of the remarks he should make, he proposed to give a review of some of the bigger happenings during the 30 years of the Union's history, but he had abandoned that idea because so many important events had taken place that time would not permit of them being adequately touched upon. He proposed, however, at some future date, to make a comprehensive review in another form, which on being put into type would be handy for circulation. He wished to take a line of dealing with certain phases of industrial thought that were getting into the organisation, but before doing so he desired to refer to the large number of members of the A.W.U. who had "crossed the great border," losing their lives in fighting the battle of liberty and justice in the inter-

The thirtieth annual Convention of the Australian Workers' Union opened at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Thursday, January 27, at 2.30 p.m., Mr. W. G. Spence, M.H.R., President, occupying the chair. The General Secretary (Mr. Grayndler) was in charge of the records.

The following delegates were credited to Convention:—

Central Branch (N.S.W.)—Messrs. J. Bailey, W. H. Lambert, and J. White.
Western Branch (N.S.W.)—Messrs. A. Blakeley, J. Cullinan, and C. Last.
Queensland Branch—Messrs. C. Collins, M.L.A., J. H. Coyne, M.L.A., W. J. Dunstan, M. Kelly, W. McCormack, M.L.A., A. J. McNaught, F. W. Martyn, and C. Ryan.
South Australian Branch—Messrs. W. Harvey, F. W. Lundle, and W. Murphy.
Tasmanian Branch—Mr. J. Mooney.
Victoria-Riverina Branch—Senator J. Barnes, Messrs. J. H. Black, T. P. Holloway, and J. McNeill.
West Australian Branch—Messrs. T. C. Butler and A. J. Watts.

Mr. J. M. Mackay was appointed official reporter; the President and General Secretary were empowered to supply information to the press, and it was agreed that bona-fide trades unionists should be admitted to Convention on the recommendation of delegates.

The hours of meeting were fixed as follows: 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 2 to 5 p.m., and 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon Saturdays.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Cullinan moved—
That no members of Parliament address the Convention.

He said that the time of the Convention in the past had been taken up by addresses by politicians, and it was necessary that the time should be conserved for the despatch of business.

Mr. Lundle seconded. He said that politicians came to Convention and told A.W.U. delegates that the Union was the salt of the earth, but when his branch desired to place before the Federal Caucus an urgent matter involving the welfare of 800 odd men, the official intimation was given by the secretary (Mr. Watkins) that a deputation on the subject could not be received. If the Federal members could

ests of the Empire of which Australia formed a part. The A.W.U. had contributed a great many of the men who had gone to Gallipoli, and whose bones were lying there. They could express their sincere condolences, with the wives and families, and their admiration for the bravery and courage shown by members in the new line which they had entered upon. Australia as a country had been practically free from war within its own confines—whether that would be so always he could not say, but he fervently hoped so—but they must feel pride at the vigor and determination shown by Australian soldiers, who had displayed the same grit and perseverance in the arena of war as had been manifested when fighting for industrial justice. They were all sorry that gallant Australians had died and been maimed, for, as in other phases of society, this meant big gaps in the roll-call of membership, and the loss of valuable fighters in the ranks of the workers.

WORK AHEAD.

They had much work ahead of them in the industrial field, and there were already evidences that the fight against the A.W.U. would be renewed, so their work would be cut out for them. Two industrial conferences had just finished their labors, over which he had had the honor and pleasure of presiding. He wished to say that the work of both the Pastoral Conference and the Constructional Workers' Conference had been done in an effective way, delegates being close in their application to their duties. The report of those proceedings would come before Convention later on. The Constructional Workers' Conference embraced a field hitherto new to the A.W.U., but brought in by the scheme of amalgamation, and it was his belief that it was the first conference in which representatives of these workers from all parts of the Commonwealth had met together to draw up an all-Australian programme. A very fine spirit had been shown throughout, and it was an excellent example of the solidarity which he believed would prevail amongst all sections of the A.W.U.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DANGERS.

The expansion of the A.W.U. meant new responsibilities and possibly new forces of hostility to be met. They had had some strange experiences during the past year. Some attempts had been made from outside to "bust" up the Union, but they had failed. As a result of this great responsibility much legal work had been thrown on the shoulders of the General Secretary. Apart from their common foe, the Pastoralists' Union, there had been other mysterious forces at work. Whether

the P.U. or the Employers' Federation were in it or not he could not say, but there was abundant evidence to show that a considerable amount of money had been and was being spent to try and damage the A.W.U. When lawyers were fed to advise people to turn traitor to try and bring evidence to damage a certain object, it was obvious that somebody was finding the money for the legal gentlemen. They had had assurances that that kind of thing had been done. In every section of Labor they did not always find a strong attitude being assumed towards those who had been disloyal. Whilst there were Governments putting forward the principle of preference to unionists, there were others showing preference to those who had been disloyal to Labor ideals. If the Labor movement was not strong enough to keep out of its ranks those who had shown disloyalty, then it had reached a very "milk-and-water" condition indeed.

"ECONOMIC LUNACY."

That kind of thing led him to consider certain phases of thought which he had indicated earlier. Observation had forced on his attention what he termed a bastard kind of political economy, or economic lunacy, imported from foreign parts with the idea of giving it a dwelling-place in Australia. In following this economic lunacy many younger men were on the wrong track, and did not know where they were going. The real object of this economic lunacy was concealed. He referred to Syndicalism, which was a French movement originally. There was no word in the English language which expressly covered it, but it practically applied to trades unionism and its forms of activities. If there was one writer more than another who was the chief apostle of this cult, it was Georges Sorel, who had written a great deal on the subject. Much of his writings was hard to understand; even economic students found this to be so, apart altogether from the general reader. Out of his writings a new line of thought had arisen. Against new lines of thought on the progressive side he had nothing to say, because there were so many changes in modern life that change of thought became natural enough. From this kind of thought had sprung "direct action." There were many people who believed that this meant the industrial weapon of the strike, but it meant far more than that, although the further objects were not always apparent.

RULE BY MINORITY.

There were several things which this new method stood for, and one was rule by minority. He was quite sure that a democratic people like Australians would

not stand for the rule of the minority. Sorel wrote that "Man has genius only in proportion as he acts without reflection." Sorel urges that we should act upon impulse, but when one got to the practical part of the philosophy, it was found to be "strike" every time, and hitting the capitalist every time, irrespective of consequences. Reason and judgment have small part in Syndicalist philosophy. There was a great deal of what was good in what Sorel wrote in his analysis of social conditions, and with which the subject attacked agreed, knowing that the subject attacked applied in this as well as other countries. But whilst conceding that he was prepared to say that the real aims were covered up, Emile Pauget says, "Syndical action is the negation of the system of majorities." These people claimed that it was always a minority which created important changes. It was true that important changes had been forecast by minorities, but in British communities the people waited until the minorities by fair argument and constitutional means were able to turn themselves into majorities. These advocates of direct action, however, expected groups to act without any consultation of others and without reasoning or looking to immediate or after-effects. They were deadly opposed to Arbitration and political action, and anything other than "direct action." By direct action they hoped to be able to do everything. They expected, when they had the universal strike, to gain possession of all sections of industry, and institute what was called industrial government. When Georges Sorel was pressed as to how things were to be run under his scheme, he had no ideas at all to offer. Sorel expected, by the time his scheme was in working order, that the people would be so perfect that there would be no need to bother about the method of running things at all.

ACTION, AND USEFUL ACTION.

"Action" was the command of the syndicalist; "useful action" the command of the Socialist trades unionist. The "direct action" of the syndicalist did not mean the strike only, but aimed at taking possession absolutely and Sorel wrote: "The general strike of the Syndicalist, and the catastrophic revolution of Karl Marx are myths." These teachings were put forward merely to fire the imagination, and ward off merely to fire the imagination, and ward no form of government whatever. The true syndicalist lived in a state of war always. There was no plan only that of possession, and the syndicalist would have nothing to do with agreements, conciliation, or Parliament.

THE I.W.W.

In France before the war there were 11,000,000 workers who could join unions. Only 1,000,000 were organized. Of these 400,000 belonged to the Confederation. Of that 400,000, 250,000 were opposed to syndicalist extreme doctrine. Syndicalism found no place in Belgium, Germany, or Holland, but anarchists in Italy took it on. He did not think it made much success in Italy, where Socialists had a much greater grip. The movement had no hold in Great Britain or Australia. Sorel, its teacher, admits his disappointment that it has made no headway. Syndicalism had, however, been taken up in America by the organization called the Industrial Workers of the World, and by them sent out to Australia. The I.W.W. was started by six men in Chicago in 1904, and its "Industrial Union Manifesto" was drawn up at a secret conference of 30 held in Chicago on January 2, 1905. The Conference which framed the constitution numbered 186, but many were ruled out. Seven organizations, representing 50,605 members, were installed as part of the new organization. The members of three of these, numbering 20,950 members, were found to exist almost wholly on paper. This conference met on June 27, 1905. In 1908 they had on paper 60,000 members, but in 1907 only 7000 were paid up. When the I.W.W. was first launched it was as a set-off against the American Federation of Labor. Clause 2 of the original preamble dealt with the war of the classes, and said, "Between these two classes a struggle must go on until all the workers come together on the political as well as in the industrial field, and take and hold that which they produce, by their labor, through an economic organization of the working class without affiliation with any political party." That was altered in 1908 to read: "Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system." The I.W.W. had declared against political action.

Mr. McNaught: Parliamentary action.

The President: And they had declared in favor of sabotage—the policy of "going slow," injury and destruction of machinery, etc. Stickers here had been pasted about the city advising workers to "Slow Down on the Job," and "Put the Boss in Dun-garees" and "Make the Politician Work."

"SABOTAGE IS THE BOSSES' NIGHTMARE."

They seemed to think there was no work to be done except with tools. The manifesto of the I.W.W. from Laurence (Mass.) in 1912, set out that "Every member of the

organisation is pledged to a revolutionary policy that admits of no compromise and knows nothing of contracts with the employers, of arbitration, or of peace.

Whatever the I.W.W. did in America, he considered that the position in Australia, which was on democratic lines, was entirely different. There were young men who thought that I.W.W.-ism merely meant the strike, but it was far more than that, for in their teaching was the immorality of not keeping agreements. One could not have a community organised unless the great majority of the men and women comprising it were truthful and honest. These people wanted rule by minority, and in the face of a democratic community would the A.W.U. stand for such as that? Why resort to these things if lawful means were available? When people entered into a contract the rights should be recognised.

A UNION THROWBACK.

The ideal of the syndicalist I.W.W. was a delusion, and they did injury to Labor by putting it in the wrong. It was a throw-back in Unionism to the dark ages of the destruction of labor-saving machinery. That kind of thing might suit America, which was fifty years behind Australia in the Labor movement, but it would not do here. Thirty years ago the A.W.U. contemplated organising all workers, long before the I.W.W. was heard of, but the lines proposed were and are entirely different. Young men should not be misled. With youth they had enthusiasm, and with youth they also had impatience perhaps, but he considered they could organise on clear-cut lines without these shibboleths of "class-consciousness," "direct action," and "economic determinism." Work could not be done by mere words, and they should always know where they were going. To "splash in" without reflection was ridiculous. He believed in the evolution of moral principles, with a sense of duty to fellow-workers. If they found Arbitration was not the best method they had the power to alter it, but until such time as it was altered they had to remain loyal to the principle which they had agreed upon. The A.W.U. had now that reputation throughout Australia that, having signed an agreement, they abided by it. He agreed with Ramsay MacDonald that "the Syndicalist might be an agent-provocateur of the capitalist, he certainly is his tool." To take up the I.W.W. cause certainly seemed more like helping the capitalist than fighting him in Australia. The revolutionary system had not worked out right, and the Socialist view was that the capitalist system was and would work out to its own end on evolutionary lines.

A SOCIALIST POLICY.

He had no fear of results. Australia had committed itself to a Socialist policy. They must, however, have a little patience. Parliament might be a cumbersome machine, and to impatient youth it might not appear to move fast enough, but it moved just as fast as the people made it. There were times when the Parliament was ahead of the people, notably in 1911 and 1913, when, by Referendum, the people were given the opportunity to govern themselves through the Federation but the offers were not embraced. Why, therefore, blame Parliament always?

In conclusion, he might say that the past 30 years had witnessed some marvelous changes, and great progress had been made. In those days they had plural voting then, and no manhood, let alone adult, suffrage. There was much work to be done by Convention, and he trusted that the Union, as a result, would continue to go ahead and lead in progressive thought and industrialism in Australia. (Applause.)

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT.

The General Returning Officer submitted the following report:—
Mr. President and Delegates,—
I have to report the results of the Executive Ballots for 1916-17.

General President.

Three nominations were received for the office of General President: A. J. McNaught, W. G. Spence, and James Yard. Mr. Yard's nomination was signed by two members, one of whom was the holder of an Old Age Ticket. The Union solicitor held that the holder of an Old Age Ticket was not entitled to nominate, and the nomination was declared informal. The ballot resulted as follows:—

Victoria-Riverina	McNaught, Spence		
Queensland	1,525	3,145	
Westralia	3,036	2,645	
Adelaide	671	1,681	
Western	713	1,308	
Central	2,042	2,080	
Tasmania	1,497	2,343	
		9,484	13,102

General Secretary.

Two nominations were received for the office of General Secretary—W. Ingersole and E. Grayndler. Mr. Ingersole failed to show that he had the two years' membership required by the rules, and he was declared ineligible to be nominated. Mr. Grayndler is accordingly re-elected General Secretary.

Vice-Presidents.

New South Wales—Mr. Jack Bailey is elected Vice-President for N.S.W. without opposition.

South Australia—Mr. Thomas Fleming is elected Vice-President for South Australia, without opposition.

West Australia—No nomination received.

Queensland—Nominations for Vice-President for Queensland were not received in time. I suggested that the Branch should take a local ballot, and this was done. Mr. E. G. Theodore securing a majority of the votes cast. To put the matter in order, it will be necessary for Convention to formally appoint Mr. Theodore.

Victoria—There were three nominations for Vice-President for Victoria: J. H. Black, J. Macpherson, and F. Richardson. The ballot resulted as follows:—
Black, 1,916; Richardson, 1,474; Macpherson, 1,226.

Mr. Black is elected.

Revision of Rules.

If the matter is within the power of Convention, I would suggest that rule 77 be amended to provide that the nominations should give the numbers of all tickets necessary to prove compliance with rule 79.

Yours faithfully,

H. LAMOND,

General Returning Officer.

January 27, 1916.

Mr. E. G. Theodore, M.L.A., was endorsed as Vice-President for Queensland, Mr. Dunsian explaining that owing to the serious illness of Mr. D. Bowman, M.L.A., who was returning officer for Queensland, certain nomination formalities for the Head Office had been overlooked.

Mr. A. J. Watts was elected Vice-President of the West Australian Branch.

RETURNING THANKS.

The President returned thanks for his re-election, and expressed his gratitude to members for the confidence placed in him.

Mr. McNaught, in returning thanks for the votes of members accorded to him, congratulated the President on his return. He would not have the position in any different way. In contesting the presidency, he had not held out much hope of being successful, because the A.W.U. was not militant enough. Regarding the President's remarks, he desired to say that he (Mr. McNaught) was not a syndicalist. Although he belonged to the I.W.W., he was not out to "bust" up the Union, nor was it the aim of any I.W.W. man inside or outside of the A.W.U. The I.W.W. was endeavoring to point out the fallacy of

craft unionism. When the A.W.A. amalgamated with the A.W.U. there had been great hopes expressed for the one big Union, but the President had expressed himself against the method which would bring it about. The A.W.U. had failed in organising in the North of Queensland, and the Union had been split up by arbitration, which previously the A.W.A. would not stand for.

GREAT PROGRESS.

Mr. Bailey, in returning thanks for re-election as Vice-President in N.S.W., agreed with the President that great progress had been made by the A.W.U. His active recollections of the A.W.U. went back to 1898, when he first met the President organising. Mr. Spence having infused new life into members, and the Union gained ground, and had been gaining ever since. They were now launching into the One Big Union idea, and he did not agree with Mr. McNaught that they were not proceeding on proper lines. The A.W.U. was not only leading Australia in unionism, but was an example to the whole of the civilised world. He believed, with the President, that they need not take their ideas from America, which was industrially and politically many years behind the people of Australia. Having read I.W.W. literature, he failed to see anything that was put forward worthy of adoption by the A.W.U.—the very name of which was made wide and comprehensive years ago in order to embrace all workers in the one organisation. He believed that in a few years' time they would see all unionists casting in their lot with the A.W.U.

Mr. Black, in thanking members for his election as Vice-President of the Victoria-Riverina Branch, said that there was a case that came to his knowledge, where 20 men would not take tickets, but they took all the benefits which the Union had fought for and won. Those men were members of the I.W.W. He believed that was the experience of most organisers, and he failed to see how I.W.W. members in the A.W.U. could be loyal to both organisations. The position was one worthy of consideration by Convention.

Mr. A. J. Watts returned thanks for election as Vice-President of the W.A. Branch.

REMARK AND MILDURA TICKETS.

Mr. McNeill said that, in order to deal with ticket-dodgers, it had been necessary for himself and Mr. Lundie to arrive at a certain definite policy with respect to the districts of Mildura (V.) and Renmark (S.A.), and the issue of 1916-17 tickets. At the half-yearly meeting of the Victoria-Riverina Branch, it had been decided, on the motion of Mr. Peter McDonald, that

the question should be considered as early as possible by Convention. He accordingly brought it forward now, and moved—

That the arrangements entered into by the South Australian and Victorian-Riverina Branch with respect to the issue of tickets at Renmark and Mildura be ratified.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was supported by the General Secretary and Mr. Dunstan, and carried.

The Standing Orders Committee—Messrs. Lundie, Mooney, Coyne, Bailey, W. Murphy, Holloway, Last, McNeill, and Senator Barnes—asked for the remaining time of the session in order to prepare business for the following day, and the request was granted.

Convention adjourned at 4.35 p.m.

SECOND DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Friday, January 28, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

A letter was read from Mr. Ike Smith, 168 Commonwealth-road, Surry Hills, Sydney, asking that Convention should hear his appeal against expulsion by the Central Branch as early as possible.

It was decided to consider the appeal on Monday, January 31.

The following telegram was received from W. D. Barnett, secretary A.M.A., Broken Hill:—

"Approximately 6,000 workers Broken Hill out fighting for 44 hours' week. Can you immediately assist financially? Letter following."

It was agreed to postpone action until hearing Mr. Considine, President of the Barrier A.M.A., who was present in Sydney, and had notified some delegates of his intention to explain the position.

Regarding a letter from Mr. J. R. Little, secretary of the Federated Mining Employees' Association, Melbourne, asking that a date should be fixed so that Mr. J. McDonald (President) could confer with Convention on amalgamation matters—

The General Secretary said that it was desirable to name a date upon which amalgamation (in which other unions were also interested) could be discussed generally. He moved—

That the F.M.E.A. and the Federated Iron Workers be asked to attend Convention on February 8.

Mr. Mooney seconded the resolution, which was carried.

CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That this Convention absolutely opposes the principle of conscription as being opposed to the spirit of our time and race; and more especially is this so in Australia, which has contributed more men under the voluntary system in proportion to its population than any other portion of the British Empire.

He said that he wanted this resolution carried to show that leading Laborites were against conscription, and if it was not carried it would show that the A.W.U. had slid back in militancy. To adopt conscription in Australia would mean bringing all the militarism of Prussia into the land.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was carried.

DISMISSAL OF MEN.

A discussion arose out of a resolution submitted by Mr. Cullinan respecting the dismissal of men from Federal works, and the following was carried:—

That the General Secretary be instructed to wire to the Acting Prime Minister and ascertain if instructions had been given to departmental officers to discharge men from public works with the object of forcing them to enlist; and that a committee be appointed to investigate whether men have been dismissed or refused employment by the Federal Government.

Members appointed on the committee of inquiry were—Messrs. Bailey, McNaught, Holloway, Harvey, and Butler.

WAR CENSUS CARDS.

Mr. Blakeley moved—

That this Convention deplores the methods employed by the Commonwealth Government in using compulsion and threats in taking the war census, and, further, is of the opinion that such method is a deviation from the voluntary system and towards conscription, and that no man should be compelled to fill in such cards.

He said that after the Brisbane Industrial Council had threatened action on this matter Mr. Hughes had taken steps to bring the compulsory filling in of the Precautions Act. The procedure after cards had been filled in was to send them to the War Committee or the local committee. The local committee had to be elected at a public meeting, and on the committee there must be one Labor representative. Delegates knew that local committees generally consisted of Burnables and capitalistic gentlemen, and with these there was to be but one Labor man. Even that provision had been turned down

have to be seriously considered as to how much longer they could continue to deplete the manhood of this young nation. In the far North of Queensland there were Britishers who should be interned for employing alien enemies. They were real traitors who did such a thing.

Mr. Cullinan said that he thought the Caucus dealt with all these questions, but seemingly Mr. Hughes had got something like a Germanic grip on the members, and had thus brought in this card system.

WAR PRECAUTIONS ACT.

Mr. McNaught said that the scheme was copied from Lord Derby, and the Federal Labor Government had shown marked inclination to follow the dictates of the Imperial Government. The card system was the forerunner of compulsion in Great Britain, and it might be the same here. With the passage of the War Precautions Act many of the things our forefathers had fought for had gone by the board. Extraordinary powers were given under that Act—trial by jury need not take place, and the Habeas Corpus Act had been revoked. In the Mandeno case in Brisbane the defendant had not said half as much as what some capitalists had stated. Mr. Hughes had attacked syndicalism the other day, but before he got into Parliament Mr. Hughes had been anything. This war had proved the existence of a capitalistic plutocracy above the power of Governments, and the Germanic grip of capitalism held the Federal Government as it did others.

Mr. Martyn said that criticism was easy, but something more constructive than mere criticism was due to this question. The times were abnormal, and the platitudes heard that day were not applicable to the situation. Let delegates come forward with helpful suggestions and not statements only.

Mr. McCormack said that with the firing of the first shot in the war Australia practically lost self-government. Australia's say in the settling of terms at the end of the war was important and her participation in the battlefield should give that right. Regarding the war cards themselves, they could be answered without any suggestion of compulsion to go to the war being involved in the action.

MR. HUGHES'S TRIP.

The President said that the reason for Mr. Hughes's trip to England was to discuss matters of vital moment to Australia arising out of the war, and what was to happen at the end of the war. Certain diplomatic possibilities had been foreshadowed, and it was Mr. Hughes's mission to make Australia's position clear. Australia's part in the war gave her an undoubted footing in the councils

by some local committees, which would not allow a Labor representative on. Personally, he objected to have to give to any local committee reasons why he did not go to the war. He objected because it was not the voluntary system, and they should not be brought under compulsion. He had no doubt that compulsion would be advocated in Australia if the war continued very much longer, and the A.W.U. as the largest organisation should take some definite stand on the question.

VITALLY IMPORTANT.

Mr. Ryan seconded. The subject was one of vital importance to Australia. He considered this war census business was the forerunner of compulsion or conscription. He agreed with those who protested against having to fill in these cards, and felt that the method which allowed local committees to investigate a man's private affairs was altogether wrong. The personnel of these committees was made up of men who had been fighting Labor for years past. The attempt at Labor representation was made to try and justify the position. Had not Australians done a fair thing in the present war? No matter how jingoes might call out that question should be faced. He recognised that the Commonwealth was dominated by the Imperial authorities, and that when the first shot was fired, White Australia ideas had gone up in the clouds. In the diplomatic world Australia had not had her say. In Australia at the present time they had compulsory military training, and in a few years' time would have a great number of military age. But that was instituted for the purpose of home defence, which was quite another matter to conscripting men to fight across the seas.

CREATED AND CREATORS.

Mr. Collins supported the resolution. He was not going to abuse Mr. Hughes, but proposed to talk against the Federal Labor Party which permitted these compulsory instructions to go out. The created were becoming greater than the creators. An important question such as this must have come before the Caucus of the party.

Senator Barnes: It did not.

Mr. Collins: Then in the Federal Parliament the party were going on the old Liberal lines of letting the Cabinet run everything. In Queensland the State party would not sanction such an action unless the members were consulted. The cards represented a veiled system of conscription, and one could not say where it was going to end. The world had gone insane, and here was Australia following in the same footsteps, but the time must surely come when the question would

of the Empire, and they could rely on the best being done by Mr. Hughes in a situation which was fraught with seriousness. The resolution was carried.

AMENDING RULES.

Consideration of the business sheet was entered upon. Several resolutions for amendment of rules lapsed for want of a mover. Mr. Ryan moved that the clause in rule 14 relating to dismissal of members for misconduct should be amended to provide "for the right of appeal at the next succeeding Convention."

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. Ryan moved the following resolution from Babinda. (Q.) Local Committee:— That Rule 89 be deleted and the following substituted: (Clause a)—Should any infringement of the rights and privileges of members of this Union be attempted by the employers, the members employed shall lay a complaint in writing before the Executive of their local centre, who shall deal with same and give notice to the district committee; and if necessary appoint a deputation to wait on the employer and endeavor to adjust the dispute. Failing in this, the matter shall be referred to a general meeting of the local centre, convened for the purpose, which may, if deemed advisable, submit the whole matter to arbitration. Should no settlement be arrived at, the members shall, with the consent of the district committee cease work.

(Clause b)—No members of this Union shall strike, nor shall any local centre authorize its members to strike for any cause; and no member or members shall resume work, nor shall any local centre authorize its members to resume work after a dispute, without the consent of the district committee. (Clause c)—If any member or members receive notice from their employer or employers of a reduction of wages or increase in hours of labor, they shall continue to work, but under protest; and shall, at the earliest opportunity give notice thereof to the Chairman or Secretary of their local centre, who shall call a special meeting of the Executive Committee to consider same, and act thereon.

(Clause d)—When it has been decided to financially support a local centre which has become involved in an industrial trouble the Branch Executive shall make arrangements for financial assistance to such members as require same; such assistance to come from the general fund, and in event of the gene-

business. The matter so initiated shall be put to the Referendum of the members within three months. The Referendum of members so constituted shall be the highest deliberative body in the Union.

He said that this resolution was absolutely in the interests of the Union as against the methods of the controlling action of officials. The present method resulted in a star-chamber bureaucracy for officials by officials. Members should have power of veto over the acts of officials and to dispense with services. They had not that power now. It had been laid down that Convention was the highest body in the Union, but members should be able to even veto Convention. If the initiating percentage was made too small there would be too many pettifoggery matters, but ten per cent. would be a safeguard against such a happening. There was no contention in launching this to take away or attack the powers of Convention.

Mr. Cullinan seconded. He had always been in favor of this reform, and he did not see how democrats could object to it.

Mr. Lundie said that members elected the executives of branches by ballot. Here was a very pointed method of "recall," and there was no necessity for the resolution whatever. Mr. Coyne said that the Recall was something which applied generally to legislation, and would not be applicable to officials. Besides, officials had to be elected annually.

WORKING BY REFERENDUMS.

Mr. McNeill said that the giving of the right to 10 per cent. to initiate might mean that organisers might be wanted to work for £2 or £3 per week. In fact, suggestions might be made to have no organising machinery at all and run everything in the form of Referendums from the Head Office. As Mr. Coyne had pointed out, officers from the President along to the rep. were elected by members who could pass judgment on the individuals from year to year. Then again, there were branch meetings and the Annual Convention. Members initiated all their own legislation for Convention, and what freer system could there be than that? The whole control of this vast organisation was vested in the hands of members per medium of the ballot, and not in officials as had been stated by Mr. McNaught. He resented the imputation which had been cast on officials. From the first day of the life of this organisation it had been under the control of members and not by officials.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE.

Mr. Ryan said that they could not object to this democratic principle. Very little consideration should be given to the bogey that members would want Referendums on the smallest of matters, and that a small number could give it effect. The ten per cent. merely had the right to initiate. It would be the whole of the members who would decide by Referendum what should be done, and not 10 per cent. So far as Conventions were concerned, it was largely a case of "continuous government," for the personnel did not alter materially from year to year. This principle would be before Parliament, and surely if it was a good, sound thing for Parliament to adopt, it followed that it should be good for an organisation also.

GOOD FOR PARLIAMENT, GOOD FOR A.W.U.

Mr. Collins supported the resolution. He agreed that if the proposal was good enough for Parliament it should do for the A.W.U. Ten per cent. of members would be able to call for a Referendum as to whether paid officials or Parliamentarians were eligible to attend Convention. What had operated in the past all right might not necessarily operate well in the future, and they had to move with the times. It would be foolish, of course, to refer all things to a Referendum, but on big questions in which they were interested members had a right to have their wishes made known.

Mr. Blakeley was against the proposition because he could not see that it would make for the better government of the Union. The position of this Union and a Parliament was altogether different, and there was no analogy in the case presented. Members had at all times control of officials in the annual elections. Reports were furnished from time to time, and THE WORKER also kept members apprised of what was going on.

"CATCHY" RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. McCormack opposed the resolution which he said was of a "catchy" character, dealing as it did with an important question of policy in Labor-in-politics. The difference between Parliament and the A.W.U. was very marked. Parliament, through the Government of the day, introduced its own legislation. The people did not submit matters to Parliament. On the other hand the very matters which the Convention had to discuss were all formulated by members of the A.W.U. The constitution of the Union made for the essential features of democracy. Mr. McNaught was anxious to deal with officials, but members had that

opportunity annually. What sort of a time would members have if rules were submitted for approval? There might be such divisions of opinion that no finality would be reached, and the organisation would be at a standstill. This proposal did not make for leadership—and leadership was never more urgently wanted than now—and was a weak-kneed method of appealing to members without desiring to take any responsibility. There might be some "belly-achers" wanting this, so as to submit proposals to pay officials £100 a year. The paid official was most necessary, and in his opinion no officer of the A.W.U., considering the work he did, had been anything like over-paid in the past.

Mr. Kelly supported the resolution, but denied that he was a "belly-acher" in so doing. This proposal was sound in principle, and in Switzerland had succeeded beyond a doubt. It would be well to have a committee appointed to draw up a workable scheme, and he moved as an amendment the resolution from Mount Cuthbert Line Construction Workers (Q.):—

That the principle of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall be embodied in the constitution of the A.W.U., the details to be worked out by a committee appointed by Convention.

Mr. Ryan seconded the amendment.

INITIATION OF LEGISLATION.

The General Secretary said that he was surprised at such a resolution being moved and seconded, seeing that all the legislation of the A.W.U. was initiated by members and passed from them to Convention, which was the Parliament of the A.W.U. The legislation was initiated by members, who in turn elected officials and delegates to Convention. So far as was possible every democratic method was made available to the A.W.U. Here was a proposal which would admit of ten per cent. of members initiating questions as often as they liked, and keeping the organisation in a constant state of turmoil, and whilst merely registering opinions, retarding the really useful work of the Union. Ideas of this kind were put forward to have a disrupting influence on the organisation and to carry this would greatly assist the political adventurers and industrial tricksters who had endeavored to work havoc and dissension amongst the A.W.U.

Mr. Butler said that rule 86 made ample provision for plebiscites when they were considered necessary.

Mr. McNaught said he did not wish to claim the right of reply.

The amendment was defeated, and also the resolution, by 18 votes to 5, on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Collins, Ryan, Kelly, McNaught, and Cullinan.

Against—Messrs. Lundie, Holloway, Coyne, Last, McNeill, Blakeley, Watts, Butler, W. Murphy, White, Lambert, Bailey, Martyn, McCormack, Dunstan, Mooney, Harvey and Barnes.

Mr. Dunstan hoped that Mr. McNaught's refusal to reply to the arguments against his resolution had been recorded.

Mr. McNaught: I could have replied alright, but my desire was to save the time of Convention.

FREE MEMBERSHIP TICKETS.

Mr. Last moved the resolution from Breeza (N.S.W.):—

That rule 8 affecting free membership tickets be amended so that free members or those carrying free membership tickets may be qualified to vote on all questions affecting the Australian Workers' Union.

He said that something should be done in order to allow free members to take a part in the organisation if they desired to.

The General Secretary said that he had had to consult legal opinion on this subject, and nothing could then be done as matters stood. He had suggested one or two methods, but it would be necessary to consult the lawyers on it again.

It was agreed to postpone further consideration of the subject till counsel's opinion was obtained.

REVISING RULES.

Mr. Blakeley moved—

That a Rules Revision Committee be appointed.

He said that he moved this direct resolution in preference to the one from Mr. Murchison (N.S.W.) sheeters, which asked that the Convention take steps to bring the constitution up-to-date. Something would have to be done with the rules which were tautological and cumbersome to handle.

The resolution was carried, and the President, General Secretary, and Mr. Last were appointed as members of the Committee.

RULING SOUGHT.

Mr. Watts said that on behalf of the West Australian Branch he wished to have a question settled as to an American negro cook. The agreement with the pastoralists in the West set out that the cook should be white, but at one station where there was an American negro cook there was trouble over the matter, and it

had been decided by the Branch to refer the question for Convention to determine.

The President said that under rule 5 provision was made for the admission of membership of an American negro. He was "white," so to speak, by reason of membership, and to have excluded such a man would have been flying in the face of the constitution, even although the agreement provided for white cooks.

Mr. Watts said that there was an Indian, an old member of the General Workers' Union, in West Australia who assumed that he should automatically pass into the membership of the A.W.U. He (Mr. Watts) had ruled against issuing a ticket to him in the A.W.U. in the light of the constitution.

The President: That decision was correct. The rules are against the enrolment of Indians.

COMMISSION ON TICKETS.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Midkin (N.S.W.):—

That rule 36 be altered to provide that a uniform rate of 2½ per cent. commission be paid on the sale by reps. and local agents of A.W.U. tickets.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution, which after a brief discussion was defeated.

BRANCH PROPERTIES.

Mr. Last moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive, N.S.W.:—

That rule 39 be amended to allow of Branch Executives to dispose of their properties if they deem necessary.

He said it was an anomaly that whilst branches could purchase property they had no authority to dispose of it.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, and said that provision should also be made so that branches could borrow on their properties.

The resolution was amended and finally carried in the following form:—

Any Branch may with the consent of the Executive Council expend its funds in the purchase of land and buildings to be used as Union offices, and may be empowered to mortgage, sell, or let same.

REPRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive, N.S.W.:—

That rule 78, second paragraph, be amended by substituting the word "Branch" for the word "State" in the first and last line, and by striking out the words "or Branches in the States" in the fifth line.

He said that at present two small States could outvote New South Wales.

although their membership might be much below that of N.S.W. This was a matter of State rights, and now that there was an increasing membership for there should be Vice-Presidents for Branches instead of States. He

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that when the amalgamation took the Railway Workers' Association took effect in June next, New South Wales would have three branches and only one Vice-President. That did not seem to be equitable.

It was decided to postpone further discussion until the question of the constitution of industrial branches came under review.

STATING OCCUPATIONS.

Mr. Last moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.):—

That rules 25 and 78 be amended to provide that no occupation shall appear in the Branch ballots.

He said that they should break down any sectional or class distinctions.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, although he said there was a weakness in a case where men of similar names and initials were contesting a ballot.

Mr. Lundie hoped that the occupation of nominees would be still insisted on in ballot papers.

Mr. Dunstan opposed the resolution, and gave an instance where the name of a man had led to his being distinguished. Otherwise there would have been confusion, because there were two men of the same name and initials in the ballot. The resolution was defeated.

DATE OF TICKETS.

Mr. Blakeley moved the Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.) resolution:—

That rule 9 be amended by striking out the words "October and December" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "January and March."

He said that this proposal altered the date of tickets. The Railway Workers' Association had their tickets ending in December, and so did other Unions who might come into the amalgamation.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution. Mr. Dunstan opposed, and said that this proposal would mean a loss of at least £4000 annually to Queensland. The resolution after further debate was defeated.

Conference adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

THIRD DAY.

Convention did not sit on Saturday, January 29, delegates having accepted invitations to attend the annual picnic of THE WORKER.

FOURTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Monday, January 31, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

IKE SMITH APPEAL CASE.

Delegates sat in committee from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on the appeal made by Mr. Ike Smith against his expulsion from membership by the Central Branch Executive.

The following resolution moved by Mr. McCormack, and seconded by Mr. Lundie, was carried:—

That this Convention upholds the appeal of Mr. Smith against the action of the Central Branch Executive in expelling him from the Australian Workers' Union.

The President conveyed the resolution in a brief speech to Mr. Smith, who thanked the Convention and withdrew.

The President announced that the unveiling of the memorial to the late Mr. Tommy White, formerly General Secretary of the A.W.U., would take place at the Waverley Cemetery on Saturday, February 5, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS.

On a resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—"That Convention give an interpretation of that portion of rule 75 (clause j) which deals with Executive Council"—Mr. Blakeley moved—

That clause (j) of rule 75 be carried out in its entirety.

He said that clause (j) read that the General Secretary should "supply all Branch Secretaries with printed forms of uniform design for balance sheets, and supply all branches with the report of decisions of the Executive Council on any questions submitted to it with a list of those voting thereon." It was an anomaly that the management of a branch could not have the full information of the deliberations of the Executive Council. During the last two years he had been hampered through not being possessed of such information. Convention should say whether the rule should be carried out or not. He had only received a vague resume of the work of the Executive Council when in Melbourne. He did not desire knowledge of things which might be at a confidential stage, or which should not be disclosed, but what he wanted was an outline of the doings to guide him in administrative work.

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that as representative of the Western Branch he felt at times embarrassed when asked questions concerning Executive Council deliberations. He did not see how he could divulge information of a confi-

dential character, and would not do so unless Convention decided that it should be done.

Mr. Coyne said that he well understood there were times when Executive Council meetings had to be regarded as strictly confidential, but there were surely other occasions in which information highly necessary to a branch could be made known.

Mr. McCormack said that they should confine the responsibilities to members of the Executive Council. That was what the Executive was for and to take quick action.

The General Secretary said that the Executive Council would have to decide as to what should be sent out. He had despatched reports of the last two Executive Council meetings to Branch Secretaries who were not on the Executive Council.

The resolution was carried.

FUNERAL TICKETS.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That rules 139 and 143 be amended to allow old members who are in possession of a clearance from the Union, but are not permitted to hold free tickets, owing to their occupation, procuring a funeral fund ticket.

He said something should be done for the old chaps so that they could get their funeral tickets which they had been in the habit of taking out yearly before.

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that the decision of Mr. Justice Pow-ers had placed the old men at a disadvantage in that they could not get a free ticket which would enable them to go for the funeral ticket.

Mr. Dunstan said that so far as Queensland was concerned, he would like to see the funeral tickets abolished altogether, and that the amount now in hand should be handed back pro rata to those who had contributed.

Mr. Blakeley moved as an amendment—That the matter be adjourned and the rules relating to the fund be remitted to a committee to deal with and report back to Convention.

Mr. Martyn seconded the amendment, which was carried by 12 votes to 11 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Martyn, Collins, McCormack, Ryan, Kelly, McNaught, White, Watts, Butler, Last, Blakeley, and Dunstan.

Against—Messrs. Lundie, Holloway, Coyne, Black, McNeill, Murphy, Cullinan, Bailey, Harvey, Mooney, and Barnes. Messrs. Dunstan, McNeill, Mooney, Lambert and Blakeley were appointed as members of the committee.

Convention adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

FIFTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at McDonnell House, Sydney, on Tuesday, February 1, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

Mr. Bailey said that in view of the decision of Convention the previous day in upholding the appeal of Mr. Ike Smith, he desired a ruling as to what Mr. Smith's position was with respect to retaining a seat on the Executive of the Central Branch?

After a brief discussion it was decided to postpone consideration of the question to a later date.

BROKEN HILL MINERS' DISPUTE.

Mr. M. P. Considine, president of the A.M.A., Broken Hill, on being invited to address Convention, said that it was not always wise to pay attention to what the daily newspapers said respecting industrial disputes. Invariably the employers' side of the base was put to the detriment of the men. That was so in this case.

Regarding the present fight at Broken Hill he would endeavor to give an outline of events leading to the present trouble. The A.M.A. had had a 4½ years' agreement with the mining companies, which expired on June 30 last. The A.M.A. gave the companies three months' notice prior to that date in which it was intimated that they desired a new log of wages and conditions to operate on the expiration, and that a conference should be held to discuss these matters. They had a combined unions committee which the Engine-drivers and Firemen's Union—the organisation which had shown so much spleen in this fight—was invited to join. The Engine-drivers and Firemen declined to come on the committee, urging as a reason that they had an arbitration case pending, and that their claims asked for 48 hours week. To the request for a conference the combined unions received a reply from the companies saying the time was inopportune to grant increased wages and review conditions, but that it was proposed to renew the existing agreement for the period of the war and for six months after.

PORT PIRIE'S PART.

The A.M.A., considering the circumstances, decided to accept the offer so far as Broken Hill itself was concerned, provided the South Australian branches (Port Pirie, Hummocky Hill, Iron Knob, etc.) were agreeable. The Port Pirie men held a meeting and refused to renew the agreement. They sent delegates from Port Pirie to Broken Hill, and those delegates urged that the agreement should not be renewed until the Port Pirie workers had received some improvement in their working conditions. Both himself

and Mr. O'Reilly (who was at present in Melbourne) advocated these claims of the Port Pirie men. As a result of the efforts put forward the men at the Hill decided not to work under the old conditions and demanded a conference within three weeks to discuss the position. The conference was granted, but the companies refused to meet the Port Pirie men in consultation with the Broken Hill representatives. The companies' excuse for this was that they had no jurisdiction over Port Pirie, inasmuch as the works there were now owned by a composite company and that a separate agreement would have to be drawn up. The Broken Hill men refused to go into the conference unless as one body with the Port Pirie representatives.

CONFERENCES MEET.

Eventually a conference was granted. At that conference the companies offered 1s. per shift increase, providing all other claims such as a minimum wage for contracts and a 44 hour week were dropped. The alternative was to cite a case before the Federal Arbitration Court. The men decided they would not accept the 1s. increase without the 44 hour week and the minimum wage for contract work, and demanded that the Arbitration Court sit within three weeks. Following that a compulsory conference was summoned by Mr. Justice Higgins in September. At that conference all the unions connected with the mines and works were represented. Mr. Justice Higgins expressed himself in favor of a minimum wage for contracts and persuaded the representatives of the companies to meet the union representatives on the subject outside of the compulsory conference proceedings. That meeting took place, and the company representatives agreed to the principle of the minimum wage for contract workers. On the following morning before assembling at the compulsory conference he and others saw Messrs. Delprat and Horwood in consultation. When before Mr. Justice Higgins he announced that the companies had come into line for a minimum wage for contract work.

EMPLOYERS REPUDIATE.

Mr. Horwood at once said that under no conditions would he agree to any such thing. From that statement the representatives of the men assumed that Mr. Horwood had got his instructions from Mr. Delprat. Mr. Justice Higgins adjourned the sitting till the following day, when on re-assembling all of the companies' representatives repudiated the agreement for a contract minimum which they had entered into. It seemed as if the companies' representatives were

working with the specific intention of bringing about a strike. The Judge asked the mining companies to give a voluntary undertaking to pay the 1s. they had previously offered without its being binding on the men. This was granted unconditionally, and in addition to that Port Pirie secured time and a quarter for Sundays and holidays. Previously they had been working seven shifts a week at 8s. 9d. per shift, and no overtime Sundays or holidays. The Port Pirie people were enjoying those gains to-day. The A.M.A. differed from some other unions in that the bulk of the members were surface hands, some of whom were not immediately associated with mining. As the questions arising out of the compulsory conference concerned the underground men vitally it did not seem right that the majority of members—surface hands, many of whom were not connected with mining industry—should decide the issue. A meeting of underground men was held, and they decided that they intended to "lose" the Saturday afternoon shift. until a 44-hour week was granted. That was the position which he and Mr. W. D. Barnett found on their return from Sydney, whether they had proceeded on urgent business connected with the "Barrier Daily Truth," which was owned by the A.M.A.

UNDERGROUND MEN'S POSITION.

The underground men were determined to "lose" the Saturday afternoon shift, and to have insisted on its being worked would have split the union into two bitter sections which would have played right into the companies' hands. When the underground workers continued to refuse to work the Saturday afternoon shift another compulsory conference was called by Mr. Justice Higgins, who at that gathering drew attention to the penalties involved. On behalf of the Union it was stated that no responsibility for or against the underground workers' action was taken. Mr. Justice Higgins said that unless the underground workers resumed the Saturday afternoon shift the penalties would be put in operation and the Union case before the Court cancelled. When he and his fellow representatives returned to Broken Hill their report of the conference proceedings was accepted, but the underground workers went on losing the Saturday afternoon shift. Once again there was a summoned conference by Mr. Justice Higgins who, in view of what had happened, announced that he intended to release the companies from the conditions which they had earlier agreed to. At that conference Mr. O'Reilly suggested that the 44 hours question should be dealt with immediately.

COMPULSORY CONFERENCES END.

The Judge agreed to do this, provided that the Union representatives pledged themselves to urge upon the underground men to undertake the Saturday afternoon shift work. He and his colleagues made that recommendation on returning to the Hill. The underground men, however, claimed that they had been losing the Saturday afternoon shift without any demerit on the part of the companies being shown and thus as there had been no great opposition displayed to their action they would continue to do so. They further said that they were quite prepared to let the case go before the Arbitration Court, but would not resume the Saturday afternoon shift until the award of the Court was made known. That decision he and his fellow representatives reported back to Mr. Justice Higgins, who thereupon relieved the companies of the 1s. increase per shift voluntary undertaking, and gave the companies a free hand to deal with employees and disbanded the conference.

THE COMPANIES' "MOVE."

About the 18th or 19th of December notices were posted up on the mines setting out that unless the Saturday afternoon shift and the 48 hours per week were worked men "losing" that shift would be discharged and the 1s. increase per shift ("bonus" was what they called it) would be discontinued. On January 8 the men refused to do the Saturday afternoon shift, and on Monday "every man Jack" of them was discharged. Following this the day and night shift men refused to go on in view of the drastic action taken. For three months the companies had condoned the "losing" of the Saturday afternoon shift and a meeting on the Tuesday attended by 3000 or 4000 men decided they would not scab on those who had been dealt with. It was unanimously agreed that all those associated with the A.M.A. should fight for the 44 hour week. In pursuance of that policy he and Mr. O'Reilly went to Port Pirie and placed the case before the men there. They refused to come out. Various proposals to that end were put before them, but all were turned down, the only resolution which they would listen to being that of continuing to work. The secretary of the A.M.A. at Port Pirie told him he had been offered £100 by a leading man to use his influence and keep the men in. That secretary took the books and funds to Broken Hill and left the scabs at Port Pirie to carry on their own work. On arriving at Hummocky Hill he and Mr. O'Reilly were refused accommodation by the local publican, but were given a tent to sleep in for the night by a former resi-

dent of Broken Hill. At Iron Knob they found something like an international gathering of men—Italians, Maltese, Bulgars, Germans, Greeks, and about twenty Englishmen. Nothing could be done with them in the matter of coming out—in fact they gave three cheers for "work"—and the only man who allowed them anything like sympathetic attention was the chairman, who put the case very fairly.

PRIME MINISTER HUGHES'S COMMENTS.

It had been urged against the men at Broken Hill that in taking up the fight for a week of 44 hours they were hanging up munitions for the war. Mr. W. M. Hughes, the Prime Minister, had gone out of his way to say that the Barrier miners were being led by pro-Germans. Before leaving Australia Mr. Hughes had taken it upon himself to send a telegram to the Union embodying those views. Mr. Hughes in making such statements was either deliberately misrepresenting the position or else he was absolutely unacquainted with the conditions obtaining at Broken Hill. Mr. Hughes had said that lead and spelter were essential for munition manufacturing in Australia and England. If that were so how was it that several mines at Broken Hill hitherto producing these metals had been lying idle ever since the war started, and no attempt was being made to work them? If lead and spelter were so urgently required would not all the available sources have been called into operation, even if the Government had had to do so themselves? It seemed to be the way to attack the workers always in these industrial conflicts, and ever let the employers go scot free of criticism.

PATRIOTISM.

Patriotism was brought into the question, but apparently it was the patriotism that was one-sided. Ever since June last lead and spelter in vast quantities had been lying at the wharves awaiting transport to Japan and Russia from Port Pirie. The reason why it had not gone forward was because there was a lack of ships' bottoms in which to carry it. There was no question of the supplies of lead and spelter being "hung up." Supposing even if lead and spelter production were imperilled what becomes of the patriotism of the mine-owning employers who insisted on the men toiling in the depths of the earth doing the Saturday afternoon shift once in three weeks or else closed the mines down completely? Those patriots, however, were asked to waive nothing. The attack came with very bad grace from a Labor Prime Minister who, accusing men of being led

by pro-German sympathies, knew perfectly well that the shareholding list of Broken Hill mines was crowded with Germans. This cry of patriotism was being worked in the interests of the companies, and the Federal Government seemed to be playing that game along with them. Mr. Mahon, the Acting Federal Attorney-General, had written to Mr. Justice Higgins suggesting that, in view of the critical position and national emergency, the President of the Arbitration Court should again intervene. Mr. Justice Higgins had replied that it would be impossible for him to do so; "it would be most unfair to the employers and law-abiding unions and ruinous as a precedent." Nothing in that about national emergency and the Empire being in danger! Senator Pearce, the Acting Prime Minister, had been approached by a deputation to do something in the matter. His reply was that Mr. Justice Higgins had made a statement and the Government must uphold the law as laid down by the Judge. The representatives of the men had used every endeavor to get the Federal Government or the Arbitration Court to intervene, but the efforts had so far been fruitless. There was no reason why the Court could not sit and determine this question of hours. It had sat in the case of the Waterside Workers, and why not for the miners?

FUNDS WANTED.

Meanwhile the men were in the fight and £2500 per week was required to keep them going. The Railway and General Workers of N.S.W. had endorsed the action of the men who were out, and promised £500, with a 1s. a week levy on members. The Adelaide Engine-drivers and Firemen had decided to stand by the miners, although the men in their line at the Hill would not. The Adelaide "Herald," which was the Labor daily there, had refused to print the resolution in which this support was accorded those on strike. He maintained that the support to which they were entitled from every industrial organization in Australia had not been forthcoming yet. Convention delegates knew what had happened at the New South Wales Labor Council in Sydney. When he had made an appeal for support a motion was proposed, side-stepping any action until the views of the men at Port Pirie had been ascertained. Fancy a Labor Council waiting to know what "scabs" had received the 1s. increase and better conditions by the efforts of the Union, and like Judas of old, had taken the silver. When they found they would be risking that 1s. a day the Port Pirie men "scabbled." He held that the fight was as

much the fight of other industrial organisations as their own. They wanted a 44 hour week, and here were the employers "putting the boot" into them, endeavoring to break them, and trying to get the old agreement in force again. The issue of the fight depended on the support accorded by unions to them. He trusted the A.W.U. would be actuated by the traditions of the past and see that the interests of the men at Broken Hill were their interests also.

In answer to questions, Mr. Considine said that the production at the mines had not been hampered by the Saturday afternoon shift being "lost," because there was no extra accumulations to cope with. Twelve shillings per week were paid to single men, and £1 to £1 5s. to married men. In five years the men at Broken Hill had sent away £12,000 to other unions to assist in industrial fights, so he made his appeal with confidence in view of their own past performances in rendering financial assistance.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Considine, and the following resolution was carried, on the motion of Mr. Martyn, seconded by Mr. Ryan.—

That this Convention pledges itself to support the action of the Barrier Miners in their present struggle.

At a later stage a resolution was carried donating £950 to assist the dependents of those involved in the strike, and instructing the various branches of the A.W.U. to send out subscription lists to raise further funds for the same purpose.

MEMBERSHIPS AND FINANCES.

Secretaries of branches submitted annual reports and balance-sheets. Membership and cash in hand were stated to be as follows, it being explained that there were still more members and cash to come in.—

Branch.	Members.	Cash in Hand.
Adelaide	8,500	£ 3,500
West Australia	4,100	3,400
Vic-Riverina	10,023	4,363
Central	7,400	4,370
Western	6,842	4,565
Tasmania	750	500
Queensland	23,000	5,000
		60,415 .. £25,698*

*Some liabilities have to be met out of this amount by branches.
The branch balance-sheets and reports were adopted.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

In answer to a question, Mr. McNeill explained that the Vic.-Riverina Branch held a controlling interest in the "Evening Echo," Ballarat, which, under the man-

agement of Mr. J. Scullin, had become a good paying proposition, whilst at the same time doing yeoman service for the Labor movement in Victoria. The "Echo" paid the best newspaper wages in Ballarat, higher than any other Victorian provincial journal, and was staffed by Laborites, ever ready to do their share in the movement.

When the Queensland balance-sheet and report were being considered, Mr. Coyne asked what had become of the West Queensland Branch funds?

Mr. Dunstan said that he had produced the balance-sheet for the Queensland Branch, the only branch in Queensland he knew of.

Mr. Coyne said that Convention last year had decided on two branches for Queensland. Had the West Queensland money been "ear-marked"?

At the suggestion of the President, it was agreed that discussion on the subject should take place when branches were being considered.

A COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. Holloway, on behalf of the committee appointed to inquire into the question of whether the Federal Government were giving employment preference to married men as against single men, and discharging men with a view of assisting enlistment, made a verbal report. He said that they could not get any corroboration of the charges which had been made, the committee having made numerous inquiries at the Trades Hall, Sydney. They had learnt, however, from the secretary of the Amalgamated Carpenters' Union and the kindred organisation that in the past there had been room for complaint in the Defence Department, but his had since been remedied. A complaint had been sent to the Navy Department on the subject, and this was the answer received:—

Navy Department,

July 1, 1915.

With reference to your complaint of the 21st ult., addressed to the Minister of Defence, relative to the resolution protesting against any discrimination as between married and single men in the matter of employment at Cockatoo and Garden Islands, I am directed to inform you that it is the policy of the Department to give preference to married men, as it is thought that such a course is in the best interests of Australia.

That letter was signed by the Secretary of the Navy, but since it had been written, Mr. Jensen, the Minister for the Navy, had ordered that there was to be no discrimination. The day previously 80 men had been put off, but the two secretaries of the unions concerned frankly admitted that this was due to the job being finished.

ANSWERS TO TELEGRAMS.

The General Secretary said that in response to telegrams he had sent, the following replies had been received:—
From Senator Pearce, Acting Prime Minister:

Re your telegram of yesterday as to discharging of men, no such instructions issued by this Government.

From Mr. Arch. Stewart, secretary of the Political Labor Council of Victoria:

Have no evidence discharging or victimising single men for purpose stated. Mr. Dunstan said that in Brisbane they knew there was an order that returned soldiers were first to get jobs in postal construction work, then married men, and then men who were associated with the Labor Party. Mr. Templeton, the deputy P.M.G., would not allow officers to give information, saying he alone should do so, but as Mr. Templeton would see no one, information was difficult to obtain.

Mr. Mooney said that in Tasmania he had learnt that in postal work the order of preference was as stated by Mr. Dunstan.

Mr. McNaught said that whilst he believed discrimination had taken place, he had to admit that the committee could not obtain evidence in support of the charge.

Mr. Lundie said that he had not expected the committee would have been able to gather evidence. He knew of cases, but the difficulty was of proving them. It was a singular thing that when there was a slump in recruiting men were paid off, or jobs were extended beyond the time upon which they were supposed to start.

Senator Barnes said it was in the highest degree essential that, if charges were to be made, definite evidence should accompany them. Without that evidence it was no use hoping to remedy any abuses, because there must be something upon which specific action could be taken.

The report was received.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

SIXTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonnell House, Sydney, on Wednesday, February 2, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair. All delegates present.

The General Secretary read his annual report, which was adopted and ordered to be printed. The Head Office balance-sheet for the year was read and adopted.

In committee, the General Secretary gave a verbal report regarding the West Australian branch, the former secretary, Mr. T. L. Brown, and the result of the audit.

The report was adopted.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH.

Mr. Coyne moved—

That Convention confirms the decision of last year's Convention in the matter of establishing the West Queensland branch, and that the latter commence operations forthwith.

He said it would be remembered that last year Convention by a majority of two to one decided there should be two branches established in Queensland. Two of the delegates present at that Convention—Messrs. Bow and McLearn—were members of the Queensland Branch Executive. They were asked to attend a meeting of the branch executive after the Convention was over. He had been informed that there had been a good deal of heat at that executive meeting over the decision which Convention had arrived at. Mr. Theodore, president of the Branch, had, he believed, told Messrs. Bow and McLearn that they could "stew in their own juice," and should start the new branch right away, and not wait for the time Convention had fixed for its establishment. They were asked to absent themselves from executive meetings, and matters would be considered by the other members. At the time Mr. Theodore made this statement he (Mr. Coyne) thought from what he could learn that the president of the Queensland Branch was in communication with the General Secretary (Mr. Grayndler), pointing out that there was universal dissension, and the prospect of disruption in Queensland at the action of Convention.

THE SUSPENDED DECISION.

As the result of these negotiations the Executive Council decided to suspend the decision of Convention, and have a plebiscite of members in the districts proposed to be embraced in the new branch. Now, before relying on what had been said, he considered it would have only been a fair thing if the Executive Council had ascertained from the officials in the new branch which had been indicated by Mr. Theodore and Mr. Dunstan when writing to the General Secretary. No communication on the subject had, however, been sent to the officers of the proposed new branch. The work of the Executive Council in setting aside the decision of Convention, which ordered the West Queensland branch to start in June last, was an illegal act, because the Executive Council had no authority to interfere with the constitution. The plebiscite was taken, and by a majority it was decided that there should be two branches, the voting being as follows:—

Western Branch.

For Two Branches 586
For One Branch 1416

Majority for One Branch . . . 830

South Western District.

For Two Branches 1404
For One Branch 313

Majority for Two Branches 1091

Summary.

For Two Branches 1990
For One Branch 1729

Majority for Two Branches 261

TAKING THE PLEBISCITE.

He did not believe that in the whole history of the A.W.U. that a vote was taken in such rotten circumstances as that recorded on the plebiscite. Officials set out and asked the men to vote their way. Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan issued an appeal asking members to vote for the retention of one branch, and he had never been more shocked in his life at such conduct. He thought A.W.U. members would have been allowed a free hand to vote as they liked but he found influences at work to turn their vote in a certain direction. The plea put forward by Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan (and others followed it up) was that the move to establish two branches in Queensland was brought about with the object of bursting up the One Big Union idea. He replied to that in THE WORKER, pointing out that such a statement was too ridiculous for consideration. He wrote but the one letter because the writing ceased. In January of last year he was made a trustee of the Queensland Branch, and following on that he received a letter from Mr. Dunstan, in which it was stated that the Executive had unanimously decided that he should tender his resignation. He met four members of the Executive and asked what was the meaning of his resignation being asked for. They told him that they knew nothing about it. And yet the letter had stated that the Executive had "unanimously" decided to ask him to resign! What was the object of it all?

THE ONE BIG UNION.

When the tale of "bursting up the One Big Union idea" failed, one organiser (Mr. Pollock) got round and started to raise the little cry of local jealousy. "Why should the branch not be here and not there," and so on, was what was worked. In spite of all that the vote was taken and the decision for two branches was confirmed by a majority. They had had a bad pastoral season in Queensland, but notwithstanding that they were satisfied that the second branch in Queensland could be

carried on successfully. He was surprised that the President and the General Secretary had allowed themselves to be hoodwinked into suspending the decision of Convention. The establishment of a second branch in Queensland would in no wise interfere with the One Big Union, an idea to which he had been favorable all his life, and he had recorded utterances of his on the subject dating back 17 years ago. If the second branch was not established there was a possibility of dissension amongst those who had voted for it, and he felt sure that it could be successfully conducted with advantage to all.

Mr. Mooney seconded the resolution.

THE MEN OF LONGREACH.

Mr. Kelly opposed. The men in the Longreach pastoral area had turned down the two branch proposition by a majority of three to one. Those men were allowed to exercise their vote without the interference of organisers. It was, however, a well-known fact that five paid officials at the Charleville end worked for the two branches, barracking for it for all they were worth, and that was why it was carried there. The men out Longreach way used their intelligence after reading the controversy in THE WORKER, and it was a sound thing to have had the subject ventilated in their own paper. In his opinion it would be wrong to start a separate branch in the West. Mr. Lacey, for whom he had great respect, had stated that the new branch was to "embrace the shearing area in Queensland," and that looked like making it merely sectional. Whilst agreeing that the Executive Council was right in suspending Convention's decision he felt that the plebiscite would have been better had it applied to the whole of the Queensland members and not one portion of them. He had voted for amalgamation with the idea of one branch governing all members, and every member whose interests were bound up in the organisation should have had a vote. Mr. Coyne was the only representative from Queensland present who was prepared to stand by the Convention decision of a year ago which, if given effect, would mean that a number of men, to show their disapproval, would take tickets in other districts.

THE IMPARTIAL VIEW.

Mr. McCormack said that whilst present as a visitor at Convention last year he was sorry to see the decision then arrived at. To-day he would like delegates to take a clear, impartial view of the situation. This matter was much too big a one to be decided by a question as to whether certain people were jealous of each other. The question was—"How does it affect the whole of the members of Queensland?" He had always been in favor of centralisation

of funds with effective local autonomy. He maintained that Convention in its last year's decision did something it should not have done in that it was interfering with the internal working of a branch. Not one tittle of evidence had been brought forward last year to show that the one Queensland branch was not working satisfactorily, and the question largely resolved itself into a matter of personalities. He wanted the broad case and not personal things decided that day, and if there was anything wrong with the principle of the existing system he hoped that concrete instances would be forthcoming.

DIVIDED CONTROL.

Mr. Martyn said that Mr. Coyne had put the view that it was absurd to suggest that the two-branch system would interfere with the One Big Union principle. He joined issue with him there. Solidarity and centralisation of funds were the proper things, and he defied Mr. Coyne to prove that under the several branch system that they would have the same power as now. Divided control in finance meant defeat in times of trouble when big efforts had to be put forward. Finance could not be handled effectively with a number of branches of equal power. He asserted without hesitation that every organiser in the South-West district had advocated the two-branch idea. When Western district members said they did not want to have a second branch what did Convention propose to do? Those men did not want to be divided, and it would be unfair to force them into any such position. At the Delegate Meeting he had moved in favor of one majority, and this had been carried by a majority at a gathering which represented the whole of the members of Queensland. The resolution before them contemplated something which was outside the sphere of "practical politics."

SECTIONAL INTERESTS.

Mr. Last said that he would have preferred to have seen the question of industrial branches discussed before this matter had been brought on. He considered that there would soon have to be a departure from the territorial system of branches in the A.W.U. Speeches delivered in opposition to two branches had disclosed nothing additional to what had appeared in last year's official report. Queensland, he thought, was advancing into mass unionism without having regard to sectional interests. In the course of another four or five years Queensland would have an additional 15,000 members no doubt. When the Executive of such a large body was in a centre like Brisbane they were not likely to conserve immediate interests unless there were industrial branches. He had heard no arguments to alter his views

of last year, and he would stand by them again.

Mr. Bailey moved as an amendment—That the debate be adjourned until the question of industrial branches has been decided.

Mr. Holloway seconded the amendment, which, after a brief discussion, was defeated.

Mr. Blakeley said that he did not propose to give a silent vote on the question. Territorial branches and industrial sections would later come on for discussion. There were peculiar conditions in every State, which might involve special treatment for each State. They had before them propositions requiring delicate handling to bring about a consummation of the ideal aimed at.

WORK OF THE BRANCH.

Mr. Dunstan said that in Queensland they could take credit during the last twelve months of doing more good than any other branch in the A.W.U., so far as benefiting members was concerned. The power behind what they had accomplished was one organisation, and the fact that all funds were pooled—

Mr. Waits: You have had a Labor Government come into existence, too.

Mr. Dunstan: Yes, and as one organisation in Queensland they had been largely responsible for returning a majority of the Labor Party. Both in the courts and outside of them they had been able to conclude satisfactory agreements by reason of the one branch. At Gympie, for 700 miners there, they had obtained an increase of wages amounting to £23,000 annually, with a reduction of 22,000 hours. This was obtained, too, from people who hitherto had refused to confer with Labor bodies. Increases had also been obtained in a large number of industries, and it was almost wholly due to the strong position of having only the one branch. When the West Queensland Branch first met all the business they did was to arrange about salaries and the erection of new premises. No word of that meeting had been sent to Mr. Bow, who told him he had not been communicated with. In conclusion, he urged that there was no class of man in Queensland who had not benefited by the one-branch system.

STATEMENT BY MR. MCNEILL.

Mr. McNeill desired to make a personal explanation. Some few months ago he received information from a man who had been in Queensland, who stated that there was great dissension in the ranks of the A.W.U. east and west, north and south—and quarrelling over the two-branch system. This man stated that it had been alleged against him (Mr. McNeill) that

from the time he left Charleville he had been writing to members agitating for the two-branch system, and that he had been looked upon as a "blackleg" for what he had done. Further, it had been stated that he had given away information to those not entitled to know. He had never written to anyone in Charleville other than friends whom he had corresponded with for years, and would continue to do so. He had never canvassed for a vote on the two-branch system at last Convention, and he challenged anyone there to come forward and make any statement against him. He had been in favor of the two-branch system because he believed it would squelch the trouble that had arisen.

CHANGE NOT NECESSARY.

Mr. Ryan said that he had never heard anything of the matter to which Mr. McNeill referred, and he would not impute such motives to Mr. McNeill, having found him fair and square in all things. As to the question under discussion, he considered that neither Messrs. Coyne or Last had put forward anything to justify an alteration in Queensland, and the question should be looked at from the standpoint that no case for a change had been made out. Had a vote of the whole of the Queensland Branch been taken there would have been no doubt as to the result. He had always maintained that where local autonomy was deemed to be insufficient that greater powers should be given for the working of districts. That was quite another matter compared with the formation of a new branch. It was with pleasure he noted that the discussion was going along coolly and free from personalities.

THE MOST COMPLETE SCHEME.

Mr. Collins said he was in favor of the present system operating in Queensland, which was one of the most complete of its kind evolved from the brain of man in this Commonwealth. He had seen the birth of the A.L.F. in Queensland along with Mr. Coyne, and saw it disappear. This big Union had taken its place. He expected, and would continue to expect great things from the One Big Union idea. He felt that there were many members who did not understand the work of the district and the branch system, and he considered that the plebiscite should have embraced all members and not a mere section of them. The vote taken, if acted upon, would mean that less than one-sixth of the membership would be allowed to bring about this serious alteration. If there had been any friction between officials he hoped it would disappear, and not be a determining factor in an important question of this kind.

RESOLUTION DEFEATED.

The resolution was defeated by 15 votes to 9, on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Mooney, Bailey, Lambert, Cullinan, Black, Coyne, Holloway, McNeill, and Last.

Against—Messrs. Martyn, Dunstan, Barnes, Harvey, Collins, Ryan, McCormack, Kelly, McNaught, Blakeley, White, Waits, Butler, W. Murphy, and Lundie.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.

The General Secretary said that it would be opportune at this stage to deal with the resolution standing in his name relating to industrial branches, as follows:—

That in order to meet the new circumstances brought about by the amalgamation and proposed further amalgamation, the system of industrial branches be adopted, and that Convention devise a scheme for the division of the Union into industrial branches where found practicable.

He said that this question was one of great importance, involving, as it did, alteration of the constitution to provide for the newer circumstances of amalgamation. It had been forced on his mind in connection with amalgamation and pending amalgamations that if there was to be anything like scientific organisation and practical results it would be impossible to progress in the direction of further amalgamations unless provision were made for industrial branch control even within territorial areas. He did not mean that this was to apply right throughout the whole organisation, but it would be found wise probably to adopt it partially. There were the Railway Workers and General Laborers of New South Wales, who, numbering 19,000 members in this State, would in June next complete amalgamation with the A.W.U. At last Convention a scheme had been outlined in which the R.W. and G.L.A. would become a coastal branch with a certain area, but they now found a number of members were working over on the Condobolin to Broken Hill line and elsewhere inland, which was anything but "coastal." When it could be proved that there was an industry with many men in it which could be better worked by an industrial branch then, he said, provision must be made for such a position if amalgamation were to succeed.

NATURAL GROWTH.

Mr. Martyn said that, coming from a district in which there were many industries, he agreed with the General Secretary. The system should be one of natural growth, and nothing should be done to artificially restrict it. He thought a

committee should be formed to devise a scheme broad enough to embrace amalgamations on the taps and others which were proposed.

Mr. Coyne said that Convention had just turned down something of this kind, and now delegates seemed to be prepared to reverse the decision.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

Mr. McCormack said that undoubtedly a committee should be appointed. Here was the A.W.U. talking of readiness for amalgamations, but unless good machinery were provided to give effect to it the One Big Union was merely a catch-
"cry." He moved—

That the matter be referred to a committee to draw up a scheme to provide for the formation of Industrial Branches and Industrial Branches within the present Territorial Branches.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, which was carried. Butler, Barnes, Messrs. Holloway, Harvey, McNeill, McCormack, Bailey, were appointed as White, and Martyn were appointed as members of the committee.

QUESTION OF VICTIMISATION.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That a committee be appointed to inquire into the victimisation of single men, and also breaches of the awards by the State Government.

Mr. Bailey seconded. When the Federal Committee were making inquiries they came across complaints as big as a bale of wool at the Trades Hall against actions of the State Government.

Mr. Butler said that surely the organisations interested could make all the necessary inquiries without the A.W.U. taking such a job on itself. Also, there was the Labor Council to deal with the matter.

Senator Barnes agreed that it was the function of the Trades Hall to inquire into such matters, and a committee of the A.W.U. Convention could not go into the questions exhaustively in view of the limited time at their disposal.

Mr. Harvey said that whatever might be the position in New South Wales, there were examples of what the South Australian Government had been doing in forcing men out of employment. He would be prepared to table a motion of censure against them for what had been done.

Mr. Lundie said that he knew of married and single men being discharged by the South Australian Government, but the difficulty was to prove that. It was no use talking about censure motions unless one had the direct evidence to sustain the charges made.

Mr. Coyne said he did not think they should go to the Trades Hall for evidence against the New South Wales or any other Government. Delegates should have such evidence themselves, and present it if they desired to deal direct with the matter.

Mr. Dunstan said that at the Labor Bureau in Brisbane all men applying for work had to be connected with a bona-fide trades union. If a strike was on the Government would not supply labor for the job affected during the currency of the industrial trouble.

The resolution was defeated.

Conference adjourned at 5 p.m.

SEVENTH DAY.

Convention reassembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on February 3, at 9.30 a.m., President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

The President introduced Mr. J. McDonald, M.H.A. (Tas.), president of the Federated Mining Employees' Association of Australia, who was present in connection with amalgamation proposals with the A.W.U.

Mr. McDonald said that, personally, he was a whole-hearted believer in the One Big Union idea, and in his presidential address at the fourth annual conference of the F.M.E.A. he had, after referring to the world-war and the ravages of the commercial system, expressed the hope that he would find the members of his organisation striving for the One Big Union of the workers of Australia. He believed in industrial federations and then a unity of the whole. If Convention could agree on an effective system of industrial branches they could bring about the two things at once. At the last Conference of the F.M.E.A. the following proposal had been adopted in relation to the A.W.U. amalgamation:—

F.M.E.A. SCHEME.

After discussing the scheme as submitted by our Executive to you yesterday for the amalgamation of the F.M.E.A. and the A.W.U., we would recommend that the following scheme be substituted, which will allow us to become an industrial branch of the A.W.U., seeing that our two Executives are thus far agreed that the machinery now in operation would need no material alteration—

(1) The mining industry shall be known as an industrial branch of the A.W.U., without territorial boundaries, and shall be entitled to all rights and benefits of a branch under the general rules of the A.W.U.

(2) The members of the mining industry shall have the right and power to make by-laws for the election of officers and the establishing and control of sub-branches, and the collection of contributions and levies and the holding of industrial conferences.

(3) Representation at the Annual Convention of the A.W.U. shall be on a membership basis of one representative to every 1000 members or part of 1000 members, providing that part be not less than 500.

(4) All necessary expenses incurred, such as sustentation, officers' salaries, THE WORKER, and other incidental expenses shall be deducted from members' subscriptions of £1 per annum.

(5) Accident pay, sick pay, and work-out miners' funds to be a separate charge on members.

(6) The Mining Industrial Branch may withdraw from the A.W.U. in the following manner:—By giving the General Secretary (of the A.W.U.) three months' written notice of its intent to hold a ballot of its members to decide whether they shall withdraw, such notice to set out the reasons why they wish to withdraw; and if a majority of all the members in that industry vote in favor of withdrawing from the A.W.U. the Secretary shall give the General Secretary (of the A.W.U.) notice in writing of the result of such ballot, and three months after the receipt of such notice they shall cease to be members of the A.W.U., and all its members shall cease to be members of the A.W.U.

Delegates would see, said Mr. McDonald, that the last clause asked regarding withdrawal that only a majority of the members could decide such question, not merely a majority of members voting. The clause as to the three months' notice was a provision which the W. A. branch of the F.M.E.A. had as to withdrawal from that body.

INDUSTRIAL CONTINGENCIES.

He believed that there was a serious time ahead of industrial organisations after peace was declared, and there would be a hard row to hoe. Therefore they should be prepared for industrial contingencies which might arise. Any scheme agreed upon would have to be submitted to a ballot of his members, and whilst he had no authority to endorse any particular method of amalgamation, he would do his best to assist the amalgamation committee to draw up proposals which might be acceptable. In all their branches they had about 11,500 members in the federal body, branches of the States affiliated being distributed in W.A., South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales to the number of nearly 100.

If a workable scheme of amalgamation was submitted the benefit funds of the F.M.E.A. would be separated from the industrial side, and he considered the £1 ticket would be sufficient to cover industrial purposes. In fact a resolution had been carried at the last Conference recommending that the States should disassociate the benefit funds from the industrial in view of the projected amalgamation with the A.W.U.

On the motion of Mr. Lundie, it was agreed that Mr. McDonald should be invited to attend the committee appointed to deal with the question of industrial branches.

At this stage it was decided to adjourn Convention proceedings to allow the various committees to prepare reports. Convention adjourned at 10.45 a.m.

EIGHTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Friday, February 4, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

INDUSTRY BRANCHES.

Mr. McCormack presented the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the question of Industry Branches. The report was as follows:—

(1) The committee recommend that the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association of New South Wales be admitted to the A.W.U. as an Industry Branch.

(2) Wherever it may be considered advisable to separately organise a certain industry or calling the Executive Council of the organisation may establish an industry branch, which shall have jurisdiction, subject to prescribed limitations, over all members of the Union employed in the industry or calling in question. Industry branches shall be subject to and controlled by the rules of this constitution as set out for branches without districts.

(3) Industry Branch Executives shall work in with the Branch Executives, and wherever possible the officials employed by both authorities shall co-operate for organising purposes.

(4) That the scheme for amalgamation submitted by the Federated Mining Employees' Association is not acceptable to this committee and we recommend that a committee be appointed by this Convention to confer with the Convention of the F.M.E.A. in May next.

INDUSTRY BRANCHES.

He said that the committee had spent a considerable amount of time in discussing industry branches and the district method. The R.W. and G.L.A. were prepared to come into this organisation un-

der the existing rules on the understanding that an industry branch must be provided for them. Here was a case in which there was no need to draw up any rule alterations at all. A majority of the committee had little difficulty in arriving at the recommendation that the Executive Council should be empowered to form an industry branch for the R.W. and G.L.A., who would become members of the A.W.U. with the issue of the next tickets. The R.W. and G.L.A. expected to complete the amalgamation by June next. The committee had deemed it desirable to submit the recommendation that, where there was an industry branch within a territorial Branch area, the officials should co-operate for organising purposes. Where a pastoral organiser met with railway construction workers he could do organising such as would be done by the official of the industry branch. That system obtained in Queensland at the present time.

INTER-STATE INDUSTRIES.

As to industries, such as mining, extending beyond one State, they had not arrived at any determination. The committee had discussed the question with Mr. McDonald (president of the F.M.E.A.), who was present at the deliberations, and explained to him that to take the miners in would require an intricate set of rules. What was wanted for the miners was really a union within a union, and members of the committee were not prepared at present to recommend a scheme for Convention to accept. The miners wanted to retain all their present powers in a kind of federation, with the right to withdraw at any time under certain conditions. It had been pointed out to Mr. McDonald that on a question of amalgamation it would be unfair for a Union to take all the good things and then pull out at will. To admit such a thing as that would attack the whole structure of the one Big Union (which was the objective of amalgamation), and revert back to craft unionism. A union coming in would have to forego something as a quid pro quo in view of the additional responsibilities assumed by the A.W.U. Whilst the committee could not recommend acceptance of the F.M.E.A. proposals as placed before them by Mr. McDonald, it was deemed advisable to keep the question a live one, and that some members of the Convention should at the next annual Conference of the F.M.E.A. deal with the matter there. He believed that the keeping up of the negotiations with the F.M.E.A. might eventually result in a workable scheme being mutually arrived at. He moved the adoption of the first clause:

That the committee recommends that the R.W. and G.L.A. be admitted to the A.W.U. as an industry branch.
Mr. Mooney seconded.

WHY SPECIAL TREATMENT?

Mr. Martyn opposed the clause. He said that on the committee both he and Mr. Butler had been against the proposal, but were in a minority on the subject. Why should there be this special treatment for the R.W. and G.L.A.? Both the U.L.U. in South Australia and in Victoria had come into the A.W.U. as a whole. He was not against industry branches as a principle, but he did not see why it should operate in this case. They were going to allow the formation of an industry branch that would have the run of the other branches, and they knew what that would mean eventually. There would be constant official friction through the overlapping which would happen. This Union was coming into the A.W.U., yet it would be practically the same body as it was to-day. That was not amalgamating—it was really federating. The only difference between the miners and the R.W. and G.L.A. was that the miners operated in a number of the States, whilst the railway men were contained within the limits of the State of N.S.W.—To adopt the clause meant establishing an unwise precedent, in which the spirit of amalgamation was departed from and sectional unionism substituted. New South Wales should be like Queensland, and have only one branch, with such district divisions as were necessary for good governance. If an industry branch was to come in, let it be on the district basis. He wanted amalgamation, and not federation, or bastard federations.

AMALGAMATIONS AND FEDERATIONS.

Senator Barnes said that the position as it presented itself to him was that here was a big body of good unionists anxious to come into the A.W.U. They had had certain little objections, but the A.W.U. had shown no fear of those objections, and met them. And so they now wanted to bring the R.W. and G.L.A. along with them. For Mr. Martyn to suggest that this was not amalgamation, but that this was so much rubbish. The R.W. and G.L.A. accepted the A.W.U. rules, and came under A.W.U. government. If that was not amalgamation, he would like to know what was. The difference between what would be the navvies' branch of the A.W.U., and other branches of the A.W.U., was that the navvies could send their organisers into any territory, whereas the other branches had geographical limitations. The R.W. and G.L.A. anticipated completing all amalgamation details in three or four months, and in all probability they would be sitting at the next Convention along with other delegates. The bogies of Mr. Martyn's manufacture disappeared under the test of examination, and he was glad to see this

great body of men anxious to cast in their lot with the A.W.U.

CLOSER UNIONISM.

Mr. McNeill said that he could see no reason why the proposal should not be adopted. The working classes were calling out for closer unionism, and right here they had a big organisation ready to come in, and abide by A.W.U. rules. Mr. Martyn might have put up a good case for the District system.

The General Secretary: Which is the industry system under another name.

Mr. McNeill: Quite so. The A.W.U. should throw the gates wide open and make way for other unions ready to amalgamate under the constitution. He trusted Convention would adopt the recommendation of the committee, and felt sure that, after a little working, all difficulties would disappear, and increased solidarity would be found under the banner of the One Big Union, which was steadily going forward.

Mr. Ryan supported the clause. He said that what they should always consider was the best means of looking after the man on the job. Finance was secondary to the improvement of the conditions of the men. The system in operation in Queensland worked satisfactorily, and Mr. Martyn wanted that one branch method in New South Wales. He (Mr. Ryan) whilst believing in that system, did not propose to wait till it came to pass in order that it should be a precedent to amalgamation.

PRINCIPLE AND EXPEDIENCY.

Mr. Kelly said that the clause was contrary to the spirit of amalgamation. Apparently a majority of members of the committee were prepared to sacrifice the principle in the interests of expediency. To bring the Queensland one-branch system into operation in New South Wales would be much better. If they admitted that the navvies in New South Wales were entitled to an industry branch, why should not the navvies of Queensland or Victoria or South Australia be entitled to the same consideration? With the system proposed inaugurated here there would be friction ahead. How could organisers working in the same areas and crossing each other work without something of the kind happening? This system, too, would be expensive, and run into an additional cost of 20 to 30 per cent.

Mr. Harvey said that he would like to see the principle of industry branches extended still further. The clause proposed something, however, that was a move in the right direction. The miners' union, with branches in several States, was, of course, another proposition altogether, but he was glad to know that communication would be kept up with the

in Victoria and South Australia, and the General Workers' Union in West Australia had amalgamated with the A.W.U. previously? They had been operating as industrial unions, but they accepted the rules in toto, and cast in their lot with the A.W.U. The draft of the new rule to be proposed had to some extent overcome his objections, but not wholly so. With this principle in vogue would it not be quite competent for the constructional workers elsewhere, and the pastoral workers to ask for separate industry branches? He thought so in view of the precedent which the clause laid down.

STEP BY STEP.

Mr. Collins said that he realised that they could only advance step by step even in amalgamations. No man at the Convention had had more experience with all kinds of industries than Mr. Martyn, who had found no trouble in dealing with them in his district. Principle should not be sacrificed for expediency, and their rules, unlike the laws of the Medes and Persians, could be altered from time to time to meet circumstances as they arose.

Mr. Blakeley said that this was not a case of giving away principle. The R.W. and G.L.A. would not come into the A.W.U. unless the industry branch was conceded to them. Without it the amalgamation could not be consummated. The whole position required the most careful attention, for a false step would retard amalgamation. Points had to be conceded by both sides, and had not that policy never have taken place. He did not suppose there was one delegate who had not altered views previously held as to how amalgamation should be brought about. His own views had, for instance, undergone a change with regard to industry branches. If the clause was not adopted amalgamation with the R.W. and G.L.A. would be absolutely hampered.

Mr. Holloway said that Mr. Ryan had spoken of "finance" as being secondary to the betterment of the workers' conditions, but all the same it was a giant consideration. Whilst this clause was a step in the right direction, it did not go far enough. He would like to see the whole industrial movement opened up, so that all could come into the Big Union. That was the basis of a comprehensive scheme which had been drawn up at a Victorian Conference at which he sat, and which scheme he believed would be eventually adopted. They would be forced in the future, he believed, to adopt something more elaborate and general. On the question of finance, in looking up Kaibys' figures, he found there were over 500,000 trades unionists in Australia, who, paying in 1d. a week, could have £108,000 annually; 3d. a week, £324,000; and 1s. a

week, £1,300,000. Look what could be done with that: money in a case like the Broken Hill miners, who were out at the present time. Finance was a thing they must ever keep in view.

NOT FAR ENOUGH.

The General Secretary said that, whilst he was by no means opposed to the clause, it did not go as far as he intended when he put his resolution on the business paper, asking for the division of the Union into industrial branches where found practicable. He would have liked to have seen something more comprehensive without, however, running over the whole gamut of industrial activity, but coping here and now with practical propositions. Much had been said of the sacrifice of principle. Where was that sacrifice made? They had enlarged on certain ideas only to embrace newer conditions, which did not imperil any principles which they had held. "Districts" in Queensland were in essence industrial branches. The names only were different. They could not closely conserve the interests of men like the R.W. and G.L.A., with their existing branches, because it was essential for those men to have their own branch to look after them industrially. The Territorial branch system would not effectively cover a case like theirs in anything like the same way as the industry branch would.

Mr. Watts said that speakers had dwelt on the size of the R.W. and G.L.A. membership, but he contended 100 men on a principle were entitled to as much consideration as 19,000 in coming into amalgamation. He thought the A.W.U. would be sinking principle if they made this direct provision for the R.W. and G.L.A. The rules and constitution of the A.W.U. were the best he had ever seen, and under them the R.W. and G.L.A. had all the conditions they required.

ADOPTING THE SCHEME.

The clause was adopted by 18 votes to 6, on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Barnes, McCormack, Mooney, Harvey, Collins, Ryan, McNaught, Bailey, Blakeley, Cullinan, White, Lambert, McNeill, Black, Holloway, W. Murphy, Dunstan, and Last.

Against—Messrs. Lundie, Coyne, Butler, Watts, Kelly, and Martyn.

Mr. McCormack moved clause 2, as follows:—

Wherever it may be considered advisable to separately organise a certain industry or calling, the Executive Council may establish an industry branch, which shall have jurisdiction subject to prescribed limitations over all members of the Union employed in the industry. Branches shall be subject to

and controlled by the rules of this constitution as set out for branches without districts.

The clause was adopted.
Mr. McCormack moved the adoption of clause 3, as follows:—

Industry Branch Executives shall work in with other Branch Executives, and wherever possible the officials employed by both authorities shall cooperate for organising purposes.
The clause was adopted.

Mr. McCormack moved clause 4, as follows:—

That the scheme for amalgamation submitted by the Federated Mining Employees' Association is not acceptable to this committee, and we recommend that a committee be appointed by this Convention to confer with the Convention of the F.M.E.A. on May next.

POSITION OF THE F.M.E.A.

Mr. McDonald (president of the F.M.E.A.), on being invited to speak, said that he was glad of the suggestion that the A.W.U. should continue to negotiate with them in the matter of amalgamation. In deliberating with members of the committee he had been placed in possession of interesting information, and to his mind the adoption of the industry branch system would materially assist in pushing on amalgamation. Their annual convention would meet in Melbourne in May, and he would be pleased to welcome A.W.U. representatives there in furtherance of amalgamation proposals. He desired to thank delegates and officers of the Convention for the kindness and assistance rendered to him.

The clause was adopted.
The President, General Secretary, and Senator Barnes were appointed to represent the A.W.U. at the F.M.E.A. Convention.

The report as a whole was then adopted. On the motion of Mr. McCormack, a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. McDonald, who briefly replied, and withdrew.

FUNERAL FUND REPORT.

Mr. Dunstan presented the report of the Funeral Fund Committee as follows:—

That no funeral tickets be issued for 1916-17, and that on September 30 the fund shall close. The total amounts standing to the credit of the various funds shall then be distributed pro rata to the funeral ticket-holders for 1915-16 according to the length of their membership in the fund.

In the event of there not being sufficient to the credit of the Funeral Fund, that the full amounts shall be paid from the General Fund.

He said the fund was not strong financially, and should not be further carried on. It had never been popular with members, only a very small percentage of whom ever took out tickets for funeral expenses. He moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Martyn seconded.

Mr. Cullinan said that he was surprised at the decision the committee had arrived at. If this report was acted upon Convention would bring about its ears something it never contemplated. The deaths of ticket-holders were few, and he considered there was ample money to meet the requirements of the fund, for which a special effort should be made this year. He moved as an amendment:—

That a special appeal be made this year by organisers for the Funeral Fund, and failing better results next Convention should deal with the question.

Mr. McNeill seconded the amendment. He knew that the Funeral Fund was not popular in Queensland, and many members held the view that the taking out of such a ticket meant that they might die. He would not agree to the squelching of the Funeral Fund like this, and it would be most unfair to a number of good old battlers, who in the past had blazed the track for sound industrial organisation.

Mr. Bailey said he was against the report, and he had no doubt that if organisers made appeals they could strengthen the Funeral Fund considerably.

FUNERAL TICKETS FEW IN NUMBER.

Mr. Blakeley said that he was satisfied the Funeral Fund was not financially sound, and he did not see how it could be, seeing the low rate of contribution—2s. for a benefit of £7 10s. Out of 81,000 members last year only about 2,000 tickets had been taken, and apart from the financial insecurity, he did not think that such a small number justified the continuance of the system. He did not believe, either, that an appeal by organisers would result in any appreciable difference, and he was against the general funds being encroached upon to make payments good.

Mr. Lundie said he disagreed with Mr. Blakeley as to the Funeral Fund being unsound. They had never had to impose a levy to make the Funeral Fund good. The fund, as they all knew, "lived" on lapses. The payment made was based on actuarial calculation, and was sound for all practical purposes. They could not trench on general funds for payments, because the Funeral Fund was distinctly separate.

Senator Barnes said he believed that when the A.W.U. agreed to pay £7 10s. for the Funeral Fund that a claim could be enforced even if the General Fund had to be called on. Was that not so?

The President: I believe the payment would have to be met. The Funeral Fund, however, is quite distinct from the General Fund, and has to be run entirely apart from it.

The amendment was carried.
The President: That means that the Funeral Fund goes on.

REPRESENTATION ON THE E.C.

Mr. Blakeley again moved the resolution on the Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.), which had previously been postponed—

That Rule 78, second paragraph, be amended by substituting the word "Branch" for the word "State" in the first and last line, and by striking out the words "or branches in the States" in the fifth line.

He said that in moving the resolution earlier he had referred to the question as one of "State rights," but he did not mean it in the way in which that term was ordinarily used, because he was not a "States Righter." He desired to remove any misapprehension on the point which might arise from reading the official report on the subject in the second day's proceedings. This question was in reality one of branch rights, and he considered that with the advent of the R.W. and G.L.A. in New South Wales there should be more representation for New South Wales on the Executive Council, on which, despite their big membership, they could be outvoted by States with much smaller membership.

The resolution was defeated.

PULLING MACHINES IN AND OUT.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.) as follows:—

That Rule 130 be amended to read: "That no shed employee shall pull any shearing machine in or out of gear nor shall he throw any sheep down the chutes for any shearer; penalty, £1."

He said that he had found in several sheds men hitting up big tallies got pickers-up to help them. They paid for this sometimes, and sometimes did not. In case of accident or difficulty, of course the rule would not apply.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution. He said it was becoming evident that something would have to be done to make greedy shearers refrain from getting shed hands to throw sheep across the hoard or by taking fleeces away for them.

The resolution was carried.

SATURDAY WORKING.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 114 be amended to provide for a fine of £5 for working after 12 o'clock on Saturday as well as Sunday. He said that the whole of the branches had this trouble, and at present there was no provision under which an offender could be fined.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution, which was carried.

COPIES OF AGREEMENTS.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 110 be amended by inserting after the word "shed" in the fifth line the following words: "A duplicate of which they must retain in their possession."

He said that it was essential that members should have with them a copy of the agreement under which they were working, otherwise they were helpless in cases of breaches of the agreement, and in the circumstances could not proceed satisfactorily in a Court case.

Mr. White seconded the resolution. He said that in some sheds at which he had been present no agreements had been signed at all, so that duplicate agreements could not be forthcoming. The rule as to signing agreements should be enforced, and the need for retaining copies of them should be impressed on members. Mr. McNaught said he knew of plants in Queensland where only two agreements had been signed in eight months. Every member should be made to get a copy of the agreement, so long as the A.W.U. was standing for arbitration.

Mr. Blakeley said that in some of the "cocky" districts agreements were not signed at all.

Mr. Dunstan said the branches should take the matter in hand, and have members summoned to court and fined for not signing agreements. They would see that there were copies after that, and such procedure would act as a certain remedy for the complaint.

The resolution was carried.

DEFINING ORGANISERS' WORK.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 44 be amended by adding the following words to Clause (b): "The Branch Executive may define which district each organiser shall work, and shall also determine how long each organiser shall work."

He said that the reason for this was that conceivably a secretary might have a "set" on an organiser, and could send him out to a kind of "no man's land," away from members whom he relied upon to return him on the ballot. A secretary

could also give a man a long run, or a short run, and it was held that a committee of fifteen would be a better body to deal with such positions.

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that the Executive Council had decided that a Branch Executive did not have these powers, and Convention should see that it had them.

The resolution was opposed by Mr. McNeill, and defeated.

BRANCH AUDITING.

Mr. Blakeley moved the Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.) resolution—

That Rule 34 be amended to provide that where a certificated accountant is appointed as auditor it should not be compulsory to appoint two auditors.

He said that for the Western Branch they had one of the highest certificated men in the world, but as he and his colleague had parted company there was considerable difficulty in getting a second auditor, because they generally worked in groups.

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that Western Branch did not want to break the constitution, and hence were seeking a proper way out of a real difficulty.

Messrs. McNeill and Cullinan opposed the resolution, which was defeated.

ELECTING BRANCH EXECUTIVE.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 59 be amended to read as follows:—"That the Branch Executive shall consist of President and Secretary, nominated and elected in accordance with Rules 22 and 25, two Vice-Presidents elected by the annual general meeting and fifteen members as herein-after provided. For the purpose of this rule branches shall be divided into fifteen sections. Each section shall elect one member to the Branch Executive. Nominations from candidates for the position of Branch Executive Officer shall be in accordance with Rule 22, and in the event of there being more candidates nominated for any section than are required an election shall take place by ballot. Ballot papers shall be separate from ballots 'D' and 'E', and shall be marked ballot 'B'. The whole of any number of sections where a ballot is necessary shall be included in the ballot paper. Such ballot paper shall define the district embraced in each section, together with the names, occupations, and addresses of each candidate arranged in alphabetical order under the section for which they are nominated. Any member entitled to vote under Rules 12 and 57 shall be entitled to

record one vote for any one section he so desires. If the member votes for more than one section the ballot paper shall be informal. Candidates for the position of representative on the Branch Executive must be resident in the section for which they are nominated. 'Resident,' for the purpose of this rule, shall mean a person enrolled on the State roll for the electorate which covers the whole or part of the section, providing that part is within the Branch for which they are nominated."

He said that when a committee brought in its recommendations to Convention two years ago it was realised that they were about the best that could be drawn up then in the circumstances. It had been seen that a small coterie or clique could control a branch as against the best interests of a Union without members of the branch as a whole having an effective say. Convention decided to initiate a system of local committees, cutting the branches into fifteen sections. Unfortunately, that system of local committees had almost failed. The local committees were moribund, because they had no power to do anything but passing resolutions. The different local committees had the right of one representative on the Branch Executive under the present system, but there was not an Executive in New South Wales fully elected under the system. This proposal he now submitted was a concrete one, providing that Branch Executive's would be elected by the whole of the members of the branch and not by a small portion or clique. This method would stimulate members' interest in the Executive, and secure the widest expression of opinion possible.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution. He said that the plebiscite of members would help materially in stirring up interest in the election of the Branch Executive.

A WIDER SELECTION.

Mr. Last said that the local committees on the Western Branch were mostly lifeless, many of the members having gone to the war. This system now proposed would ensure a wide selection by a democratic method, and be a true reflex of the opinions of members.

Mr. Lundie said that this was a matter which should be thrashed out at branch meetings and not at Convention. If Western Branch had organisers out all the year round, instead of merely at shearing time, it would be much better. They should get beyond the wool industry and fight for better conditions in other industries.

Mr. Ryan said that if they were to make progress the local committee would have to be fostered. It would be one of the

means of making the One Big Union a success. This proposal of Mr. Blakeley's would not be wise at the present time, however.

Senator Barnes said that Mr. Blakeley's scheme seemed unwieldy and unworkable.

Mr. McCormack said that this scheme certainly did not make for simplification of the rules at all. Though it might not be Western Branch's experience, the local committee idea had worked well in Queensland and also, as Senator Barnes had explained, with regard to Victoria-Riverina. Whilst not enamored of this particular proposal, he thought that there should be a committee appointed to go thoroughly into the question of branch management, which wanted most careful inquiry. He would move in that matter later on.

The resolution was defeated.

Mr. J. Andrews was appointed as proxy for the A.W.U. at the annual meeting of Labor Papers Limited, held at Sydney on February 8.

Mr. Martyn was granted leave of absence to go to Melbourne on urgent Union business.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

NINTH DAY.

Convention reassembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Saturday, February 5, a 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present except Mr. Martyn (absent on leave).

CORRESPONDENCE.

In response to a letter received it was decided to make application to the Federal Attorney-General for remission of the fines imposed on Mr. T. Wild, of Coonabarabran, and also on Mr. W. A. Costa, of Barraba, for infringements of the War Precautions Act.

A letter having been received early from the Western Australian Eastern Goldfields District Council of the A.L.F. in connection with the industrial trouble in which firewood workers had been involved, the General Secretary announced that he had some days ago got an official telegram setting out that an "eminently satisfactory" settlement had been arrived at. Cutters had been increased 3d. a ton, horse-drivers 10d. per day, horse-feeders from £3 15s. to £4 per week, and navvies 4d. a day. No increase had, however, been granted to truck-loaders or guards.

It was resolved that the General Secretary should write congratulating the E.G.D. Council of the A.L.F. on the successful issue.

A letter was dealt with from Mr. L. E. Evans, giving details of an advance made by him in 1910 in connection with an

election deposit for a Labor candidate in Tasmania, and which had not been fully repaid. It was agreed that a letter should be sent making inquiries on the subject of Guarantee.

DUPLICATE TICKETS.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 10 be amended to striking out the words "resident agent" and the word "organiser" in the second line, and also by inserting after the word "persons" in the sixth line the following words: "And also by local reps., local agents, and organisers."

He said that the effect of this resolution was that the issuing of duplicate tickets would be confined to branch secretaries and district committee secretaries, but local reps., local agents, and organisers and district committee secretaries, but local reps., local agents, and organisers could, as heretofore, be called upon to supply declaration forms for duplicate tickets.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution, which was carried.

ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEETS.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 32 (clauses 1 and 2) be amended to read as follows:—(1) The Secretary of each Branch shall issue an annual report, profit and loss account, and balance-sheet of his branch; (2) Summarised statements showing all items of receipts and expenditure and financial membership of his branch, together with a statement of tickets sold and unsold.

He said that the present rule did not give a clear statement of what was required. The verbiage was bad, the rule cumbersome to handle, and it was mentioned three times that a balance-sheet must be issued. The resolution he proposed would make for simplification.

Mr. Last seconded. He said that, apart from what Mr. Blakeley had stated, it was not always fair to some of the men concerned to publish detailed lists of organisers' receipts, because it might not reflect the real value of work done. A man could be doing good organising, and yet might not be disposing of many tickets. In the Western Branch a great many tickets were supplied from the Branch Office, and thus organisers got no credit at all where that happened.

Mr. Lundie said that an organiser should not be judged by the amount of tickets sold by him. As an organiser, he had not valued his work in the light of tickets disposed of, but the general good effect for the Union. At the same time, he desired to point out that the Conven-

tion was not there to legislate for organisers only, but members as a whole.

JUDGING ORGANISERS.

Mr. Lambert supported the resolution. He said that this proposal made the rule more concrete and workable. Despite what Mr. Lundie had said, he believed that in many cases organisers were judged on their ticket returns, and the present system of issuing details meant the pitting of one organiser against another.

Mr. Ryan said that he believed the rule could be considerably condensed, and the effect of the resolution would be in that direction. It was a rotten system which permitted of organisers being judged by ticket sales only, and personally he had never sold a ticket where reps. could do it.

Mr. Cullinan opposed the resolution. He said that if there was any trouble of the kind which had been mentioned it would be better that organisers' sales as a whole should be lumped together.

Mr. Kelly said that he agreed with Mr. Ryan as to the unfairness of members judging organisers purely by ticket sales. He thought that if a committee was appointed to go into the various resolutions dealing with branch management and report to Convention that there would be quicker progress made.

REASON FOR DETAILS.

Senator Barnes said the reason for the details of the present rule was to make the statements as to finances clear and explicit, so that any member could see exactly the channels through which money came in and how it had been disbursed.

Mr. McNeill said that unless the fullest details were given statements might be made without accuracy or authority, and they could not be refuted by others in the absence of the present system, which aimed at giving information of the most complete character.

Mr. Bailey said, despite what had been said to the contrary, he maintained that organisers were largely judged by the number of tickets which they disposed of. If organisers were not judged by such results, why then were the detailed statements put forward? It was necessary, in the interests of fairness to all organisers, to wipe out the system. A large number of tickets had been disposed of by himself, and complaints had been heard that he had been in "good" country, but he would go wherever he was sent. Personally, however, he would like to see this question discussed separately, because other matters were involved in the resolution.

NOT A FAIR BASIS.

Mr. Coyne said that he had had a number of years' experience as an organiser in Queensland, and knew for a fact that

organisers' merits were discussed in the light of tickets sold. It was not always a fair basis upon which to judge a man. An organiser might be sent into "bad" country, and battle about for three or four months without much apparent result as far as ticket-selling was concerned. Yet that same man might have done excellent propaganda work, the benefit of which would be reaped by organisers who later on followed him. Clause (1) of the rule now read that the Secretary of a Branch should issue "an annual report and balance-sheet of his branch, together with separate balance-sheets showing the receipts and expenditure of each organiser (whether travelling or resident)." He proposed to move as an amendment the deletion of all words after "branch," so as the rule should read—

The Secretary of each Branch shall issue "an annual report and balance-sheet of his branch."

Mr. Harvey seconded the amendment. He said he did not think there was much in the contention that organisers were judged by ticket sales, because he knew of instances of men whose sales were not large leading in the ballot others with more tickets to their credit.

CASES QUOTED.

Mr. Dunstan said that he knew of cases where men whose ticket sales were small topped the poll, and that argument against the publication of details did not carry much weight.

Mr. Kelly: The instances cited by you were attended by special circumstances, and cannot be fairly made to apply in a discussion of this kind.

Mr. McCormack said that he was in favor of abolishing organisers' detailed statements, and had always held that opinion. He did not believe anything was gained by the publication. Was it done to prove that the man selling the most was the best organiser? If not, why was it done? It might easily happen that an organiser in "bad" country might not sell a ticket, but the effect of his work could be easily gauged by the Executive. He had argued on this question repeatedly, but never had he received a satisfactory answer as to the necessity of publishing all these details.

Mr. Collins said that obviously there should be uniformity in the financial statements issued. He had never been in favor of organisers' sales of tickets being published, because they wanted organisers and not ticket pedlars. They should have men who could inculcate in members the true principles of unionism, and it was a mistaken idea to judge organisers by ticket sales.

Mr. Cullinan said that in view of the discussion which had taken place, and that

organisers' accounts would be lumped together, he proposed to vote for the amendment.

The amendment by Mr. Coyne was carried.

BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

The General Secretary said that, as a matter of urgency, he wished to have the opinion of Convention respecting the latest development in the Broken Hill dispute. Representatives of the R.W. and G.L.A. Conference, now sitting, had waited upon him, and discussed the proposal of the Federal Government to intervene in the trouble. The Government proposed that the miners should recommence work on a basis of four days per week, not working Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays, but otherwise under the old agreement. If the proposal were accepted by both parties the Government would make application to the Arbitration Court to put the case at the top of the list, the Court to resume on February 14. The R.W. and G.L.A. representatives and himself had agreed to submit a resolution suggesting that the Broken Hill men should accept the terms. If both the R.W. and G.L.A. and the A.W.U.—who were the only big unions who had supported the men—agreed with the suggestion a joint wire in the name of the two bodies would be sent, making the recommendation of acceptance, but only if both unions concurred. If one carried the recommendation and the other did not, no telegram would be despatched. He moved—

That this Convention recommends the members of the A.M.A. at Broken Hill to accept as a temporary settlement of the trouble the offer made by the Federal Government.

Mr. McNeill seconded.

Mr. Cullinan said that he was against the A.W.U. forcing a position of this sort on the Broken Hill men, who should themselves know what was the best thing to do with the offer.

Mr. Kelly said that undoubtedly the Broken Hill men should be allowed to decide the question for themselves.

MERELY A RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Lundie supported the resolution, which he said was merely a recommendation to the miners. There was no suggestion of bludgeoning them into acceptance by such a recommendation.

Mr. Ryan said that surely the A.W.U. Convention was not going to say that the 6000 men were not able to deal with this matter themselves, and whilst the proposal made was no doubt a good one delegates had no right to attempt to influence the miners in their decision.

Mr. McNaught said that the question should be left in the hands of the Broken

Hill miners to give consideration to the Federal Government's proposals, and the A.W.U. should support the miners. He proposed to move an amendment on those lines.

The President ruled that such an amendment being a direct negative would be out of order.

Mr. Butler said that he was not prepared to go bald-headed for this thing without knowing some more of the details. All the A.W.U. ought to do was to allow the miners to speak for themselves. The A.W.U. had supported these men, but had no right to come along in this way.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY.

Senator Barnes said that they should be prepared to take some responsibility in the matter of a recommendation of this kind. Surely it was competent for the Convention to say that in the judgment of delegates this was a good proposition now put forward, and they should not be afraid to frankly recommend its adoption. Mr. Watts said that whatever the merits of the proposition might be, the Broken Hill miners should decide it.

Mr. McCormack said that when the Sugar Workers' strike was on support had been received from a number of unions. When the terms of settlement were discussed leading unions were there to take a hand, and were welcomed by the Sugar Workers. He, therefore, could see no point in the objection that the A.W.U. should not come in with a recommendation if the Convention thought fit.

The resolution was carried by 14 votes to 8, on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Lundie, East, Coyne, Dunstan, White, Bailey, Holloway, Lambert, Black, McNeill, Barnes, Mooney, McCormack, and W. Murphy.
Against—Messrs. Cullinan, Butler, Watts, McNaught, Kelly, Collins, Harvey, and Ryan.

Convention adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

TENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Monday, February 7th, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair. All delegates present except Mr. Martyn (absent on leave).

THE LABOR DAILY.

The annual report and balance sheet of Labor Papers Limited was circulated amongst delegates. The report stated:—

In submitting their report for the past year, your directors regret that continuance of war conditions has precluded any attempt to publish "The World." The decision to postpone publication for the time being was announced to the last.

annual meeting of shareholders, and since then the prospects have become worse instead of better.

During the past year the scarcity of shipping for commercial requirements has become intensified, and this condition has reflected itself in the freights charged on paper, amongst other things. During the visit of your Managing Director to Canada, he made particular inquiries into the freight position, and on his return in August last he reported to the directors that the freight on paper was bound to increase, with a prospect of supplies not being available over long periods. In view of this condition, the directors had no hesitation in deciding upon further postponement indefinitely. We are of the opinion that the situation is not likely to materially improve until the war has ended, and, unfortunately, this seems to be some distance away.

The plant, which is the most up-to-date in Australia to-day, has been kept in good order and ready for use as soon as publication is considered advisable.

STATEMENT BY MR. WATSON.

Mr. J. C. Watson, chairman of directors of Labor Papers Limited, on being invited to address Convention, said that there was not a great deal new for one to say regarding "The World," unfortunately, because during the last year they had simply been "marking time," as the report disclosed. The directors had been watching developments with respect to business conditions during the war, and could see no reason to alter the determination not to publish in the meantime. Looking back on what had happened during the last twelve months, the directors were more than ever satisfied that the decision postponing publication was a wise one. During that period, whilst it was true that some phases of business had kept up in outside circles, it was true also that advertising, upon which newspapers relied largely for their success financially, had considerably and consistently fallen off. Business had been good in drapery and similar lines in Sydney itself, but reports from country towns showed that things were worse. When young men were sent out of the country it made a great difference in the aggregate of establishments. All the expenditure of soldiers had largely been in the metropolitan districts, which was the compensating factor so far as Sydney was concerned. Advertising had certainly gone down considerably below what it had been before the war. Alongside of it, and quite as important as that, had been the rapid increase in the price of printing paper.

SALES OF PRINTING PAPER.

The directors had been realising on the paper what they had at the beginning of

the year—and there had been as much as £16,000 or £17,000 worth in stock at one time. They had been realising on it, seeing it could not keep indefinitely, and they had to be prepared to liquidate it as advantageously as possible. Special treatment had been made in the case of Labor journals, in which the directors dispensed with profit. The Worker having had a considerable amount in this way. Other customers, however, had to purchase at a higher price. There had been a gross profit of about £2000 on the sale of paper. Since they made their contract for "The World" supply, paper had increased by £8 and £7 a ton; it had gone up again, and at present paper could not be purchased for less than £20 per ton. Newspaper proprietors, although they might have fair stocks in hand, wherever possible, were cutting down the size of their journals in order to eke out what they had as far as they could. Not only was the high price of paper something to be reckoned with, but there was no guarantee that one could get paper even when it was ordered. What with the British Admiralty requisitioning vessels, and the Germans sinking merchantmen, there was a great scarcity of ships bottoms for carrying oversea freight. That was a position which they must have had to face had a start been made with "The World."

WHAT ENHANCED PRICES MEAN.

An idea of the extra expense which the rise in paper meant could be gained by a comparison of existing prices with what they had paid originally. On an eight-page paper, with a circulation of 75,000—a very conservative estimate, and one which would be exceeded in actual practice, he was certain—the difference would be £16,000 annually; on a 10-page paper, £20,000; on a 12-page, £24,000; and on a 14-page paper—the paper which they had projected as their average—£30,000. Again, he did not think that the prices about to be reached, and it was quite probable that the rates might go to prohibitive figures. Therefore, taking that important matter into consideration, together with the shrinkage in advertising, he believed that they might congratulate themselves that they were not unwise enough to start with the war upon us.

REASONS FOR NOT STARTING.

There were some people who said, "Why don't you start? There are other Labor papers pulling along alright." There were several reasons in answer to that. The Labor papers invariably quoted were not large enough, or in cities big enough, to be used as an effective basis of comparison. It had always to be remembered that the competition in Sydney would be keen, and that working people would not

pay 1d. for a paper which was not equal to others produced at the same price. The Labor Daily would, if anything, have to be better than the other rivals in the field, and certainly none of the existing Labor papers could compare with Sydney dailies in the cost of production. These and other considerations, together with the hard fight some Labor papers had had since the war, did not encourage in the minds of directors the idea that they would have been better off had a start been made with "The World." The argument had also been advanced that a small 8-page paper would have sufficed, but it had to be borne in mind that the collection and collating of news on a small sized paper was nearly as great as that on a larger scale. On the literary side the same field had to be covered for a small as well as the larger issue, which invariably consisted of special features. He had gone into this matter with the Editor, who had clearly demonstrated that the saving on the literary side on the small paper was comparatively speaking very little. In connection with the staff engaged prior to the proposed date of starting, he might say that expenses had been reduced very considerably indeed.

PAYMENTS MADE.

When it had been decided to start a morning paper as against an evening journal, it was pointed out by the directors that the sum of £150,000 would be required to start. At the time of that decision a little over £100,000 had been received. The A.W.U. imposed a 10/- levy on members, with the proceeds of which, and money from other unions, it was expected they could make the proposed start in November, 1914. That was, however, conditional on one feature. They had hoped to get the machinery on such financial conditions that would admit of the directors utilising the resources of the company without involving the whole of the £150,000. The delay, however, which had since occurred meant that the notes for machinery had become due, and had been met. As a result the bank overdraft had been swollen to £17,689, principally on account of the machinery. There was £32,000 worth of machinery in hand and £1300 worth of paper. In addition, some of the linotypes had been left in bond, pending the starting of the paper, and these would come to about £5000. "Bills payable £4129" in the balance sheet related to machinery, which, with the £5000 for linotypes in hand, came to £9129. That amount tacked on to the £17,689 overdraft meant roughly a total owing of £27,000. As against that they would then have machinery costing about £38,000. The machinery, he wished to point out, was of much greater value now than when purchased, because of the cost

and shortage of freight vessels and the uncertainty of newspapers being able to thus acquire the machines which were the latest and most up-to-date in the Commonwealth. In fact, only a fortnight ago there were inquiries made of the directors if they would sell some of the machinery, a price much in advance of what had been paid being offered. The offer was refused by the directors.

MORE MONEY.

Whenever the paper started more money had to be found for it. That was clear. They could not commence on less than what had been asked for two years ago—£150,000. All of that money had not been forthcoming, and it was obvious that what was necessary in 1914 would, with the increased cost of production, inevitably be wanted in the future. More probably would be required, if anything, but it was possible that additional money would be raised from the other unions. When the publication was projected everything looked bright, and it would have been a tragedy not to have started if things continued on as they had been going. Advertisers were favorable, and all seemed clear ahead. But the war had altered the whole face of the situation, so that now the directors would not take the risk of starting, nor was it likely that they would be justified in doing so until the war was over. The sum of £25,000 or £30,000 would be required before operations could be commenced. Something might be done to gather in outstanding levies. He readily recognised that the A.W.U. had done all that could be expected. Whether the money would be raised, however, amongst outside unions he could not say.

MACDONELL HOUSE.

Regarding the letting of accommodation in Macdonell House, originally they had had a good deal of space taken, but as they were mostly new firms the war affected them detrimentally first. They had, however, from tenants now in the building received during last year £3131 in rents. The cost of running and maintenance, together with rates and taxes, had been £2658, which meant a net profit of £473. This year they expected to do better than that, and if the Lord Mayor succeeded in his announced improved land values programme the rates and taxation would be considerably reduced. There were practically four of the best floors occupied by the newspaper itself, and no rent was of course coming in from that source. A proposal had been made to the directors to utilise portion of the machinery and premises, which would have returned over £3000 a year, but as it was another paper which made the offer,

the directors, after considering various matters, turned it down. Since September last he had drawn only £2 per week salary in lieu of the previous salary of £500 per year.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

In answer to questions, Mr. Watson said that he considered Macdonell House was an excellent investment as a commercial proposition, and under normal conditions would justify itself handsomely, but ordinary standards could not be applied to the present situation. The value of the building, however, was increasing. In ordinary years the rents (outside their own space) would amount to £6000 annually, which would be an excellent return for the money invested.

In reply to Mr. McNaught, Mr. Watson said that when the rates for laborers was 8/- Labor Papers had paid 9/- a day and afterwards 10/-. He had used no influence to get any motion of censure on George Gresham Reeve by the United Laborers, and if there was a motion on the books of the union asking for an apology to the union and himself it was the first he had heard of it. Mr. Reeve had been employed on the excavation works for some time after there was a strike, and left eventually entirely of his own accord.

The General Secretary said that of the levies about 95 per cent. had been paid by pastoral workers and 25 per cent. by the other sections. That was a rough estimate.

RECEIVING THE REPORT.

Mr. McCormack moved that the report be received. He said that a good few matters had been cleared up by Mr. Watson's statements, and had the building been in a separate account the discussion would not have lasted so long. In his own State (Queensland) the opinion had been held that the original mistake had been made in launching into the huge building of Macdonell House, in which £107,000 was locked up. Practically little or nothing was coming forward as the result of that large expenditure of money. The object of the company, as he understood it, was to produce a newspaper and not go into the real estate business. Had they been members of a building society, such a course might be admissible. Macdonell House might be a first-class asset in the future, and on the other hand there might be a slump in property after the war was over. He would not have minded a loss resulting if the paper was being produced and doing the valuable propaganda work for which it was intended because they would not look for great financial returns from that direction. Strong criticism had come from

members, who pointed out that £123,000 had been put up and there was still no paper. He recognised that whilst his remarks on the building might have had some value five or six years ago, they were of no use now, because the mistake had been made. They should therefore sit tight and bear it because they could not retrace their steps now. Even if conditions were favorable the paper could not start now without more money.

Mr. Watson: Eighteen months ago we were justified in starting, and could have started but for the war.

Mr. McCormack: Without more capital the Labor Daily would become but a dream. Convention, however, should make the best of things.

Mr. McNeill seconded the motion for the reception of the report.

THE ALTERNATIVE.

The President said that whilst Mr. McCormack had criticised the wisdom of building Macdonell House no alternative had been put by him. Supposing they sold the property, could they start the paper?

Mr. McCormack: Not at the present time.

The President said that many properties had been looked at, but none but the present one was suitable. They have rented premises would have meant a long lease, and unless they could have sub-let they would have had to have paid away every week at least about £80 if the paper had not started. They did not have to make that payment now. It would have cost nearly as much for a building merely to produce the paper as the present one. A three or four storey place would at the very least have been necessary, and with the high land values it was thought desirable to obtain some of that value back, so that with normal conditions prevailing the paper might have been working in handsome premises rent free.

Mr. McCormack: I admit that having gone in for a site in Pitt Street you have made the best use of it, but I hold there was no need to get right into the heart of the city for the purpose of producing the newspaper.

The President: Any proposition entered upon would have meant a loss in view of what the war has meant to us.

Mr. Watson: Including the floors occupied by "The World," the rental value of Macdonell House would in normal times be worth about £11,000 a year.

AFTER WISDOM.

Senator Barnes said that all of this criticism about the building might be very fine, but it was no use being wise after the event. Undoubtedly the venture would have made good had it not have been for something nobody could

foresee. Millions of plans and homes had been spoiled by the same event—war. The A.W.U. had desired a daily newspaper, and put a good lot of money into it. The paper had not come out, and was not likely to come out for some time. Prospects would not improve whilst the war was on. The directors had said more money was wanted. Well, if the paper was to come out after the war more would have to be found. Despite the opinion held by some people he believed that the A.W.U. would, on the conclusion of the war, be prepared to respond to a further appeal, because they were a body of men who knew the tremendous value of a paper of this kind in educating the people industrially and politically. The position resolved itself into two things: either to go to the members for the money required or go to the banks. He believed that every delegate would agree with Mr. Watson that it would be impossible to start the paper now. After the war they could do so, and he believed that with the funds necessary it would be a success from the jump.

The report was received.

THE POSITION OF MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Mr. Lundie moved—

That it be an instruction from this Convention to ask the directors appointed by the A.W.U. not to appoint Mr. J. C. Watson as chairman of directors of Labor Papers Limited.

He said that during the last 12 months Mr. Watson had been jaunting round the world, and apparently was prepared to let the Labor Daily slide. If the early affairs had been put into looking after the affairs of the company there would not have been so much space in the building to let at the present time. He felt that the men who were the backbone of the A.W.U. did not put Mr. Watson in his position in order that he might jaunt all over the country, and he claimed that Mr. Watson had been found wanting so far as Labor Papers Limited was concerned. Mr. Watson had said that he was not getting a salary from the Federal Government, but he would not state what his expenses allowed was. The Labor Daily had been mismanaged from the word "go." He was full up to the neck of it, and wanted to get someone else appointed to pay attention to the work.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution. He said that when he had seen Mr. Watson's name mixed up with the conscription movement he lost all confidence in him.

MR. WATSON REPLIES.

Mr. Watson, on being invited to address Convention, said the terms of the resolution might be altered to an expression of

opinion, and if it were carried he would not be two minutes in giving effect to its desires. Mention had been made of conscription. As a Socialist he believed it was the duty of all who were fit to do so to defend their country along with others who were doing it. Mr. Lundie had said that the management of Labor Papers Limited had been a failure. Where? Mr. Lundie had not said so, but had made a general statement without evidence in support of it. Labor Papers Limited had been run by him as carefully as if the concern had been his own, safeguarding as far as he possibly could every penny of expenditure. Mr. Lundie had suggested, too, that he had been gallivanting round the world on his salary of £500 a year. His fellow-directors knew that it was not a question of salary with him, because to carry on the work of the Labor Daily he had turned down a number of offers of four-figure jobs which he might easily have taken. Had he merely been after salary he could have got three times as much as what had been paid to him. All along he had wanted this paper to be a success, and had tried to make it so.

THE DUTY OF DELEGATES.

If Mr. Lundie considered the methods adopted had not been right, let him say so, and as managing director he would get out without any ill-feeling in the matter at all. It would be the duty of delegates to say so if that was their opinion, and if they held that view they would be lacking in a sense of duty should they fail to do so. He had told the last Convention that he proposed to take a trip to England and America, and beyond the salary paid to him whilst away it had cost the company nothing. During his absence he had embraced of going into matters which concerned the company. He had made investigations regarding machinery and cable arrangements when away, and he ventured to say the company had gained something by those inquiries. There had been a kind of interregnum in the affairs of the company, good officers had had charge, and Labor Papers Limited had by no means been incommode. Mr. Lundie had assumed that he was getting some huge allowance because of his being content to accept £2 per week from Labor Papers, and if he was to continue in the position he must go on drawing that amount. But he was getting no such sums as allowances as suggested by Mr. Lundie. His (Mr. Watson's) heart had been bound up in the success of the Labor Daily enterprise. If his absence would tend to make a greater success of it, well by all means get rid of him. He had made considerable financial sacrifices for the project, but he did not care a flip

of the finger as to continuing except as it affected the position of the paper. He would be sorry, though, to go out and have nothing more to do with it. This was a matter, of course, for delegates to consider, and if they thought a change should be made, let them by all means carry the resolution which Mr. Lundie had moved.

CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Last said that he was in a difficult position. Mr. Watson had spoken in favor of conscription and the Norton-Griffiths scheme, and he shuddered to think what would have happened had the paper been going with Mr. Watson in charge. The policy of the paper might have been in favor of those things—

The President: The policy of the paper would be the policy of the Labor movement.

Mr. Last said that it had to be remembered that Mr. Watson was a man of great influence, and he might have used that great influence as to the management of the paper. He did not think anyone could have done better than Mr. Watson, but because of the attitude of the managing director on the two questions he had mentioned he proposed to vote for the resolution.

APPORTIONING THE BLAME.

The General Secretary said that as a co-director it was only right that he should have something to say on the subject. He did not, however, think that Convention would seriously entertain the proposition put forward, but if any blame was to be apportioned out he wanted to take his full share of it. There would be no attempt on his part to cringe and say that he did not do this or did not do that. Having accepted a position as director he would assume his full measure of responsibility. Conventions, too, would have to take a share of responsibility, for he it remembered all that the directors had carried out received the endorsement of previous Conventions. If anything had been done to jeopardise the interests of the company, and there was nothing but condemnation for directors, his purpose was not to continue in the position. His continuance in the directorship had been, and ought to be, accepted as a guarantee that he had sanctioned the policy adopted by the company. He had done his best to improve things in every way, and was opposing what he considered bad. Mr. Watson had been criticised for his trip round the world, but the value of the work done by Mr. Watson when away would be hard to estimate. The cable service, which was a vital thing to a newspaper, had been effectively adjusted,

MR. WATSON'S WORK ABROAD.

Prior to going to England and America, Mr. Watson frankly told Convention of his intention to do so. And it was a good thing for them that Mr. Watson had undertaken the trip so as to free "The World" from any monopolistic cable grip. As far as machinery and other newspaper improvements were concerned, Mr. Watson had visited the offices of great newspapers in England and America, with the result that the Labor daily would gain the advantage of all that valuable experience. Again, he had made close inquiries in Canada on the all-important question of paper supplies and freights, so that they were in possession of most desirable knowledge at first hand. He (the President) took his share of responsibility, and would stand for justice in the matter.

Mr. Ryan said that when he was battling round organising one of the questions frequently asked when levies were being raised was whether members could be sure of the policy of the paper. The sentiments of Labor were now and had always been against conscription as had been recently advocated. When, however, the expression of opinion of the managing director on this subject was made known, it again gave rise to the same question. Notwithstanding that, he was not going to support the resolution, for the good reason that there was no one in sight who could more successfully fill Mr. Watson's position.

THE ENDORSEMENTS OF THE CONVENTIONS.

Mr. Dunstan said that he would not vote for the resolution. For many years he had been a delegate to Convention, and at all (bar one) had taken part in the deliberations respecting Labor Papers Limited. The delegates of those Conventions were absolutely responsible for the position to-day, having agreed with all that had been done. Mr. Watson was able always to put up a splendid case, and Conventions blindly followed him. They had over £100,000 in the white elephant of a building, but they had no newspaper, and he considered that actions by Mr. Watson in the matters which had been mentioned would assist in killing for some time any attempt at further A.W.U. levies. Indeed, when Mr. Watson's attitude to conscription became known there were some members who congratulated themselves on the fact that "The World" had not been established, reckoning that his view would have found backing in the paper. Still with respect to what had been done he was prepared to take his bit of blame, and he did not think it was a fair thing to say that all the responsibility should be shouldered on to the managing director, or

any of the directors, seeing the part delegates themselves had played in the past.

CONSERVING RESOURCES.

Mr. Coyne said that he had been interested in the Labor daily even before the proposition took shape, and he was not ashamed of anything he had done. He had all along disapproved of money being spent on the erection of the big building, as he preferred to see the money not sunk in Macdonell House but conserved as resources for the paper—an evening paper. That project was turned down for a moment agreed with Mr. Dunstan that past Convention paper by Convention, and he quite ventures were to blame for the mistake made. They had gone on on the understanding that an evening paper was to be launched, but the influence of Messrs. Watson, Spence, and the General Secretary was sufficient to change the view of Convention to the morning paper idea. He foresaw that they would get into the mire if they set out to get more money and depended on receiving large revenues from the letting of the building. Now they found themselves "up against it" financially. He was going to vote for the resolution if it was put, not through animus against Mr. Watson, but as a protest against the action of the whole of the directors.

Senator Barnes: Have you a remedy?

Mr. Coyne: The remedy should come from the directors. He would like to suggest to Mr. Lundie that the resolution be withdrawn, because everything the mover sought had been accomplished by the discussion. If Mr. Lundie persisted in putting his resolution he would, however, feel in duty bound to support it.

NO EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT.

Mr. Blakeley said that he would not vote for the resolution. There had been a good deal of sorrowful wailing because delegates found they were up against a certain set of circumstances. In the past, glowing pictures had been painted, and 90 per cent. of delegates had appreciated the pictures and voted accordingly. They had all thought the thing would be a paying concern in a very short period, but that view had been dispelled. Still, it was no use of delegates "whipping the cat" because they were up against this brick wall. From time to time each delegate had had an opportunity of criticising the work of directors, and now there was a deadlock some were starting to cry and find fault. But there had been no specific fault-finding. If bad management had been disclosed, and as a result the newspaper was jeopardised, then they might proceed to deal with the directors, but this had not been done. If one director was to blame, the whole lot should be blamed. Mr.

Lundie had interjected that he proposed to deal with the other directors also, but that was an afterthought, because he (Mr. Lundie) had now found himself in an untenable position. They could not do anything at the present juncture, but he did not know who they could put in the places of Messrs. Watson, Spence, and Grayndler. Could any delegate mention the names of three men who would meet with the approbation of Convention? They should take the responsibility of the actions of past Conventions, and not shelter behind the directors. Mr. Dunstan struck the true note when he had said they were all responsible.

NO RESPONSIBILITY.

Mr. Kelly said that he would support the resolution. Not being a delegate at any previous Convention he personally had no responsibility to shoulder in this matter. There had been a bungle made, and a step in the right direction would be a move for a new board of management. It had been a mistake to go in for the big building, but the directors had given such a rosy prospect of things that Convention had agreed to all that had been proposed. Mr. Watson's attitude towards conscription would prejudice men against putting up further money, because militarism was against the whole spirit of the Labor movement. If the directors had been doing the right thing they would have come forward with a tangible scheme to get the company out of the present position. They had not got one, and he therefore proposed to vote against them.

Mr. Mooney said that he would vote against the resolution. In the past everything had looked lovely, and accommodation in the building had all been practically let. But the war position which arose was no fault of the directors or of delegates at previous Conventions. For that accidental set of circumstances he could not blame the directors. Mr. Coyne's attitude had been one in favor of an evening paper all along, and it was true that he had wanted such a journal started right away, but the Convention decided on a morning paper. The idea was to have a morning paper on a sound basis, and at the time it seemed a good proposition to house it in a fine building which would be a good rent-producing asset. All would have been well but for the catastrophe of war, and in view of that he was going to stand by the retention of the directors.

ACTING IN GOOD FAITH.

Mr. Watts said that hitherto he had not been closely connected with the A.W.U., but none the less he would stand by what previous Conventions, acting in good faith, had done in this matter. He was

not one to dispense with a captain just because there seemed to be some troubled waters about. This resolution seemed to be a protest against Mr. Watson's trip to the Old Country. He might say, as a result of that trip, Mr. Watson had furnished people in W.A. interested in Labor daily journalism with most valuable information, and carried out work free of cost, which had won the warmest thanks and gratitude.

Mr. McNeill said that he accepted freely his share of responsibility in this matter. Whilst giving Mr. Lundie credit for being fearless and outspoken, he thought that the mover of the motion was wrong in what he had done. He thought it would be cowardly to censure one man and tell him after endorsing his actions that now they had no confidence in him. Whilst entirely disagreeing with Mr. Watson's utterances on conscription, he considered that that gentleman should have a right to his own opinions. As to the future, he never knew the true Australian bushman to falter in support of a good thing yet, and he felt sure that before many years had passed the Labor Daily would be an accomplished fact with associated papers in the whole of the capital cities of the Commonwealth. Why should they lie down and cry because there was a liability now? A supreme effort should be made, and an earnest appeal put out to the trades unionists of Australia to come in with funds. If they would not do so they should go for financial accommodation. That should be done at the proper time—not now in the midst of the great international conflict that was raging. They should hold on to this building, and the paper, and not give away what they had won by levies and loyalty to a great cause from good men. Let them keep that determination in view and make their daily the Gibraltar of Labor journalism in Australia.

NOT A SHADOW OF PROOF.

Senator Barnes said that the resolution put him in mind of an old story that used to be told by a couple of chaps out on the Darling. Without warning one hit the other. When the man hit had recovered he asked his mate why he had done it. "I don't know why I did it—I just thought you wanted one, that was all," was the reply. The least that a Convention might expect from a mover of a resolution of this kind was some evidence upon which the essence of the motion was based. But none had been forthcoming. Mr. Watson was holding a responsible position, and might have quite a number of faults, but the onus was on Mr. Lundie to prove it was so. Earlier in the day Convention had had all the opportunity required for criticism of the affairs of the company. Nothing that was wrong was

disclosed, yet in face of that along came a resolution proposing that the managing director should be "outed." Such a resolution should never have been tabled. As to Mr. Watson and conscription he had been totally opposed to the managing director's attitude on it. Had the paper been running, and Mr. Watson put forward conscription as a policy there would have been ample ground for such a resolution as the one before them, but no such thing had been done. Mr. Lundie had not brought a shadow of evidence against Mr. Watson, nor adduced an argument in support of his motion. In his opinion, quite a number of the complaints by members of the A.W.U. were made through lack of acquaintance with the facts. He had heard misapprehensions there at the Convention, although delegates were in a position to acquire first-hand knowledge, and if delegates did not satisfy themselves on points in doubt it was no wonder that members were occasionally astray in their statements. Yet here were delegates ready to go against the managing director without evidence or inquiry as to the position. Members should know that the directors (unless they were asses) would not dream of starting the paper now with the war on. That position should be made clear to members who were always satisfied with a proper explanation. He would vote against the resolution, because there was absolutely no warrant for it.

CRITICISMS BUT NOT REASONS.

Mr. Lambert said that he hoped conscription would not entertain the resolution. Criticisms were made, but no reasons or illustrations were advanced in support of what was asked for. The position was that the company had assets worth about £140,000. The directors could not foresee that the war would take place, and delegates were as much to blame as the directors. As to the conscription, that was a side issue, and no director was on trial for that, but was supposed to be on trial for mismanagement of the company. He considered that those who had said that members were "seething with discontent" did not know the real position, and when he had explained frankly, the statements were readily accepted by many members whom he had met whilst travelling through Central Branch territory. Of course there were one or two fault-finders.

Mr. Butler said that the managing director was being censured with regard to the company, and on top of it his conscription attitude had also been introduced. He had learnt nothing during the debate to warrant a vote for the motion. What had been done had been done—always with the consent of the Convention, which, if anything wrong had been done, condoned it

by endorsement. The responsibility should not be placed on the directors. As to conscription, he trusted the Labor Daily columns would never be used to advocate placing a military cordon round the people, for Labor had always strenuously opposed militarism.

Mr. McNaught said that he held past Conventions responsible for what had been done. He believed Macdonell House was a white elephant, and the sooner they got rid of it the better. He would like to see the directors come forward with some scheme for the solution of existing difficulties. They could dispense with personalities about conscription. What about others who were also in favor of it? Conventions in the past made the mistake of trying to fly before being able to walk—and he would vote against the resolution.

**FREE AND FRANK STATEMENT
REQUIRED.**

Mr. Collins said that they had been told more money would be required. Mr. McNeill had stated that other unions should come in and do their share. He, however, did not place much reliance on the other unions joining in. In the long run the A.W.U. would have to find it, and he would like to see a free and frank statement of affairs placed before members. A plebiscite could then be taken of members asking if they would contribute further. Mistakes might have been made in the past, but they all made mistakes; but taking everything into consideration the Labor movement was wonderfully free from them. He was not in the least disheartened by the State of affairs, and was not affected by the pessimism and timidity which took possession of some men. The motion would not receive his vote, because it singled out one man.

NOT TO BLAME.

Mr. Holloway said that with regard to Mr. Watson's attitude to conscription it would be very hard for any intelligent individual to dissociate a personal view from the official position which was held as head of Labor Papers Limited. As one who also took his share of responsibility with the directors, it had to be remembered that all had looked rosy in the past, and delegates could not be blamed that because of the war they had not accomplished what they set out to do. He had always made the position clear as to the paper, and once the statement was made there was no objection shown by members who recognised the situation. He thought it would be about four years before the paper was going, and basing a calculation on that he had a suggestion to make. They would, with acquisitions to their ranks, have a membership of 80,000. If for

four years they put away 1/- from each member's ticket, £16,000 could be raised, and if 2/- were deducted they could get £32,000. If they did their best and got every organiser to do the same, he saw no difficulty in overcoming what was, after all, a comparatively small obstacle.

The resolution was defeated by 16 votes to 8 on the following division:—
For—Messrs. Lundie, Coyne, Last, W. Murphy, Cullinan, and Kelly.

Against—Messrs. Holloway, Black, McNeill, Butler, Watts, White, Blakeley, Lambert, Bailey, McNaught, Dunstan, Collins, Harvey, Mooney, McCormack, and Barnes.

The General Secretary said that they should now know whether there was to be any change in the policy hitherto pursued. Should "The World" be a morning paper or an evening paper? Last Convention decided the paper should not come out, and he wished to know what was the attitude to be taken by this Convention.

INCREASING NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. Bailey moved and amended the resolution from Central Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That the number of Labor Daily Paper directors be six.

He said that he did not move the resolution in any carping spirit of criticism. It had been thought that with additional directors from other States the position of the Board and the paper would be strengthened. They had had criticisms of "The World" management, and men like Mr. Lundie (S.A.), Mr. Coyne (Q.), and Senator Barnes (V.) might with advantage be added to the Board and make it more widely representative of Australia, and at the same time be able to induce other unions to put more money in.

Mr. Lambert seconded the resolution, which he said would enable Mr. Lundie to display his genius in infusing new methods into newspaper management.

Mr. McCormack said the proposal was deserving of serious consideration. Undoubtedly additions could be made to the Board. There were many things the directors might have done and had not, and with additional strength more could be accomplished in the future. Personally he thought there was too much working pressure on the two executive officers at the Head Office, particularly the General Secretary, who was an exceedingly busy man whose time was fully occupied, and he could not always closely apply himself to the work of directorship.

The General Secretary said that they could not alter the "A" or "B" directors in the company, but he had no doubt that provision could be made for more "C" directors.

WHERE INCREASE COULD BE MADE.
The debate was adjourned, but on the following day (Feb. 8) the discussion was resumed.

Mr. Watson, who was invited to address Convention, said that there was a wide distinction between the memorandum and articles of association which dealt with the question of directors. The memorandum could only be altered by all the shareholders and the consent of the Court. That was intended to be a guarantee that there could be no alteration except upon equitable lines. There was nothing to prevent an increase of directors in "C," but the "A" and "B" were unalterable, because they had to be elected under the memorandum. Additional directors could be brought in by an extraordinary meeting, of which a month's notice required to be given.

Mr. J. Andrews (proxy for the A.W.U. at the annual meeting of Labor Papers Limited), who was invited to address Convention, said that he would urge delegates not to go for an increase in the number of directors. To start this kind of thing might mean that when the paper became popular and strong the other unions which had been hanging back could come in and swamp the A.W.U.

The President: But if they put in more money than the A.W.U. they would be entitled to more representation.

Mr. Lundie: I do not think there is much fear of that happening.

Mr. Andrews said that they should always bear in mind the possibility of bogus organisations trying to get it in.

The President: But the directors in any suspicious case like that need not allot shares. There is a provision made to safeguard transfers also.

PROPOSED NEW DIRECTORS CHOSEN.

Mr. Coyne said that his name had been mentioned as a probable director, but he could not possibly attend to the work, and he never undertook anything he could not carry out. He felt that the one hope of running the concern was through the A.W.U., and he did not place much reliance on what the other unions would do.

Mr. Cullinan said that it would better to have more directors, but in advocating that he meant no reflection on the present directors.

Mr. Collins moved as an amendment—

That the number of directors be five, which was carried.

Messrs. Lundie and Arthur Rae were chosen as nominees for election as additional directors by ballot.

On the following day (Feb. 9) Convention also selected Mr. Frank Hyett (Vic-

toria) as an additional nominee for director, bringing the total number of directors to six.

ADDITIONAL LABOR PARTY MATTERS.

Mr. Bailey moved an amendment from the resolution from Central Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That steps be taken to have the late Mr. Alick Dawson's foundation Labor Daily share transferred to Mr. W. H. Lambert.

Mr. Coyne seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Lundie moved the resolution from Redford (Q.)—

That a detailed balance-sheet be published in THE WORKER of the expenditure on the Labor Daily building.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Lundie moved an amended resolution from Llanrhaidol (Q.)—

That the directors of Labor Papers Limited be censured for their past actions in dealing with the business of the company.

Mr. Kelly and Mr. Cullinan supported the resolution, which was defeated.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from Dunmural (N.S.W.) and Fort Bourke (N.S.W.)—

That the two A.W.U. directors on Labor Papers Limited be elected by a plebiscite of members.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was defeated by 11 votes to 9 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Lundie, Coyne, Dunstan, W. Murphy, White, Cullinan, McNaught, Kelly, and Collins.

Against—Messrs. Holloway, Black, McNeill, Butler, Watts, Lambert, Bailey, Harvey, Mooney, Barnes, and McCormack, Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Tuesday, February 8, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present, except Mr. Martyn (absent on leave).

PLEBISCITE FOR LABOR DAILY LEVY.

Mr. Collins moved—

That a plebiscite of A.W.U. members be taken to determine if members favor another levy of 10/- for Labor Papers Limited; such levy to extend over two years, and to be collected in two 5/- payments.

He said that he had no doubt that if the plebiscite were carried, members would pay up alright. It would be necessary, however, that a frank statement of the position should be put forward from the Head Office, and if members got that and appreciated what the situation was, he had no doubt that they would respond nobly. He had every faith in the future, and if organisers displayed faith and cleared up doubts and misunderstandings it would go a long way to helping things in the right direction.

Mr. Holloway seconded the resolution. He said that some scheme would have to be devised as early as possible to assist the Labor Daily. An opportunity should be given to members, therefore, to say whether they were prepared to contribute further or not. If members would not do so, then some other scheme would have to be taken up and at an early date.

Mr. Blakeley said that he was against the resolution. The members of the A.W.U. had put a large sum of money into this proposition. The first levy had been collected pretty easily, and the second one came in alright so far as the pastoral industry was concerned, but outside the pastoral workers in Queensland the collection was by no means satisfactory. He considered the result of the plebiscite would be a foregone conclusion. It would be turned down, and he did not see the need, therefore, to send it along. He thought that the other trades unions might realise their duty in this matter, and whilst they could ask for voluntary contributions from A.W.U. members the plebiscite should not be put.

CITY UNIONS.

Mr. Cullinan said that he was against a plebiscite on this question, and Convention would only bring contemptuously on the delegates if the resolution was assented to. It would be a waste of money even to print the ballot papers, when delegates must know the levy would not be carried. The city unions should come up to the scratch now—the A.W.U. fellows had done a fair share.

Mr. Dunstan supported the resolution. Members should have a voice on this matter. A concise statement of the exact position would meet the difficulty hitherto experienced on the score of insufficiency of information, and would enable members to see things in their proper light, and they would vote as a result of it. As to the reference to the unsatisfactory levy returns from Queensland in districts outside pastoral areas, it had to be remembered that in a great many cases men were organised who had not hitherto been in their ranks. The 25 per cent. collection was therefore not so bad after all. During

last year Mr. Ryan had established a record in getting in levies, which was more than most organisers could talk of.

Mr. Coyne said that he believed if members knew the exact position they would come up with the levy proposed. He wanted to save all they had in Labor Papers Limited, and never was there greater need for action being taken to do so. If officials battled for this he was satisfied it would be carried, and he would certainly take a hand in advocacy of the proposal himself. Members had not in the past been afraid to make sacrifices, and had shown a fine spirit. In view of that he believed that they could make the contribution two of 10/- each, and they would be on safer ground, because with the same exertion they could realise double the amount.

LABOR DAILY WANTED.

Mr. McNeil said that there was no doubt about the workers wanting a strong Labor daily, but final consideration of this question of levy, which would take three or four years to collect, should be left till later in the Convention proceedings. He agreed that it was "touchy" matter to ask members to come up with further contributions, but he believed if they did not get another levy it might be some years before the paper came to light. If delegates would agree to postpone this question until inquiries could be instituted regarding advances that could be made on the assets a good purpose might be served. He moved that the debate be postponed with that object.

The proposal to adjourn the debate was defeated.

Senator Barnes opposed the resolution. He said that it would be suicidal to start the paper now and enter into contracts at high prices. To put out a plebiscite at the present time would be courting a turn-down. When the war was over and more advantageous contracts could be made, then it would be time enough to ask members this question, for when the paper was coming out an appeal could safely be made to members for assistance.

Mr. Ryan said it would be fatal to ask members for a levy when it was not possible to fix the date of the issue of the paper. He was not at all pessimistic about the outlook for Labor Papers Ltd., but it had been admitted that even if all the required money was in hand at that moment the directors could not, with any degree of certainty, fix the date of issue whilst the war was on.

Mr. McCormack said that the time was not opportune for this proposal. He believed that Macdonell House should pay interest on any money borrowed without drawing on the resources. That should not trouble them therefore, for the A.W.U.

could probably set more credit if it required it than many big business concerns.

PROPOSAL A SURPRISE.

Mr. Black said that he was surprised at such a proposal being brought before Convention. Members had loyally paid the levies in the past. The last one was supposed to be the "last," and yet here was another one suggested, and they did not know where it was going to end. Organisers would be supposed to fight for the levy, which could be agreed to on a simple majority, and the men would be called upon to pay. The A.W.U. had done well, and should not be called on again in this way. The men of the bush having done their share, let the city unionists do theirs. Mr. Butler moved as an amendment—

That the question of another levy be considered by next Convention.

Mr. Last seconded the amendment. He said that the speakers against the motion had, to his mind, made out an unassailable case.

Mr. McNaught said that this question of a levy now was premature, and he agreed that it would be time enough a year hence for the next Convention to handle it.

Mr. Mooney said that he did not think this was the right time to bring on the question of another levy. He was sorry to hear the standers (by implication) of members of whom it had been suggested that they would "squeal" if a levy were asked for. The men of the back country had put up great fights in the past, and spent money like water in asserting their principles. They were not the sort to squeal about anything. As far as the resolution was concerned, he was not against the principle of it. He would have liked the paper to have been out, but circumstances over which they had no control had prevented that.

NOT A DIRECTORS' PROPOSITION.

The General Secretary said that it should be clearly understood that this was not a proposal by the directors. He did not favor any vote of members being taken unless it was possible to point to the date when the paper would be issued. Nobody could say that, unless the stand was taken that the paper should come out, war or no war. Convention last year assumed the responsibility of "banking the fires," and had done so again this year. Even if they had £200,000 in hand he would not advise coming out now. There was no blinking the fact that the position since the war had become most unfavorable, and whilst the war was on would continue so. He wanted to fling this in the teeth of those who, in effect, said that Mr.

Watson was practically responsible for the war itself!

Mr. Lambert said that it would be better to have capital on hand to start the paper when necessary rather than go for financial accommodation. He believed that members would be prepared to pay the levy rather than let the paper drift.

The resolution was defeated by 14 votes to 8 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Holloway, Coyne, Watts, Bailey, Lambert, Collins, McNeill, and Dunstan.

Against—Messrs. W. Murphy, Last, Lundie, Cullinan, Black, White, McNaught, McCormack, Kelly, Ryan, Blakeley, Harvey, Mooney, and Barnes.

Mr. Lundie moved the resolution from Terrick Terrick (Q.)—

That no salary be paid to any official connected with the Labor daily, "The World," until it is published.

Mr. W. Murphy seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

ORGANISERS' ABILITY.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Mount Cuthbert line construction workers (Q.)—

That section "D" of rule 44 be deleted. He said that the section asked that candidates for organising should satisfy the branch committee with proof of ability and good behaviour, before nominations were accepted. The section, he thought, was not acted upon, and "could be wiped out.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Mount Cuthbert line construction workers (Q.)—

Rule 60: District representatives on the Executive should be elected by a plebiscite of the members of the district. Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, which after a brief discussion was carried.

Mr. Blakeley moved an amended resolution from Walcha Local Committee (N.S.W.)—

That cooks shall be on the same footing as other members.

Mr. McNaught seconded.

Mr. Coyne moved as an amendment— That rule 123 be amended to provide that only financial members shall vote for a cook.

Mr. Blakeley accepted the amendment which was carried.

Mr. Lundie moved the resolution from Armidale Local Committee (N.S.W.)—

That Rule 108 be amended to provide that a member may engage a stand for one mate.

Mr. McNeill seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

TWELFTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Wednesday, February 9, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT, GENERAL SECRETARY, Etc.

The General Secretary moved the resolution standing in his name relating to Rule 77, which he explained embodied the whole of the rule with alterations which had been considered necessary. The resolution was discussed and amended and finally adopted in the following form:—

Rule 77.—Any candidate for the office of President, Vice-President, or General Secretary must be nominated by at least two financial members of the Union. The nomination paper must be signed by and contain the addresses and the Branch ticket numbers and levies of those making the nomination and must be in the hands of the General Returning Officer not later than the 21st day of June. The candidate must consent to the nomination in writing, and must also state his occupation, address, and the Branch and numbers of his tickets and levies.

The nomination paper must contain either the candidate's tickets or a certificate from the Secretary of his Branch or District in order to show that the candidate has been a financial member within the meaning of Sub-Clause D of Rule 4 for at least two years immediately preceding the date of nomination.

Nomination and consent to same may be made by telegram, but in such cases the written nomination and consent, with all the foregoing conditions duly complied with, must reach the General Returning Officer not later than the 28th day of June. Nominations shall be forwarded in a closed envelope with the word "Nomination" written thereon and addressed to the General Returning Officer.

The General Returning Officer shall examine all nominations as they come in, and he shall immediately acknowledge receipt of such nomination, and notify the nominee whether the nomination is in order or not, and, if not, why. The General Returning Officer shall also return the tickets.

The General Returning Officer shall reject any nominations not prepared or forwarded in accordance with the foregoing requirements and conditions.

Nominations shall be advertised in each "Worker" stating occupation and residence of candidates.

BRANCH NOMINATIONS.

The General Secretary moved the resolution standing in his name, which he ex-

very fond of arbitration he personally did not believe in pulling out men from jobs unless one could see that there was no other method of settlement.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPON.

Mr. Martyn said that he would oppose both the motion and the amendment. Any person who advocated all arbitration, or all strike, or all anything else, was on the wrong track. In his opinion they had to use the weapon which was most effective to deal with the situation as it presented itself at the time. Arbitration was one of the weapons they had used. The Federal and State Acts were very defective, however, in some respects. They were getting results from arbitration methods, but not as satisfactorily as was desired. The fault did not lie in the principle of arbitration, but the various imperfect forms of legislation through the medium of which the principle had to be applied. Arbitration could be made effective, and the only way to make it really effective was at times to throw it overboard, and try other methods. That would be in the long run bring improved forms of arbitration. He believed that ultimately by the extension of arbitration in its various phases the Labor objective would be achieved. It was untrue when I.W.W. men stated that the A.W.U. was only an arbitration union; for the A.W.U. in his own knowledge and experience, had had strikes, all of which had been effective. Arbitration was no more a cure for all industrial ills than direct action was, but one could score up more wins by arbitration than by strikes. Some of their greatest wins in Queensland had been by conferences, but it was the strength of the union which ensured the victory. The fallacy of direct action was that before settlements were made conferences or arbitration had to be resorted to. Mr. McNaught showed an affection for words without understanding them.

METHODS OF ARBITRATION.

The General Secretary said that Mr. Martyn was incorrect when he stated that arbitration had been thrust on them. Labor, politically and industrially, had fought for it, and made it popular in preference to the old method of the strike. Mention had been made of the lengthy duration of the pastoral award, but that was no fault of the Act, nor of the Court either, because it was always competent to reopen a case. The A.W.U., if it liked, need not be confined to any particular weapon. Directly the interests of the organisation were jeopardised by State or Federal legislative Acts arbitration could be dropped. Strikes, as Mr. Martyn had said, eventually led to arbitration or some form of arbitration, for agreements re-

strike, however much the circumstances might justify him in so doing. The salvation of the workers lay in their organised solidarity in the industrial field. The master class knew this, and that was why injunctions and other forms of legal process were continually being employed with a view to intimidation of union officials. The Arbitration Act did not protect the workers, because the legal coach and four had been continually driven through agreements. Where, for instance, did the pastoral workers get the proper scale of rations and the margin between the minimum and maximum of sheep? The boss had a complete contempt for the whole thing, and they had to force him by threat of industrial trouble in order to make him carry out agreements under the Arbitration Act. Why trouble about arbitration? Had pay increased under it? He thought not, because the A.W.U. members were bound down for five years, and any rise gained in the Court was taken away by the master class putting up the price of the necessities of life.

SHEEP AND GOATS.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution. He said that there were many members who were clamoring to have arbitration wiped out altogether. It was said that men had got increases in the Court, but when one considered the cost of commodities these days, shearers were no better off at the advanced rates than they were at £1 per 100. The law was always on the side of the employing class. If the A.W.U. wiped out arbitration there were members who might break away, but that would lead to a separation of the sheep from the goats. It was about time that the A.W.U. showed some militancy, and he for one would like to see it displayed without any further delay.

PLEBISCITE PROPOSED.

Mr. Lundy moved as amendment—
That a plebiscite of members be taken on the question of whether the policy of the union should continue to be arbitration.

He said that they had heard statements made that day asserting that members were dissatisfied with arbitration. If that were so the plebiscite would give a good idea as to the extent of that dissatisfaction.

Mr. Harvey seconded the amendment. He had himself heard dissatisfaction on the East-West line as to arbitration. There were a certain number of I.W.W. men who had the object of causing disruption even when there might not be any justification for a strike. The plebiscite would be the means of settling the policy of the A.W.U. on arbitration. Whilst not

UNIFORM DATE.

Mr. Kelly moved—

That nominations for all positions within a branch shall close on the same date.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution.

Mr. Blakeley moved as an amendment—
That nominations for all positions within a branch shall close on April 1.

Mr. Lambert seconded the amendment.

which was defeated, and the resolution was carried.

On the motion of the General Secretary, a technical alteration of section "p" of Rule 4 was amended to read, "The Australian Worker" means "The Worker" Newspaper published in Sydney." Consequential amendments to Rules 147, 149, 150, and 151 were also agreed to.

DEMANDING A BALLOT.

Mr. Martyn moved the resolution from Southern District Committee (Q.)—

That Rule 57 and Sub-clause E of Rule 101 be made uniform in the number of men who can demand a ballot, so that five members have the right to demand a ballot in lieu of one-third.

Mr. Holloway seconded the resolution, which was carried.

PRINCIPLE OF ARBITRATION.

On the resolution from Breeza (N.S.W.)—

That arbitration be abolished and direct action be enforced—

Mr. McNaught moved—

That the A.W.U. make direct negotiations with employers and refuse to accept arbitration.

He said that arbitration was in the interests of the boss, and no longer protected unionists from the encroachment of capitalists. Therefore it failed to be of value to the A.W.U., and in fact arbitration meant the chloroforming of unionism.

Labor was the only commodity the average worker had to sell, and if they took away the power of the worker to sell his labor they weakened him. By removing from the worker the right to strike help was given to the master class to bludgeon the worker into submission. Once arbitration agreements were entered into there was an end to real industrial solidarity amongst the workers. Arbitration seemed to be the "sacred cow" which the Union worshipped, but there were members who regarded the signing of agreements as tantamount to signing an industrial death warrant. The Arbitration Act provided for strike penalties up to £1000. No union official whose organisation was registered under the Act could go out and advocate

pleined embodied the whole of the rule with alterations which had been considered necessary. The resolution was discussed and amended, and finally adopted in the following form:—

Rule 22.—Nominations of candidates for the offices of President, and Secretary, Branch Councilors, Delegates to Annual Convention and P.L.L. Conference shall be called for annually by the Branch Returning Officer by advertisement in "The Worker," and shall remain open for at least 28 days, and such advertisements shall state whether the office is an honorary one or not, provided that in case of the Queensland Branch it shall have the right to arrange for the nomination of delegates to the Labor in Politics Convention in such manner as it may decide. The nomination paper must be signed by at least two financial members of the Union and must contain the addresses and Branch ticket numbers and levies of such person. The candidate must consent to the nomination in writing and must also state his occupation, address, and Branch numbers of his tickets and levies.

The nomination paper must contain either the candidate's tickets or a certificate from the secretary of his branch or district in order to show that the candidate has been a financial member within the meaning of Sub-clause D of Rule 4 for at least two years immediately preceding the date of nomination. Nomination and consent to same may be made by telegram, but in such case the written nomination and consent with all the foregoing conditions duly complied with must reach the Returning Officer within 7 days after the time appointed for closing the nominations. The nominations must be forwarded in a closed envelope, with the word "Nomination" written thereon, addressed to the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer shall examine all nominations as they come in, and he shall immediately acknowledge receipt of such nomination and notify the nominee whether the nomination is in order or not, and if not, why. The Returning Officer shall also return the tickets.

The Returning Officer shall reject any nomination not prepared or forwarded in accordance with the foregoing requirements and conditions. Save in the case of delegates to Convention no member shall be eligible at a Branch election for nomination for two or more paid positions when such positions are required to be concurrently filled. N.B.—Nominations shall be advertised in THE WORKER, stating occupations and residences of candidates.

istered in a court meant arbitration. He admitted that much could be urged against the slow methods of the Federal Arbitration Act, but that was because of constitutional restrictions. With, however, the Act amended as could follow with the carrying of the Referendum, then the Arbitration Court would have free and untrammelled powers. Mr. McNaught was under a misapprehension regarding strike penalties of £1000. It was when an organisation ordered an official to do certain things that the organisation became liable. Regarding the amendment asking for a plebiscite on this question, he thought it was one that Convention might itself very properly decide. They had the report and recommendations of the Pastoral Industrial Conference, in which the rates for the claim to the Court would be based. Now they could hardly present a case to the Court whilst at the same time a plebiscite was being taken amongst members as to whether they favored arbitration or not. Surely Convention could make up its mind on an issue of this kind one way or the other without throwing the responsibility on members.

A CONTENTIOUS QUESTION.

Mr. Kelly said that this would always be a contentious question. Personally, he favored industrial conferences with the employers. He knew that the men in the pastoral areas were prepared to stick to arbitration, though he regretted having to admit it. Whilst opposed to arbitration, he was free to confess that it had done a lot of good, but he reckoned the time would come when they would have to throw it over. It was merely a means to an end. They were all enthusiastically in favor of One Big Union, and he would like to see the scope of the Acts widened so that industrial organisations could come in under the one banner. There was one important consideration which arose out of the amalgamation which had taken place. It was that arbitration should not be forced on any set of men in an industry without giving them a voice in the matter. He considered that the main gains of unionism would be by organisation and strike. As a further amendment to meet the position he had mentioned he would move—

In any industry not covered by an award the men in that industry shall be given a voice as to whether they shall have a case submitted to arbitration or shall resort to the strike to gain redress.

Mr. Dunstan said that he was against all the proposals submitted. Not only were pastoral workers in Queensland in favor of arbitration, but he believed a ma-

iority in the mining and timber industries were also. In addition, he felt sure that if the Ryan Government would agree to a case going before the Courts for Government construction works, the navies would be only too glad to embrace the opportunity to do so. Although Mr. Kelly had been in militant quarters he was sure that arbitration in connection with what he had stated would be carried by 10 to 1, even in the "advanced" districts.

NEITHER SUCCESSFUL.

Mr. Collins said that Mr. McNaught had spoken about the time "when they would be properly organised." He had heard that 20 years ago, and it was obvious that the workers could gain what they wanted wherever they were effectively organized. Arbitration had not been a success, neither had strikes—so far as encroaching on the employers' profits were concerned. Those profits had gone up and up and up, and anyone who had made a study of income figures as he had done could see that. Pastoralists continued to show bigger financial returns year in and year out, and what was true of them was true of other industries. He recognized arbitration as a palliative, but with complete control of the political machine they could make whatever Arbitration Acts they liked. If the Federal Arbitration Act was not in accordance with the wishes of the workers, what was the use of having a Federal Labor Government? He was going to support arbitration as a principle, because, although he had advanced ideas himself, he knew they could only go along step by step. To revert solely to the old strike method would be going backward, although he would not urge men not to strike if they could speedily gain their point.

ALTERING THE BASIS.

Mr. Butler said that he expected Mr. McNaught, as mover of the resolution, to provide Convention with some information on this subject, but none had been forthcoming. In opening his remarks Mr. McNaught had gone on with clap-trap and floundered. Of course the Arbitration Act was not what was desired by the workers, and whilst it was based on the principle of how much it cost a man to live, it was upon a rotten foundation. He was opposed to that style of arbitration, but he thought that in the future they could alter that basis. The time, he hoped, would soon come when, just as workers had to set out household and living expenses, the employer would have to produce his books and show his profits. If one could gain the end by going to court he believed it was better than the strike, with the suffering and terrible self-sacrifice fre-

quently entailed. There was a section going about always wanting industrial trouble, and they seemed to be out to try and disrupt the A.W.U. These people could not be members of the I.W.W. and the A.W.U., because their methods were in conflict. The I.W.W. stood for different ideas altogether from the A.W.U., and Mr. McNaught could not deny it.

NO DEMAND FOR ABOLITION.

Mr. Mooney said that he would vote against the resolution and the amendment. They had 1750 notices on the business paper, and only four asked to have arbitration abolished. If members were really clamoring for arbitration abolition as had been represented, how was it that there were not more resolutions on the subject reflecting the views of members? Mr. McNaught had stated that the employers were in favor of arbitration, but apparently did not know how bitterly capitalists had fought the principle and would continue to do so. Tasmanians believed in arbitration, but they had had strikes on the island also, and some measure of success, too.

Mr. McNeill said, in opposing the motion, that they did not want strikes if they could get what they asked for by other means. When they had captured the industrial and political machines they could govern as they wished. By direct action they could not do that. They could accept arbitration as a means of adjusting their difficulties and as a stepping stone to the goal of economic emancipation. Direct action could be taken whenever it was considered necessary.

BETTER METHODS.

Senator Barnes said that this organisation was not very concerned about the conference attitude in the resolution by Mr. McNaught, because they entered into negotiations with the employers now. They had had direct action in the past and they had no other alternative but to fight for a better method. The A.W.U. men had had much suffering in the past, particularly in the years from 1886 to 1894, when they were almost continuously fighting. The strike of '94 knocked them out with their membership, the 23,000 dwindling down to 8000 when the trouble was over. They had seen the folly of that kind of industrial strife, and adopted different methods. It was easier for them to capture the political machine than to allow the boss to do it, as he had been doing right back to the days of responsible government. The result of the steady efforts of the workers had brought along the Arbitration Act, and whilst it was far from perfect the A.W.U. had won more through it than any direct action scheme. It was a saner method, and the

A.W.U., he believed, stood for sane methods. Whilst the process of arbitration might be costly, the expense of one big case had not been as great as the maintenance of a big strike camp for six weeks in the old days. He had no fault to find with young men who were enthusiastic, though inexperienced, but it was the duty of those people who knew something of the past to place it on record, so that other young men coming along would not be misled. When they had decided on arbitration and made it law and saw its benefits, it would be foolish for an organisation like this to entertain the idea of going back to the old thing.

WORK FOR IMPROVEMENT.

If an Act were not perfect they should work until it was so. Parliament itself was not perfect, but it was a reflex of the movement behind it. The Federal Act was tied down by constitutional restrictions, but the Parliament was not to blame for that, because on two different occasions the people of Australia, by refusing to pass the Referendum, had practically said they did not want it altered. Parliaments were frequently decried, but in 1911 and 1913 the Federal Parliament had shown itself to be a good deal in advance of the people when enlarged powers were sought—and refused. When any change in the policy of the union was contemplated, they should have members solid on it, but when there were but a few who wanted direct action, Convention would not be justified in putting the organisation to the expense of a plebiscite, knowing that the result would be dead against any drastic alteration such as had been outlined.

Mr. Watts said that his objections to arbitration were the heavy cost, the long delay, and the inequality of penalties. When an employer was fined it was usually about 5/-, but unions were hit very heavily on action being taken. Men would not strike unless they could not see any other way out. He believed the round table conference was the better system, with the right of men to go out on strike. He favored a plebiscite on the subject of arbitration.

WHAT ARBITRATION HAS DONE.

Mr. McCormack said that he had often expressed the opinion that arbitration was not the final ambition of organised Labor. His objection to arbitration had always been felt when there was a bigger issue than arbitration involved, but he was not going to throw away arbitration, for it had been very useful to the organisation. The complaint against arbitration generally was that the existing Act did not make it readily accessible to the organisa-

tions, but the Government in Queensland had a bill proposed providing the means of doing so under an amendment of the State Act. In Brisbane £4000 had been spent on a strike owing to a mistake of the previous Government in the Act—a matter which could have been remedied in 24 hours, and was remedied when Labor came to power. It was no argument against the principle of arbitration merely because an Act itself might be wrong. An Arbitration Court in Queensland had granted 44 hours and six hours shifts in bad places in the mining industry, and yet here was a militant union like the A.M.A. at Broken Hill unable to get 44 hours by striking and then going back to arbitration to decide the issue. I.W.W. members said that they were out to disrupt, and that was about all. If the A.W.U. were handed over to the I.W.W. the A.W.U. would soon be dead. There were many cases in which good had been done by direct action—notably in the sugar strike. The A.W.A., when amalgamating with the A.W.U., knew the policy of the A.W.U. was arbitration, and that direct action must go. The bigger the union the bigger the pressure that could be exercised. They should not lose sight of that. However, the A.W.U. would go on supporting arbitration until the I.W.W. or some other body could show and prove something that was a better method.

SUPPORTED BY ALL SECTIONS.

Mr. Holloway said that he had found every industrial section in favor of arbitration, and particularly the pastoral. Even in the militant U.L.U. (Victoria), now part of the A.W.U., there was a vast body favoring arbitration on account of the good results which had been obtained. The Builders' Laborers had by arbitration, got in the Arbitration Court what they had failed to win by the strike weapon. He thought that if organisers set out to educate members in political and industrial lines, much good would result. They should not always blame Parliamentarians, although he knew of members who had no acquaintance with the basic principles of the movement. As to the question before them, he saw no reason to revert to the strike weapon, and would oppose the motion.

Mr. Blakeley said that the A.W.U. had nothing to learn from the I.W.W. as to the best methods to be adopted in the interests of the workers. The I.W.W. came with ideas from America, which was in industrial and political organisation far behind Australia, and with different conditions prevailing altogether. They heard of "sabotage," "direct action," and other phrases, which were mere words after all. Those ideas had been carried out before

organised industrialism was thought of, so there was nothing new in the doctrines. The A.W.U. could not better their position by leaving arbitration, but they could improve the methods by pressing for reform. Queensland, for instance, in the State arena, had laid down a policy which N.S.W. might well copy—arbitration with the right to strike.

BAD PRECEDENTS.

Mr. Ryan said that he would support the proposal for a plebiscite. He did not agree with Mr. Mooney, that because there were only four resolutions in favor of abolishing arbitration that there was not much weight behind it. There was dissatisfaction with the present Act, which was unsound. When the workers were below the "bread" line a living wage might have been right enough, but it established a bad precedent. Precedents were being continually hurled against them when fighting cases. Cost and delay were serious factors against arbitration, and even when awards were made lawyers had at times to be employed to interpret them. That brought arbitration under sharp criticism. Whilst arbitration might be good, and direct action also have its uses, he was satisfied that neither would take them fully along to the goal of their desires.

Mr. McNaught, in replying, dealt with the remarks of the various speakers, and added that, because it was a matter of policy, anyone attempting to write an article against arbitration was not allowed space in the official journals of the A.W.U.—a question which he would bring up on specific motion later on. He warned delegates that with the extension of State enterprises members of the A.W.U. would find themselves forced to use direct action against the very political viper they had placed on the Treasury benches.

The amendment by Mr. Lundie for a plebiscite and the further amendment by Mr. Kelly were defeated.

The resolution was defeated by 21 votes to 3 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. McNaught, Cullinan, and Lundie.

Against—Messrs. Holloway, Coyne, Last, White, Blakeley, Murphy, Butler, Watts, Mack, Kelly, Collins, Harvey, McCor-mack, Barnes, Ryan, Dunstan, and Martyn.

BOARD OF REFERENCE.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That a Board of Reference be instituted between the A.W.U. and the P.U., same to be incorporated in the next award.

Mr. Bailey seconded the resolution.

Mr. McNaught said that the old board had proved abortive, and the proposed one would be the same.

The resolution was defeated.

SHEARING DATES AND MINIMUM WAGE.

Mr. Holloway moved the resolution standing in his name—

That the employers be compelled to state a date upon which shearing shall commence, and payment to commence from the date, to be insisted upon in the next award.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Holloway moved the resolution standing in his name—

That a minimum wage for shearing be insisted upon in the next Arbitration Court, such rate to operate as in the previous case when the shearers' earnings fall below a certain amount.

He said that no matter what occupation a man might be engaged in, he was entitled to a living wage. He met one man in Victoria last year who had been kept hanging about a shed for a fortnight, and his "cheque" was only 1/6.

Mr. Martyn seconded the resolution. He said it was an accepted principle of Unionism that all piece workers should at least get a guaranteed minimum wage. They had it included in every Queensland award where piece work was covered. The resolution was carried.

"NEXT" ON THE LIST.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Boree and Culpaulin, N.S.W.—

That when an additional organiser is required, the next highest on the ballot be selected.

He said that sometimes the "next" man was only beaten by 20 votes, and it seemed a fair thing to send him out organising when additional men were required.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution. He said that he would like to add the words "Notification to appear on the ballot paper that the next on the list will be sent out, if required."

Mr. Lundie said that a member only had a right to vote for, say, six organisers and not for seven. Therefore there was no more authority to send out the next on the list than the last—they were both defeated men.

Mr. Harvey supported the resolution, which, he said, would take the responsibility off the Executive.

Mr. Kelly said that the resolution was a step in the right direction. It was es-

sential that it should be carried out, and it would stop the "talk" that was often heard about committee appointments.

POSSIBLE HARDSHIPS.

Mr. McNeill opposed. He said that very often a real good man, who was not known to members—but to the Executive—might be dropped in the ballot. This resolution, if carried, would be very unfair to the U.L.U. section which had come into the A.W.U. in Victoria. There were rattling good men connected with it who might be turned down merely because they were not sufficiently well known to the pastoral section. This resolution would mean, too, that a man like Cecil Last, one of the best organisers in N.S.W., could not be sent out this year.

Mr. Martyn said that although they had an organiser out who had not won a ballot, he was a splendid man in his district, and it would be folly to send anyone else but this individual to do the special work he had on hand.

The resolution was defeated by 12 votes to 10 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Butler, Watts, White, Cullinan, Blakeley, Lambert, Bailey, McNaught, Kelly, and Harvey.

Against—Messrs. Dunstan, Lundie, Holloway, Coyne, Black, McNeill, W. Murphy, Collins, Mooney, Ryan, Barnes, and Martyn.

Mr. Last refrained from voting.

HUT ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. Dunstan moved a resolution asking that all resolutions dealing with hut accommodation be left in the hands of the General Secretary, who was to interview the N.S.W. Minister for Labor on the subject.

The General Secretary said that since last Convention he had been in communication with the Minister, and made suggestions to him for improving the Act as laid down in Convention resolutions previously carried. The Minister had promised consideration, and an interview had been arranged for the following day. The new Queensland Acts had come to hand, and he intended to point out several good features in them to the Minister, and hoped they would be adopted by him. The resolution was carried.

POLITICIANS AND OFFICIAL POSITIONS.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Evora (Q.)—

That no member of Parliament hold any position in the Union.

He said he had always had the opinion that no politician should have a position in the Union. Whenever conflicting industrial and political considerations arose the politician was liable to swing round

to the political side of things. Politicians had enough to do in their own arena without coming into the industrial field.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution. He said that the Queensland delegate meeting was in favor of politicians not holding positions on the Executive.

The President: No politician can hold a ticket now in the Union unless he is qualified.

Mr. Kelly: The two things should be separate, and the politician be kept out.

Mr. Dunstan said that he had different views on the question from those held by Mr. Kelly. The same members who elected the delegate meeting put Mr. Coyne at the head of the poll, Mr. Collins second, and Mr. McCormack fourth, so apparently members wanted politicians judging by their votes. Members of the organisation had a right to have such views considered. If A.W.U. men did not want members of Parliament they could vote them out of any ballot for which their names were submitted. If a man was a Labor politician the industrial organisation got the benefit of his knowledge, which was at times valuable.

Mr. Coyne said that if he were not a politician he might speak more freely. However, he wanted to say that members of the A.W.U. had men who were in Parliament who had spent practically all the years of their lives in the organisation. Why should the men of the A.W.U., as free citizens, be barred from the right of selecting whom they liked? There were Parliamentarians in Queensland who were as good industrialists as in any part of the Commonwealth. Instead of whining about politicians in N.S.W., it would be better for the A.W.U. to devote more time to the political Labor organisations in the State.

The resolution was defeated.
The convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Thursday, February 10, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

The President read a letter from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman R. D. Meagher, M.L.A., inviting members of the Convention to a luncheon in the Town Hall on February 16.

The invitation was accepted.

CONSTRUCTIONAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

The recommendations of the Constructional Workers' Conference were tabled.

The President said that it had been agreed at the Constructional Workers' Conference that the wages in the log should be on a weekly and not a daily

basis. Three pounds and sixpence had been decided upon as the minimum for a 44 hours week.

Mr. Lundie said that his branch had agreements with a currency of three years in which a minimum of 10/- per day had been fixed with the South Australian Government, who provided free tools, stretchers, ten' etc., in certain portions of the State. In other parts the union was getting 13/- a day. With regard to the recommendations of the Constructional Conference, he felt that each State could better arrange its own conditions rather than have a general uniformity laid down. Constructional work was unlike the pastoral industry, and did not offer a proper basis of comparison.

Mr. Blakely said that at the Constructional Conference there were delegates from the whole of the States of Australia with first-hand knowledge of conditions, and the minimum wage was not arrived at without a good deal of discussion. He considered that except for climatic conditions, pick and shovel work was the same throughout Australia, and the report and recommendations should be adopted by Convention.

Mr. Martyn said that he wished to know whether the recommendations formed the basis of logs below which they could not go for various classes of work?

Mr. Cullinan said that Judge Heydon had stated that £3/3/- per week was the minimum wage upon which workers could live, but the militant Mr. Lundie seemed to think it was too much.

FUTURE AGREEMENTS.

Mr. Butler said that all agreements which had been entered into would be honored, but at their expiration the present recommendations should become the basis of future negotiations.

Mr. Harvey wished to know whether men working below the rates now recommended would be considered to be "scabbing"?

The President: It will be a matter of policy for Convention to decide.
Mr. Ryan said that a strong effort should be made for at least a minimum wage, and £3/0/6 was low enough. In Queensland they had navvies getting £3/12/- for 48 hours, and in the mining industry £3/11/- was being paid.

Mr. Dunstan moved—

That the report as received from the Industrial Constructional Conference be adopted and referred to the branches as a guide on which to base their respective claims.

Mr. Mooney seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The President said that it would be a good thing if secretaries of branches

would supply the General Secretary with authoritative reports as to the existing rates for constructional work in the different States, so that they could be used for information purposes by the different organisers.

Mr. McNeill said that there were a number of men on the river boats and river wharves who were badly in need of organisation. There were not many of them, it was true, but they should receive fair remuneration for their work. This question really only applied to the South Australian and Victoria-Riverina Branches. He moved—

That branches take steps to deal with hands on river boats and river wharves.
Mr. Mooney seconded the resolution, which was carried.

OFFICIALS AND POSITIONS.

On the resolution from Darr River Downs (Q.) and Pokataroo (N.S.W.):—

That no union official hold two paid positions in the A.W.U. at the one time.
The President said that the holding of two paid positions was not allowed now, and there was no need for the resolution to be debated.

On the resolution from Breeza (N.S.W.): That no permanent officials shall vote in connection with their salary or the control of the business of their election.
The President said that the rules at present provided against any officer voting on questions in which he was pecuniarily interested.

OFFICIALS AT CONVENTION.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Mount Murchison shed hands (N.S.W.):— That all paid officials of the A.W.U. be barred from attending Convention.

He said that there were many men who were just as capable of attending Convention and doing the business as intelligently as the various officials who assembled. He thought that officials should not legislate and then administer afterwards, and it would be far better for the organisation as a whole if only what he might call the lay members attended Convention. He would, however, allow branch secretaries to be present at Convention, because he realised that they possessed detailed information which was impossible for a layman to acquire. He ventured to say that had the Convention been made up wholly and solely of the rank and file, Arbitration methods would have been wiped clean out. Friendly societies would not allow officers to legislate and administer as well. In submitting this resolution he was doing so because it reflected the feeling of a number of men

who had expressed themselves strongly on the subject.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution. He said that this might appear a bit of a joke, because members had elected nearly all officials. Still there were many men who held that paid officials should not be on Conventions. There was not much chance of the resolution being carried, because he recognised officials were hardly likely to vote against their own interests.

Senator Barnes said that the paid officials and everybody else were known more or less to members of the organisation, and members decided themselves as to who should represent them. The names of officials were fully set out, and members, by their own votes year after year, decided for the greater part that officials should represent them at Conventions. Why should it be sought to restrict the rights of members to say as to who should go to Convention? If the majority of members did not want officials they would say so through the medium of the ballot, and that was the fairest method for their expression of opinion from as wide a choice as possible.

MOVEMENT SHOULD BE WIDE.

Mr. McCormack said that whilst this proposal might have some good points about it, surely the Labor movement should be broad enough not to bar anyone. If they started to bar people where would it end? Should they, for instance, bar men who talked at street corners against the Union? He believed that men should come to the Convention whatever their views might be, provided always that members by their votes said so. It was the fine spirit of tolerance in the organisation which admitted of men like Mr. McNaught, who had certain ideas on industrialism, being with them that day. There might be some disadvantages in the existing system, but he submitted, speaking with experience on the subject, that the advantages greatly outweighed the disadvantages in the working out. He did not believe in barring anyone, and it was only a fair thing that having accepted a man as a member he should have the same rights as other members to stand for any position within the sphere of the Union. It would be for members voting to say who should be appointed, whether he was an official or not.

NEITHER PARLIAMENTARIANS NOR OFFICIALS.

Mr. Kelly said that he had long held the opinion that neither paid officials nor Parliamentarians should be present as delegates at Convention. Since taking part in these deliberations he had not heard one argument to alter his mind on

that view. In fact he was more than ever strengthened in the opinion. It was understood to have legislation and administration by practically the one body in the affairs of the union. There was a good deal of vested interests in this matter, and the official was able to get his name pushed prominently along to the exclusion of the men of the rank and file.

Mr. Martyn said that the man who put himself in Mr. Kelly's position of nominating for Convention as a paid official, and yet holding the opinion that paid officials should not be allowed to be present, was not acting with consistency at all! If he (Mr. Martyn) felt that it was not right in the interests of members for paid officials to act as Convention delegates he would not nominate, but believing it was right he had nominated. The resolution was defeated.

BALLOTS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

On the resolution from Mount Murchison shearsers. (N.S.W.)—

That all the positions in the A.W.U. be open to ballot—

Mr. McNaught moved—

That the vice-presidents of branches be elected at the annual ballot.

He said that at the present time the custom in Queensland was to elect the vice-presidents at the delegate meeting, whilst in other branches the election took place at the annual or half-yearly meetings. There was no reason why vice-presidents should not go to a ballot the same as other officers did.

Mr. McCormack seconded the resolution.

Mr. McNeill opposed. He said that it was highly desirable that the vice-presidents should be men whose services when required should be immediately available to a branch secretary for the quick despatch of business. A man, however estimable he might be, who might be travelling all over the country, and could not be readily found, could hardly fulfil the functions of vice-president with satisfaction to the branch when matters requiring urgent attention would have to be delayed because of absence. He submitted that in such a case branches would be placed in a very awkward position.

Mr. Kelly said that whilst not liking to oppose the democratic spirit of the resolution, he felt that the vice-presidents should be within easy call of the branch secretary.

Mr. Ryan supported the resolution, which was carried by 13 votes to 8 on the following division:—

For: Messrs. Collins, Harvey, Dunstan, Ryan, McCormack, Martyn, McNaught, Bailey, White, Cullinan, Coyne, Blakeley, and Lundie.

Against: Messrs. McNeill, Holloway, Black, Butler, Watts, Kelly, Mooney, and Barne.

SEPARATE REPRESENTATION.

On the resolution from Redford (Q.)— That separate representation be given at Convention, and that delegates attending same be working at least for the previous two years in the industry; delegates to be selected on a membership basis as at present—

Mr. Martyn asked what would be the position of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association when that organisation came right into amalgamation with the A.W.U.?

The President said that the R.W. and G.L.A. would have representation at Convention on the same basis as other branches.

Mr. Kelly moved the foregoing resolution from Redford. He said that if delegates were elected on an industrial basis there would be a wider representation of the various sections. Queensland, say, would return two delegates each from four industrial districts.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution pro forma, which was defeated.

CONVENTION DELEGATES.

On the resolution from Evora (Q.)— That no Sunday pay be granted to delegates to Convention—

The President said that no delegate to Convention received Sunday pay.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Wolfgang (Q.)—

That a delegate to Convention be elected by plebiscite for each district instead of all branches as at present.

He said that the existing system did not admit of an intelligent discriminating vote being cast to represent different districts.

Mr. Martyn seconded the resolution, which he said was well worthy of consideration.

Mr. McCormack said that, whilst the present method might not be without fault, on the whole it worked out pretty equitably.

The resolution was defeated.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Rockwood, Q.—

That a plebiscite be taken as to whether paid officials be eligible or not as delegates to Convention.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Hughenden and Mount Cuthbert Construction Workers (Q.)—

That no politician be eligible for nomination to sit at Convention.

The President said the resolution in question had not been listed by the Standing Orders Committee, who held that the principle involved had been dealt with in a previous resolution regarding members of Parliament.

On the resolution from Midkin (N.S.W.)—

That delegates to Convention be paid not more than 15/- per day and second-class fares—

Mr. Lundie moved as an amendment— That the fees for delegates be 11 per day with first-class fares.

Mr. Dunstan seconded the amendment, which was carried.

SHED REPS.

Mr. Kelly moved the resolution from Kilkummin (Q.)—

That all shed reps. be compelled to make up the mess account a fortnight after the start, and that it be posted up in a conspicuous place in the dining-room.

Mr. White seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

Mr. McNaught moved in an amended form the resolution from Coonong Shed Hands (N.S.W.)—

That the employers shall hand a ration list to the shed rep., showing the commodities thereon as supplied to the cook.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

FOURTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Friday, February 11, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair, all delegates present.

HUT ACCOMMODATION.

The General Secretary said that he had interviewed Mr. Estell, Minister for Labor, and asked that certain improvements should be made in the Hut Accommodation Act. He had drawn the Minister's attention to the Queensland Compensation Act, which was of a very comprehensive character. Mr. Estell had agreed to give consideration to the representations made. He intended to see the Minister again, and in the meantime would be glad if a committee were appointed to draft suggested improvements which could be laid before Mr. Estell at a later date.

It was agreed to appoint the President, the General Secretary, and Messrs. Lamhert and Blakeley, with a representative of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association, to act as a committee to deal with the subject.

At the request of the R.W. and G.L.A. it was decided to appoint the General Secretary and Mr. McCormack to address their Conference (then sitting) and answer questions relating to amalgamation with the A.W.U.

At a later stage of Convention, the General Secretary reported that he and Mr. McCormack had attended the R.W. and G.L.A. Conference, where, after their addresses, all questions had, he thought, been satisfactorily answered.

Convention sat for the remainder of the day in committee considering the recommendations of the Pastoral Conference. Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

FIFTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Saturday, February 12, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

Final consideration was given in committee to the recommendations of the Pastoral Conference.

The General Secretary moved that a committee be appointed to confer with R.W. and G.L.A. delegates respecting amalgamation details.

The motion was agreed to, and Messrs. McCormack, Watts, McNeill, and the General Secretary were appointed to act as the committee on behalf of the A.W.U.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Langlo Downs (Q.)—

That A.W.U. offices stock T.U.S. combs and cutters.

Mr. Holloway seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Belalie (N.S.W.) and Emeran Shed Hands (N.S.W.)—

That the Western Branch office be removed from Armidale to Bourke.

He said that the Western Branch could be better managed in the back country than at Armidale, and there were a number of members who were anxious to see the office again in Bourke.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

On the resolution from Myall Park and Bogang Gate (N.S.W.)—

That all ballot papers be initialled by the voter—

Mr. McNaught moved as an amendment—

That the numbers be expunged from ballot slips.

He said that whilst the slips had numbers on it was not a secret ballot. Any individual in power desirous of doing so could find out how members voted. The resolution lapsed.

Convention adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

SIXTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonnell House on Monday, February 14, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

DEATH OF MR. "LAURIE" COHEN.

Senator Barnes moved—

"That the Australian Workers' Union expresses its deepest sympathy with the widow of Mr. L. Cohen in her great sorrow, and instructs the General Secretary to convey same to Mrs. Cohen. We also desire to place on record our sense of the great loss the Labor movement has sustained by the untimely death of Mr. Cohen.

He said that no doubt delegates had read with deep regret the news of the death of Mr. Cohen in Adelaide after returning from his mission to Broken Hill. The information of Mr. Cohen's decease had been conveyed to him by wire, and he had been greatly shocked on reading it. No man was better known in the Labor movement in Victoria than Mr. Cohen, who had filled every position in the gift of organized Labor, both on the industrial and political side. Mr. Cohen had been president of the Trades Hall Council in Melbourne, and was at the time of his death president for the second year in succession of the Political Labor Council, in addition to which he was a member of the Executive of the Australian Labor Party. With Mr. Cohen he had had the honor of a close personal acquaintance, and his death touched him keenly. The place which "Laurie" Cohen occupied in the Labor movement would be peculiarly hard to fill on account of the rare qualities which the deceased gentleman exhibited in the discharge of his duties. Mr. Cohen would fight always to the last ditch—a straight talker and a hard hitter—characteristics which won for him the admiration of his friends and the respect of opponents. Men who disagreed with him had always appreciated the wonderful tenacity of purpose he displayed. Any one who gathered their ideas of Mr. Cohen's qualities from the capitalistic press might have thought Mr. Cohen was an irreconcilable, who could not be approached, but so far from such being the case he was a man of the most kindly disposition and generous nature. On the Industrial Disputes Committee in Melbourne, which investigated all impending Labor troubles, Mr. Cohen had done magnificent service, and showed a genius on behalf of the workers in dealing with employers. Of 80 disputes within the last couple of years, 78 had been satisfactorily settled by the Industrial Disputes

Committee, on whose behalf Mr. Cohen had taken a leading part. There was such a close bond of affinity between Mrs. Cohen and her husband that the sudden blow of his death would come with tragic force on her, to whom they should now offer their sincerest condolences in her great sorrow.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was carried in silence, members rising in their places.

Senator A. N. McKissock (V.) was deputized to represent the A.W.U. at Mr. Cohen's funeral, and a wreath was ordered to be sent on behalf of the A.W.U.

EXPLANATIONS DESIRED.

Mr. Coyne moved the resolution from Dunmural and Fort Bourke (N.S.W.)—

That Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan, president and secretary respectively of the Queensland Branch, explain to Convention why they misrepresented the position in regard to the establishment of two branches in Queensland.

He said that at last Convention a motion was carried after two days' discussion affirming the desirability of two branches in Queensland. The matter was again opened up at the same Convention, and re-affirmed by the same majority practically. After that happened, evidently some misrepresentations were made by Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan to the President and General Secretary and Executive Council of the A.W.U., and the decision of the Convention to have two branches in Queensland was reversed. It was only through the absolute loyalty of the bushmen of Queensland that there was not a revolution over the action of Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan. It was, therefore, only right that Convention should get an explanation as to what was said by Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan to the Executive Council, and what caused the Executive Council to refuse to carry out the mandate of Convention expressed on two separate occasions. The feeling which had been engendered over this matter was not confined to Western Queensland, but is also existed in New South Wales, as the resolution from Dunmural and Fort Bourke showed. When the men who were aggrieved saw what the misrepresentation was they might take action in the future to right the wrong done by the Executive Council and by Convention this year. Convention had wiped out respect for itself by reversing its vote of last year. Mr. Lundie was one of the Executive Council who had said, "Trust the members," and yet when, by a majority, members made known their views, Convention did not heed them, and

turned down the decision of the previous year.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution. He said that Convention had lost caste by not respecting the ballot in favor of two branches which had been carried. He believed that Messrs. Theodore and Dunstan had sent word stating that meetings were being held protesting against the proposal to establish two branches. Where those meetings were held was what he would like to know.

TRUSTING MEMBERS.

Mr. Lundie said that last year he had voted in favor of two branches because Queensland Convention delegates at that time were equally divided on the point. When he had returned to Adelaide the West Queensland branch had wired and also written to him to secure his vote on the Executive Council. He had replied to Mr. McLean, saying that they could surely trust the members on the sectional vote which was to be taken. He believed there was pretty nearly a threat in the letter from Charleville that there might be withdrawal, and if those were not the exact words used they seemed to be very like them as far as his memory served him. It had been found out as the result of the ballot that the old Northern branch did not want the change at all. Mr. Bow's district by a majority of four to one decided to have nothing to do with the proposed change. He considered now that the whole of this discussion was not required, because in a previous debate on the question involved the whole matter was thrashed out. Though he had not been to Queensland he had learnt that the two-branch business was dealt with and pushed at the sheds. It was a waste of time to go further on with this, as Convention had given its decision in favor of one branch early in the present sittings.

The President: That was the direct question of one or two branches. This is a distinct resolution on another subject associated with it. Mr. Theodore is not here, but perhaps Mr. Dunstan will make a statement.

MR. DUNSTAN'S ANSWER.

Mr. Dunstan said that he did not know what Mr. Theodore had done; he would only say what action he had himself taken. He had sent only one communication to the General Secretary, and that was by wire. The exact wording of that telegram he could not now recall. He was sure, however, that there was no misrepresentation of the position. That, in short, was his answer. As a member of the Executive Council he had voted for the ballot being taken on the subject—

Mr. Coyne: On what grounds did you send the wire to the General Secretary?

Mr. Dunstan said that the grounds were those of dissatisfaction expressed by representatives of the districts on the executive embracing the Queensland Branch area. That dissatisfaction voiced the views of the big majority of members of the whole of the A.W.U. Representatives of certain districts were not going to take the splitting up of the branch lying down, and urged consideration of the question by the Executive Council. He believed that in his wire to the General Secretary it was stated that there was a danger of a "breakaway" from the A.W.U. on the part of sections other than the pastoral portions. Let delegates make no mistake about it. At the time of his wiring he knew the absolute seriousness of the situation, based on information supplied by district executive representatives of the branch.

DANGERS OF A "BREAKAWAY."

Last year Convention decided that 8000 members were to be split off into a separate branch without the remaining 16,000 members having a voice in the matter at all. There was more than a danger of a "breakaway," and he wanted to be quite candid on the point. What he had sent was for the information of the President and the General Secretary, and was not sent to the Executive Council. Had the two-branch system been adopted in Queensland, and a vote taken of other members outside the pastoral workers, he was certain that a "breakaway" would have been carried—

Mr. Bailey: Who would have been leading that?

Mr. Dunstan said that he would not have been doing it. He had put his own position clearly to members of the Queensland Branch Executive, that if the coastal sections decided to "break away" there would be no occupation of the secretaryship by him. He pointed out that he had had too long an association with the A.W.U. to do a thing of that sort, and that if a "breakaway" happened his resignation would go in as soon as he could get his books made up. He desired to say again that there had been no misrepresentation. Only facts were presented in the light of the serious situation that was developing. The Executive Council had by its good judgment prevented the crisis which would have led to the disruption of the organisation.

A QUESTION OF DISSENSION.

Mr. Kelly said that he represented a pastoral section just as Mr. Coyne did at Convention, and he could tell delegates that in the pastoral areas themselves there was dissension over the action of Convention last year.

Mr. Coyne: Was not the dissension really over the location of the new branch office?

Mr. Kelly: No; the decision of Convention for two branches fell like a bombshell on men in Winton and Hughenden districts. A large number of pastoral workers in the west had voted dead against the two branch system, and if they wanted to know what was thought of the matter they had only to look at the ballot returns. Mr. Bow, who had favored a second branch, was low on the poll for Convention—

Mr. Coyne: Yet I, who was in favor of it, topped the poll!

Mr. Kelly said that Mr. Coyne had for a long time been connected with the A.W.U., and was well known. Notwithstanding that, he (Mr. Kelly) had topped the poll in the western district for Convention, and he believed that Messrs. Kewley and Durkin were next. There was nothing done in the western districts by organisers to push the one branch system on members. Statements had been made as to the part assumed by Mr. Pollock at the sheds, but when the vote was taken Mr. Pollock was sitting in Parliament House, and had not been in the district when the larger portion of the ballot was being recorded. Had the two branches been agreed upon there would have been great dissension, indeed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROCEDURE.

The General Secretary said that when a branch submitted a matter to be placed before the Executive Council it was his duty under the rules to place it before them. When Mr. Dunstan had not stated the form of the question to be submitted he had asked Mr. Theodore, who had called on him, what the question would be. When he learnt that it was a question of a plebiscite to be put before members he had placed the notice in that form for Executive Councillors.

Mr. Coyne: The action was illegal. The General Secretary said it was not illegal, as questions could be submitted on behalf of a branch. All he had to satisfy himself on was that the question could be properly put under the rules. There had been no unfair method of putting the question to the Executive Council.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Mr. McCormack said that, although on principle he was against plebiscites going to a section as against the whole of the members of a branch, the result had been satisfactory. There was not the slightest doubt that there was dissension in the Eastern district, which comprised the old A.W.A. sections. The Butchers' Union had made a proposition to the Eastern districts that in the event of the two

branches being endorsed the old A.W.A. should break away and join them in one organisation. He had listened to district secretaries who, in view of two branches coming on, were keen on breaking away, for it was felt that everything would be lost to them under amalgamation with such conditions. He had heard eloquent appeals made by Butchers' Union representatives to break away from the A.W.U., and seeing that such a position existed it was that which impelled Messrs. Dunstan and Theodore to take the action they did. Had the whole of the members been consulted there would have been no doubt as to the two-branch system proposed being defeated decisively. While Mr. Coyne got a good vote amongst the Eastern district members it could not be said that the A.W.A. men, so to speak, had been given much support by the Western members. The two-branch system was not an issue on the Eastern, but it was in the Western districts. The resolution was withdrawn.

DARWIN DISTRICT.

Mr. Dunstan moved the resolution standing in his name—

That the Northern Territory, now known as the Darwin District (Queensland Branch) be made a separate branch of the Australian Workers' Union.

He said that some delegates might think this resolution was a strange one in view of the attitude he had taken up against the proposed two branches in Queensland. But the cases were not analogous. The great distance of Darwin from the Queensland Branch was an important factor. The A.W.U. had some time ago been re-formed at Darwin, to which place an organiser had been sent, and the Northern Territory men had been attached to the Northern District of Queensland. Later on it was found difficult to work Darwin from there, inasmuch as nearly the whole of the members were employed by the Federal Government. The men at Darwin had had considerable trouble with Dr. Gilruth, the Administrator, and matters for union adjustment were sent on to Mr. Dash and then to himself as Branch Secretary. It was difficult to deal with these questions speedily, and it was decided to make Darwin a district so that members there could deal with local matters. It had been seen that there was constant friction between organised labor and the representatives of the Federal Government in Darwin, and invariably final decisions had to be awaited from Melbourne, which was the head quarters of the Government.

CENSORED CORRESPONDENCE.

Union men in Darwin had one very great difficulty to contend against in Dar-

win in connection with the censorship. No letter or telegram was allowed to leave Darwin without first passing through the hands of the Government secretary, Mr. Carey. He had himself received letters from Darwin marked "Opened by Censor." Therefore they had the spectacle of seeing men engaged at times in industrial conflict with the Administration, a member of which, by reason of his post as censor, had access to all their outward going correspondence, although such correspondence did not travel beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. Darwin had about 1500 members, and whilst the Queensland Branch officers would be sorry to lose that number, still, he maintained, that it was desirable that the new Territory branch should be established. Queensland had "nursed" Darwin until it had now reached a stage when he considered a new branch could be launched, and there were big possibilities ahead of it as an organisation. The men in the Territory wanted this because it would enable them to deal more quickly with the General Secretary in Sydney and the Federal Government in Melbourne. The union in the Territory had done good work, and as a self-contained branch he thought it could do still better. The men there, if the revenue for a branch was not sufficient, were prepared to levy themselves so as to make it self-supporting. The A.W.U. in Darwin had had to put up with a great deal from Dr. Gilruth, and no set of contractors in the Commonwealth could have been more high-handed in a number of actions taken. Dr. Gilruth was appointed by a Government with White Australian ideals, yet Dr. Gilruth had employed, Chinese, Japs, or Malays doing the domestic work about Government House. Dr. Jensen, the Government geologist, however, had consistently refused to employ anyone but white domestic workers in his household, which could not be said of other Government officials, who staffed their households with colored aliens.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution. He said that it should be obvious to Convention that there were geographical difficulties in the way of continuing Darwin as a district, and that a branch was desirable. The A.W.U. controlled the bulk of organised labor in Darwin, and there were good prospects ahead for further expansion. Most of the communication work of the Union there had to be done by wire, and thus telegrams in a year amounted to a good sum of money. It was hardly fair to expect that the work could be advan-

tageously done from Brisbane, and a branch became necessary in such circumstances. The men had had a hard struggle against Dr. Gilruth, who was in the position of a dictator imposing his will on free men, in the spirit of a reign of terror. It was time that the Commonwealth cut off some of the autocratic powers of Dr. Gilruth, and gave him to understand what the rights of the workers were. The Federal Government, also, should do something in the matter of political representation for the Territory, for at present they were without a voice in the making of the laws of the country, although subjected to the same taxation as other citizens of the Commonwealth.

MEMBERSHIP TOO SMALL.

Mr. Coyne said that here was a proposal to give a district of 1500 members a branch, and yet Queensland pastoral workers, numbering 8000, could not get one for this branch? There was only one resolution on the subject, and that was by the Queensland branch secretary, Mr. Dunstan. Was Darwin too much trouble for the Queensland Branch to look after? If there was any virtue in what had been done the other day—refusing Queensland two branches—there was very good reason for retaining Darwin as a district of Queensland. Had the receipts and expenditure of Darwin been forthcoming they could have gone more closely into the position, but 1500 members were far too small in numbers to run a branch on, and in taking any such action as the resolution contemplated delegates might do something which was a menace to the A.W.U.

Mr. Martyn said that keeping Darwin as a district of Queensland meant delaying the work of the Darwin men, and the expenditure of much money in wires. The Darwin members were quite capable of carrying on themselves. They were prepared to pay salaries of the organising secretary and organiser, and levy themselves 10/- a member to finance the organisation. Isolated as they were, they could manage more satisfactorily with good results to Darwin and the A.W.U. as a whole provided a branch were granted.

UNDER CONTROL OF QUEENS- LAND.

Mr. Collins said that he had been in the Territory in 1886, and knew something of the country, having worked on the railway there. He had not been greatly impressed with the remarks of the Darwin secretary at the delegate meeting. Mr. Nelson was reported to have said: "They were not going to stand politicians running the

Union any longer, and they had come to the parting of the ways. The Labor Minister of to-day was absolutely opposed to any advancement in the industrial ranks. When they had brought about de-registration and abandoned arbitration proceedings, thereby saving annually thousands of pounds, they would progress by leaps and bounds in spite of the war and adverse conditions. . . . Politicians were parasites on the movement, and he hoped when it came to a vote the members would give the politician the bump he deserved." Delegates should note what Mr. Nelson had said about de-registration. That sentiment was against the arbitration policy of the Union. Was Mr. Nelson an anarchist? The statement made meant war against arbitration. He submitted that Darwin should be under the control of Queensland, unless the men in the Territory wished to break away and join an anarchist group.

Mr. Dunstan: There was no suggestion of their doing that.

CONSIDER IN TWELVE MONTHS.

Mr. Collins said that the Darwin secretary (Mr. Nelson) had declared against the Union constitution, and that was anarchistic. Further, it was unfair to say that politicians were parasites on the movement. He must say that the men in the Territory were quite within their rights in agitating for political representation. The work of the administrators up there was little short of a scandal, and appointments had been made by the Labor Government of officials who were altogether out of harmony with the Government policy. In twelve months' time they could give further consideration to Darwin as a branch if it were listed for discussion.

Mr. McNaught said he was of the same opinion as Mr. Nelson with regard to politicians. It was a commentary on the Labor Government that strikes should happen in the Territory at all, but the Administration had been worse than under capitalistic employers or Governments. He maintained that the people of the Territory had every right to representation in the Federal Parliament, and it was time steps were taken to give effect to the wishes of the residents there.

NO CASE MADE OUT.

Mr. McCormack said that years ago he had formed a section of the old A.W.A. in Darwin, and had had the doubtful distinction of getting about 50 censure motions from the men there when he was General Secretary of the A.W.A. The men now in Darwin worked under dissimilar conditions to other members of the A.W.U. He did not consider that any case for the establishment of a branch

had been made out, and he failed to see how the men at Darwin would have more local autonomy under branch conditions than they now enjoyed as a district. The mere fact that telegrams had to be repeated did not constitute an argument for a branch at all. Whilst the making of a branch would give Darwin members control of their finances, he considered that their being attached to Queensland would be more likely to restrain them from doing foolish things. Giving them full responsibility might mean forming a union of their own, but it was desirable that they should retain connection with Queensland until they had a membership of about 4000 or more, when the question of a branch could be fairly considered.

Mr. Cullinan said that he did not see why Darwin should be given a branch when West Queensland had been denied the same privilege. He did not, however, mind the men at Darwin having something of the revolutionary spirit about them, and it would be a good idea if that spirit was a lot more in evidence amongst Convention delegates.

EFFECT ON AMALGAMATION.

Mr. Bailey said that he had not heard a decent argument put up in favor of a branch for Darwin. Mr. Dunstan had previously contended that to have two branches in Queensland would break up the amalgamation there. If that were so would not the launching of a branch at Darwin have a similar effect? If Queensland could manage union work at Papua and in the South Sea Islands, surely that branch could have control over Darwin. If Mr. Dunstan could not handle Darwin as a district, he ought to pass it over to Mr. Lundie in the South Australian Branch. Mr. Dunstan's pleading for a branch for Darwin seemed like an admission that he could not look after the Territory people.

Mr. Dunstan: No; I want to further help them.

The resolution was defeated.

SHEARING CONTRACTORS.

Mr. Bailey moved—

That a notification appear in THE WORKER advising our members that contractors are not bound by the award, and that members of the Pastoralists' Union are not financially responsible to the men if contractors go bankrupt. The notification to be signed by the President and the General Secretary.

He said that members should know the position as set out in the resolution, for it would be a safeguard to them in dealing with contractors. They had had cases in the past where contractors had gone "broke," and the men had not received

payment for their work, and members should be made aware of the fact that there was no financial responsibility on the part of the sheep-owner who employed shearing contractors.

The General Secretary said that it was the pastoralist who was a respondent who was bound by the award; the contractor was bound only by an agreement. As General Secretary he was instructed to make a claim only against actual respondents.

Mr. McCormack: Why not make the squatter responsible for all wages claims for sheep shorn by contractors?

The President: The position is one of common law. The Court makes an award for a union and not individuals.

Mr. Butler: We could make the sheep-owner responsible under a State Lien Act. The President: Yes, the proper thing to meet it is a Lien Act in every State.

Mr. Last said that there was no doubt the contractor was bound in the sense that a respondent had to see that contractors paid award rates. He knew of men who allowed their money with contractors to accumulate over a number of sheds instead of drawing it from time to time. Not 75 per cent. of members seemed to know that the pastoralist was not financially responsible for the contractor. The resolution was carried.

DEPOSIT SLIPS.

On the resolution from Rockwood, Bur-randown, Leila Vale (Q.), Gunningbat, Wingadee, and Moorna (N.S.W.)—

That Union tickets be accepted instead of monetary deposits—

Mr. White moved as an amendment the resolution from Central Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That deposit slips be attached to all A.W.U. tickets, such to be forwarded as deposit for pens or shed work and an endeavor be made when the case comes before the Federal Arbitration Court prescribing for ticket deposit slips instead of cash.

He said that the system had worked efficiently in New Zealand. Members sending in deposit slips signed their names on them. The fact of the slip being numbered and signed meant that a member who did not turn up could be traced and a branch Executive could fine him for not fulfilling his obligations. Members who had been in New Zealand had expressed the wish to see the system in operation here. The objection to a man leaving his ticket was that he could be accused of not being financial.

Mr. Lundie seconded the amendment.

Mr. Lambert said that if this system were made compulsory instead of cash deposits being accepted, it would help to deal with tinpot contractors, many of whom worked on this money of members to carry them on. This system would also be a safeguard against monopoly of pens. In any case, it was a bad principle for a man to have to make cash deposits in order to obtain work.

The amendment by Mr. White was carried.

STAMPING AGREEMENTS.

Mr. Holloway moved the resolution from Luthrie Woolshed (Q.)—

That all employees' fares be paid to and from the nearest railway.

Mr. McNeill seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Last moved the resolution standing in his name—

That the Convention of the A.W.U. is of opinion that the stamping of agreements in Queensland is inimical to the interests of the workers, and that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Queensland.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution. He said that the Queensland Government took control of agreements, upon which a 2/6 stamp had to be affixed. That stamp acted detrimentally to the workers getting agreements, because wherever possible employers evaded making agreements to escape the 2/6 stamp.

Mr. Kelly moved as an amendment— That no member of the A.W.U. sign an agreement unless a duty stamp has been affixed.

Mr. Dunstan seconded the amendment.

Mr. McCormack said that the 2/6 had to be paid by the employer, and no pastoral worker received less wages by reason of the stamp on the agreement.

Mr. Kelly withdrew his amendment, and the resolution was defeated.

NUMBER OF SHEARERS AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.

Mr. Bailey moved the resolution from Redford (Q.)—

That the number of shearers to be employed be stated in agreements.

Mr. Mooney seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from Boatman (Q.)—

That all water used at sheds or stations which the employees do not think fit for human consumption shall be tested by a Government analyst.

He said that this could be taken as a direction to members that they could send

doubtful water to the Health Department.

Mr. White seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Langlo Downs, Kilmurmin, Ambo (Q.), Bundella, Quirindi, Boorooma, and Boorooma shed hands—

That no shearing be done under artificial light.

Mr. Lambert seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. McNeill moved the resolution from Eyvora (Q.)—

That the Labor members in the different States bring pressure to bear on the Governments to send specialists to report on sheds where fever has been prevalent.

Mr. Holloway seconded the resolution, which was carried.

SELLING RATIONS.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Kynuna (Q.)—

That all station-owners be compelled to sell rations to men engaged to work in the shed during shearing from the time they arrive on the station till the commencement of shearing.

He said that men who were there before the start of a shed were waiting the convenience of the squatter, and it was only a fair thing that food should be sold to them by the employer.

The General Secretary said it was foolish to ask the Court to compel a station-owner to become a storekeeper if he did not want to be one.

Mr. McCormack said that the resolution was ridiculous.

The resolution was carried by 11 votes to 10 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Lundie, Last, Holloway, Blakeley, Cullinan, Bailey, McNaught, Kelly, Collins, Ryan, and Harvey.

Against—Messrs. Coyne, McNeill, Black, W. Murphy, Butler, Watts, Mooney, Dunstan, Barnes, and Martyn.

Mr. McCormack said that he had refused to vote on such a foolish question.

JOINT FUNCTIONS.

Mr. Last moved the resolution from Western Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That any shearer performing the joint functions of shearer and shed hand shall be liable to a fine of £2.

He said the resolution had been sent in because a case had arisen in which two shed hands had been doing shed hands and shearers' work as well. There was no specific rule under which they could be dealt with, and they had to be let off. A rule was, however, wanted on the subject to deal with future cases.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution, which was carried.

YARDING HORSES.

Mr. Blakeley moved the resolution from Woolomombi (N.S.W.)—

That horses be yarded at cut-out.

He said that the present agreement did not provide for this, and it should do so.

Mr. Lambert seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Lundie moved the resolution from Sesbania (Q.)—

That no cancerous sheep be killed at shearing sheds or huts where men are working or residing.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was carried.

ELECTRIC FANS.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from Sesbania (Q.)—

That where electric machinery is installed the employer shall provide and erect an electric fan for each man where the temperature is 100 degrees or over.

He said that this was necessary in the interests of men's health and for better working. It was identical with mining ventilation.

Mr. Cullinan seconded the resolution.

Mr. McCormack said that modern ideas were against direct fans.

The resolution was defeated.

GUMMED BALLOT SLIPS.

On the resolution from Lyons and Blair's gang, East-West Railway (S.A.), Burenda, shed hands, Kilmurmin (Q.), Mt. Wood, Gowrie (N.S.W.)—

That the ballot slips on Union tickets be gummed—

Mr. Ryan moved an amendment—

That gum be attached to the corner of each ballot paper, so as to affix ballot slips.

Mr. Butler seconded the amendment. He said that Lower Clifton Downs, Carnarvon (W.A.), had sent in a resolution asking for an adhesive similar to that used for postage stamps.

Mr. McNeill said it had been represented that slips got astray, but the number of informal ballots through that cause was very small indeed. Wet or moist weather disposed of any chance of gum conditions for the slips.

Mr. Bailey said that the present system was a good one. All that was required was to place a couple of little nicks in the ballot paper, and the slip could ride safely within them.

The amendment by Mr. Ryan was defeated.

IMPOSING LEVIES.

Mr. Lundie moved the resolution from Rockwood (Q.)—

That all calls or levies be decided by plebiscite before being given effect.

Mr. Holloway seconded the resolution. Senator Barnes said that it would be foolish to restrict themselves, because they did not know what the future might have in store.

Mr. Harvey moved as an amendment— That no levies for other than strike purposes be imposed except by a plebiscite of members.

Mr. Coyne seconded the amendment, which was defeated by 13 votes to 11 on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Lundie, Last, Coyne, W. Murphy, Watts, Cullinan, McNaught, Collins, Harvey, Ryan, and Dunstan.

Against—Messrs. Martyn, Holloway, McNeill, Butler, Black, Blakeley, White, Lambert, Bailey, Kelly, McCormack, Barnes, and Mooney.

MEMBERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Adelaide Branch Annual Meeting—

That all members of the A.W.U. serving in the Expeditionary Forces be considered good on the books of the Union until the end of the war.

Mr. White seconded the resolution.

Mr. Blakeley moved in an altered form as an amendment the resolution from Mullah (V.)—

That members, upon the production of their military discharge, be not charged for any back tickets on their return, and that they be considered financial on the books until such time as they can resume work.

After discussion, the following further amendment by Mr. McCormack was carried—

That members of the A.W.U. upon active service beyond the Commonwealth shall, upon the production of a discharge, be considered "financial members" until such time as they are able to resume remunerative employment.

COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENT.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from Kilmurmin (Q.)—

That any person meeting with an accident, the compensation shall take effect from the time of the accident and cover the whole of the period of illness.

Mr. Harvey seconded the resolution.

Mr. Cullinan moved as an amendment— That it be a recommendation to branches to present a case for the im-

provement of Workmen's Compensation Acts.

Mr. McCormack said that it would be a good idea to have deputations to wait on the Governments in the States affected.

Mr. Martyn said that the difficulty in Workmen's Compensation Acts was to prove dependency. Ninety per cent. of the cases lost were on that point. The whole of the Compensation Acts were sorely in need of amendment.

The amendment was carried.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

On the resolution from Dunumbra (N.S.W.)—

That public hospitals be compelled to treat all venereal diseases—

Mr. Cullinan moved as an amendment— That it be a recommendation to branches to interview the Minister for Health to compel all hospitals to treat venereal diseases.

Mr. Blakeley seconded. He said that, generally speaking, one found country hospitals to consist of Bumblodum, business, men, and parsons, and when an unfortunate suffering from venereal disease came along admission was denied. Men in towns contracting this disease could come to Sydney or be treated locally, but the man with a swag had no such opportunity. The night clinics in Sydney were doing marvellous work—1000 cases a week being treated. The experiment had been a great success, both as regards men and women. People having venereal diseases did not like publicity, and only those who were practically forced went to the night clinics. The 1000 cases so treated, therefore, could only be a percentage of actual sufferers. Twenty-two per cent. of inmates in institutions for the blind owed their condition to syphilis, and 20 per cent. in asylums for the insane were there owing to the same disease. It was not necessary for him to go any further to impress on delegates that nationhood was being sapped by this scourge. There had been no segregation of cases after the Boer war, but the Federal Government were sending all medically unfit of this kind into concentration camps.

ACTION BY CHIEF SECRETARY.

Mr. Last said he had taken an active part in getting men to Little Bay Hospital. The New South Wales Chief Secretary was prepared to issue a pass to any man with a medical certificate setting out that he was suffering from this disease. A man who could not get treated locally could be if he came to Sydney. These people were a menace to the community, and he would like to see a deputation to the Minister to try and get more money

from the Treasurer to carry out the work of treatment.

Mr. Butler said that 666 people had sought admission to the Prince Alfred Hospital during the first week of this month suffering from venereal disease, and 150 of them were women. Every member of the community was liable to be contaminated. He would like to see a deputa-tion to the Minister urging that people suffering from venereal diseases should have to report themselves.

Mr. McCormack said that this was an important matter, and should engage the serious attention of all interested in social reform. There should be some effective regulation of prostitution, and to make the dangers of venereal disease, which was decimating the population, more widely known and talked of in the same way as consumption was dealt with. This was as important a topic as high wages, and he felt sure the Governments are long would be forced to take action on the question.

The amendment was carried, and Messrs. Cullinan, Last, Blakeley, Bailey, and Lambert were appointed as a committee to interview the Minister of Health.

WORKERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Kelly moved in an amended form the resolution from Mount Cuthbert Line Construction Workers (Q.)—

That the A.W.U., in conjunction with the Workers' Education Association of N.S.W., start a course of instruction in economic science by correspondence.

He said that if there was one thing more than another that was essential to the workers it was education. To make further progress they must branch out on new lines, and members should understand the economic position. They found in Germany and the United States that Socialists gave the instruction to candidates for representative positions, so as to equip them for their after-work. Literature had been tried by the A.W.U., and opinions were divided as to the value of that literature. To follow up this course of economic science study would produce in their ranks a new type of young man, who was needed.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution. Mr. Collins said that he had his doubts as to whether the course suggested would have the influence Mr. Kelly hoped it would. He wanted to know the economics that would be taught—say, Marx, Stuart Mill, or Henry George, for instance. He did not know anyone with a better knowledge of economics than Premier Holman, of New South Wales, but was Mr. Holman giving that knowledge to benefit the workers?

Mr. Martyn said that he trusted they would drop the literature they had been circulating. What they wanted was literature dealing with matters of the moment.

Mr. Ryan said that he was a seeker after knowledge, and there was much that was sensible in Mr. Kelly's resolution. He wanted to see the A.W.U. helping to educate its members. Regarding literature, he would say that they should not be afraid to put anything in members' hands dealing with the working-class movement. If they could start anything educational in the A.W.U. they should seize every opportunity for doing so.

DOING GOOD WORK.

Mr. Butler said that he believed the Workers' Educational Association was doing good work, and it behoved every member to see that he took an active part in that association. It was in members' own hands to say what they wanted. Only by interchange of thought and education could they work to a successful issue.

Mr. McNaught said that they had trusted to capitalistic institutions to educate them in the past, and had arrived at a dead-end. He was voting against this resolution on principle. The only proper education the workers could get was in the school of experience. This association was purely a capitalistic institution, and members if they wanted could enter into correspondence with the W.E.A. without any resolution on the point from Convention.

The President said that he had had an opportunity of meeting men at the University interested in the W.E.A., and he was gratified and astounded to find the revolution in ideas of men teaching students at the University. Mr. Meredith Atkinson was a socialist at heart, and they found him practically advocating the Labor policy in economics. He (the President) had ever believed in stirring up people to think, and thinking people would always progress. It was a fallacy for Mr. McNaught to assume that he could get all the education required by associating only with his fellow-workers. What of history? The present was the product of the past, but by reading the pages of history they learnt how things had come to pass right on to modern times.

EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT.

Mr. McCormack said that he had discussed the W.E.A. very closely with Mr. Albert Mansbridge, who came from England to start the association in Australia. Mr. Holman was the best economic student he had heard speak, but what had changed Mr. Holman? It was environment, and the German Socialists were right in forming a university within their

movement to overcome that environment, which had proved fatal to many politicians.

Mr. Holloway said that if they could but induce the workers to think, then they would eventually awaken and achieve their own emancipation. He had listened to Mr. Meredith Atkinson lecture in Melbourne, and it was one of the finest economic addresses he had ever heard. It was logical and closely reasoned throughout. Something had been said about environment, but from environment the worker could pick up good as well as ill.

Mr. Blakeley said that it would appear that the American literature experience of the Queensland branch had been far from successful. However, any factor which would bring about the better education of the workers was to be welcomed. Although in the past they had been blindly groping, the workers were gradually coming to something tangible. The A.W.U. would have to take up some scheme for the better education of members and workers generally; the responsibility resting in this organisation on account of its size and strength. If they could only get 5 per cent. of their members to link up with the W.E.A. they would be achieving something.

Mr. Cullinan said that it appeared to him that when some workers got educated up to a certain standard they used their brains against their fellows, and got out of the Labor movement. Environment had played a great part in the Labor Party, and he hoped he would not see delegates rubbing shoulders with men who had left the working class movement.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. Kelly moved—

That paid officials do all in their power to induce members to take up courses in the Workers' Educational Association.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Kelly moved—

That a committee be appointed to meet the Central Council of the Workers' Educational Association to draw up a scheme suitable to both parties.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution; Messrs. Blakeley, Holloway, Kelly, and Lambert being appointed as the committee.

FREE RAILWAY PASSES.

Mr. Collins moved the resolution from the Clearing Gang, East-West Railway (S.A.)—

That free passes be granted to intending workers on all railways under construction.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from United Laborers' Section (V.)—

That an A.W.U. medal of uniform design be struck and made available for purchase by all financial members.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution. Mr. Martyn moved as an amendment the resolution from the United Laborers (V.) section—

That a button or distinguishing badge be supplied free to financial members; a different colored badge or button to be used for each financial year.

Both the resolution and amendment were defeated.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Tuesday, February 15, at 9.30 a.m., President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

SENATE SELECTIONS.

Mr. Bailey moved—

That the A.W.U. take steps to control the Senate throughout Australia; first calling for nominations from members of the A.W.U. who wish to contest the selection, and when the candidates are selected the Union to run an A.W.U. ticket at the general selection ballot.

He said that the A.W.U. should make some selection of their own to counteract other efforts. If the A.W.U. were going to be a power in Australia then they should run their own candidates. The A.W.U. had spent a good deal of money in connection with political action, and this proposal he considered would be a step in the right direction. The returning officers should call for nominations of A.W.U. men who were willing to run for the Senate, and, having chosen them, there should be a solid A.W.U. vote behind them in the selection ballot. Candidates for the House of Representatives could be selected in the same way. Unless definite action were taken to get work of the political machine, as well as working industrially, the A.W.U. would not be the power it should be.

Mr. Blakeley seconded. He said that the A.W.U. had done more than its share in the matter of finding funds for political action, and the scheme as put forward by Mr. Bailey had a good deal to recommend it. The A.W.U. could select three candidates for the Senate, and the whole of the organisers should put in work for them. It might be possible to appoint the selected candidates as political organisers, and leagues could be circularised in connection with the matter.

AN OPPOSITE EFFECT.

Senator Barnes said that the system proposed would produce the opposite effect to that desired. Mention had been made as to "touting" indulged in by some candidates, but that should be stopped in the manner adopted by the Political Labor Council of Victoria, which prohibited that kind of thing being done. If the A.W.U. were to adopt a method of the sort outlined by Mr. Bailey, it would only bring about reprisals on the part of other unions, which could employ similar tactics. The remedy was to squelch any unfair system of "touting," but this present scheme was anything but the right one to put forward.

Mr. Lambert said that under the present system of selecting industrial unionists the voting was split up. Unionists and every other large Union should have some understanding or conference as to what should be done, not only for the Senate but the House of Representatives and the State Parliaments as well. He considered that there were leagues being "packed," and a ticket was in operation for the Senate selection at the present time. "Dodgers" had been circulated in support of a certain ticket. That kind of system meant that the man with the longest purse would win in the long run.

Mr. Lundy said that to carry this proposal into effect would set the hands of A.W.U. They received a square deal in the other States, and if it was not obtained in New South Wales the branches of the A.W.U. there were at fault in not seeking to put down what was not right.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Mr. Ryan said that he was surprised at a resolution of this kind coming before Convention. If the position in New South Wales were unsatisfactory who was to blame? Was it not the unionists of N.S.W.? Because things were run badly in New South Wales, he did not see why an attempt was being made to drag all the other States at the heels of those who were discontented with something they should themselves correct.

Mr. McNaught said that if the proposal meant to work in with the party in New South Wales he was against it. Personally, he admitted that he was prejudiced against parliamentary action. If the A.W.U. would select men direct from their ranks, and not have anything to do with the existing political machinery, then he would support such a proposal that would allow of representatives on industrial lines running in the appeal to the people.

Mr. Harvey moved as an amendment—That Convention consider the advisability of the formation of a straight-out industrial party in State and Federal politics.

He said that the amendment contemplated, as stated, the creation of a straight-out industrial party throughout Australia. This would mean that any man nominated for a selection ballot must be an endorsed representative of trades unionism, which should be the basis of the Labor movement in Australia. The amendment lapsed for want of a seconder.

SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE WANTED.

Mr. Coyne said that he did not hold with the continual abuse of certain people. He wanted to see something constructive placed before Convention. They should return members who kept in touch with industrialism, and if they did not have them in New South Wales it was the fault of the unionists in the State. If they intended to retain interest in the Federal Parliament they should go for the men who suited them, although he had not heard of Federal men who had broken the Labor platform. If any member acted treacherously such members could be turned down at the first opportunity.

Mr. Collins said that he had lived for many years in Queensland, where Labor had to pass through a painful, purifying process during the time that Mr. Kidston had been in power. The A.W.U. had been lacking in New South Wales in not having more representation on the Executive. The suggestion had been made that more industrialists were required in the political movement, but that charge could not be levelled against Queensland, where men who had been associated with the A.W.U., like Messrs. Theodore, Bowman, McCormack, Stopford, Carter, and himself, had been returned, in addition to other members, who had had long industrial experience.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The General Secretary said that whilst the resolution purported to deal with the Federal Parliament, most of the criticism of the mover related to the condition of things obtaining in New South Wales State politics. He felt satisfied that sooner or later the New South Wales party would have to go through a purifying fire, in order to reform it from within, just as had happened in Queensland. A few years ago in New South Wales the trades union movement had a strong control over the political movement, but a decided change had come over the scene. In the days to which he referred the A.W.U. used to have twelve representa-

tives on the Annual Conference of the P.L.L. Now, despite the A.W.U.'s increased membership, there were only seven Labor Leagues of a hundred or two members had as much voting power as an A.W.U. delegate, each of whom represented 3000. The A.W.U. and the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association had only the same representation as 14 leagues, which need only have 50 members each in order to vote in the same strength as men representing 42,000 unionists. Such a system of representation was quite unfair. He had arrived at the conclusion that, unless there was some change with respect to industrialists on the part of both State and Federal parties, the time would come for the formation of a trades union party with their own platform. Failing that, he believed that unionists might simply stand aside and vote for whom they considered most desirable amongst the candidates offering themselves for election.

METHODS OBTAINING.

Mr. Cullinan said that he had not been against political action so much as some of the rotten methods which had been operating in New South Wales.

Mr. McCormack said that a resolution of this kind would only bring the A.W.U. into violent opposition to other unions without any perceptible good resulting. The remedy might possibly lie in the starting of a new State party within the old, because at present it looked like trying to reform something that was not capable of reformation.

The resolution was defeated.
Mr. Bailey moved—

That it be a direction to A.W.U. delegates at the Annual Conference of the P.L.L. to support the following resolution from the Central Branch Executive, N.S.W.—"That unions affiliated with the P.L.L. shall be represented at the P.L.L. Conference on the basis of one delegate for every 1000 members or part thereof."

Mr. Last seconded the resolution, which was carried.

CHINESE ON CROWN LANDS.

Mr. Bailey moved the resolution from Central Branch Executive (N.S.W.)—

That the Government be requested to frame regulations, and if necessary to amend the land laws to prohibit the employment of Chinese by Crown land leaseholders.

He said that on one particular station which had been resumed by the Government the owner had employed 25 Chinese to do the scrub-cutting. It was necessary for the Government to introduce regulations to prevent that kind of thing going

on, for it meant that good Australians were cast aside in their own country. It was generally the "patriotic" sort of squatter who did this, and it would be well for branches in the other States to take the matter in hand.

Mr. Lundy seconded the resolution.
Mr. Blakeley said that there were large numbers of Chinese doing scrub-cutting and other work in the back country hitherto carried on by white men. The owners of the land were those who were talking loudly for conscription and urging men to go to the front. The Chinese were made to work long hours, and the game was one brought about to break down Australian wages and conditions established by white men. The resolution was carried.

THE RECALL.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from South Johnstone Mill Employees (Q.)—

That the words "and recall" be added to the Labor plank, Initiative and Referendum.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution. He said that the "recall" should go hand in hand with the initiative and referendum. Politicians who did not carry out their work faithfully should be subject to the recall, and he was quite prepared to put those "on the track" who did not do their work properly. The recall could be initiated by a certain percentage of voters, and was allied to the initiative and referendum. If they were good—and he believed they were—then the recall ought to go along with them.

Mr. Cullinan supported the resolution. He said that this would be a means of binding the politician, and it was impossible to keep too tight a hold on him.

Mr. Coyne said that the "recall," as generally understood, applied to legislation. If it were desired to "recall" the parliamentarian, it should be the subject of distinctive action, and not be linked up with the initiative and referendum.

Mr. Ryan said that if the principle of the recall were carried machinery could be introduced to give it effect, and the expression as used was broad enough to embrace politicians, although Mr. Coyne had sought to side-track it.

"ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL."

Senator Barnes said that he had no doubt that legislation could be devised to give effect to the initiative and the referendum, and the recall of members of Parliament. All things being equal, there was nothing that could be urged against the three proposals not being democratic in principle. The "other fellow" owned the big daily papers, how-

ever, and they had an instance of how they had worked to defeat the Federal referendums enlarging Commonwealth powers. Had they the antidote against a press supported by combines and monopolies it would be different. Labor had the "recall" to a limited extent in connection with the ballot selection of members, which was determined by the majority of those voting. When Mr. Fisher made his famous stand against the Dreadnought agitation and favored our own fleet being built, political opponents would have moved heaven and earth to have had him "recalled," and they might have been successful. A public man making a courageous stand on a subject might in the excitement of the times be "recalled," and after the lapse of a month or two be proved to be correct—when it was too late.

Mr. McCormack said that there were some things beautiful in theory which had material objections to them. If legislation were initiated and carried out, where would be the need for the recall? The Swiss had initiated legislation, but never found it necessary to adopt the recall. The resolution was defeated.

LOCAL POLITICAL EXPENSES.

Mr. Martyn moved—

That if money is appropriated under rule 37 a proportion be used if required for the purpose of meeting local parliamentary election expenses.

He said that in the southern A.W.U. district of Queensland there were about 50 State electorates and six Federal ones. It was necessary that the district should have more provision made for it in the matter of meeting local expenses for parliamentary elections, as they could not do it effectively under the present circumstances.

Mr. Coyne seconded the resolution, which, after a brief discussion, was defeated.

STATE PARTY SUPPORT.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Gorian and Marfield (N.S.W.)—

That the A.W.U. withdraw all financial support from the State Labor Party in New South Wales.

He said that he had moved a resolution similar to this one last year, and had Convention adopted it things would have been better for the A.W.U. They could not expect good industrial legislation from the State Labor Party. The Hut Accommodation Act was a slap in the face for the A.W.U. At the last P.L.L. Conference Mr. Holman, in asserting his right over Legislative Council appointments, expressed an opinion that in order to do so he would sink the Labor platform to

carry out his own wishes. Mr. Holman had also said that he had to take on the Norton Griffiths scheme in order to save thousands of men from unemployment, but they found him in the market recently with a £2,000,000 loan to finance that very scheme. On the Newcastle Steel Works he had broken away and handed over to a private company what should have been a State enterprise. Mr. Holman and the crowd following him were not proper Laborites, and they were killing the movement in New South Wales by the actions which had been taken. The A.W.U. should withdraw its support and treat the Holmanites as the Kidstonians were dealt with in Queensland.

Mr. Martyn seconded the resolution.

NO ALTERNATIVE.

Mr. Blakeley said he was again's proposal, because of lack of alternative. There should have to be something more definite than merely withdrawing support from the New South Wales State Party. There were several different ways in which pressure could be brought to bear in support of Labor proposals, and some action should be taken at the next P.L.L. Conference in connection with the State Party. Convention should say that, unless the P.L.L. were prepared to give a basis of representation for unionists of one delegate per 1000 members, the A.W.U. should withdraw financial support from the State Party. The money hitherto devoted to the State Party could be earmarked, and used for political purposes as the A.W.U. branches should determine. The resolution was defeated.

SUGAR WORKERS.

Resolutions relating to sugar workers having been called on, Mr. Dunstan stated that a claim had been drawn up for presentation to the State Arbitration Court in Queensland. The Delegate Meeting at Brisbane had gone carefully into the claim and endorsed it. The matter could be safely handled by the Queensland Branch.

It was agreed to endorse the action of the Queensland Branch.

On the resolution from Buckanbee (N.S.W.)—

That this meeting condemns the Executive action in holding a meeting in Melbourne to expel members belonging to Sydney.

The President said that the meeting had to take place in Melbourne as a matter of necessity, and the expenses of members who had been dealt with were paid.

PUBLICATION OF GRIEVANCES.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Bundoowitherdi (N.S.W.)—

That members be given more justice in ventilating their grievances through the columns of THE WORKER.

He said that some members were complaining about not getting enough space in THE WORKER. If a man "slated" him he would like to see it appear, and would answer it. That was the best way of dealing with "crook" stuff.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution. He said that if those maligning the A.W.U. had been given space in THE WORKER the statements themselves would have led to their own condemnation. Members would have taken the matter up and given the lie direct. Every member, irrespective of his views, should have the right of expression through THE WORKER, which was, after all, the property of members. Criticism of officials, delegates, and Convention itself should be allowed. If there was nothing in the criticisms, then the writers became self-condemned. The Editor, of course, would always have the right to reject libellous or other matter not fitted for publication.

The President said that it would not be possible to publish all the letters received. An enormous number came to hand every week, and provision could not be made for everyone of them apart altogether from questions of libel, etc.

SPORTING SPACE.

Mr. Collins said that the Queensland WORKER, as a rule, gave justice in publishing letters. He considered that the man outside knew something about newspapers as well as the man inside the office. Letters with ideas should be published so long as they were not libellous. He saw a good deal of space in THE WORKER devoted to boxing and racing. Was that educational? He had no time for Labor men who believed in gambling, which was out-and-out capitalism. The space devoted to sporting might, as well be given over to the publication of the grievances of members.

Mr. Blakeley moved as an amendment—

That more space be given in the Bushworkers' Budget of THE WORKER for the ventilation of grievances and criticism of officials.

He said that he would rather be criticised in their own paper than in any other. Personally, he was not going to reply to criticisms in the gutter press. If members considered the Executive Council, the Convention, or delegates had done wrong, they should have the right to say so. Unless they could give more space to members matters would hardly progress smoothly. They had a newspaper with a large circulation, which should reflect members' opinions: on matters of interest to the Union, and if mem-

bers thought any official required criticism space should be found for any such letter, provided it was couched in reasonable language.

A QUESTION OF POLICY.

Mr. Last seconded the amendment. He said that members had complained of insufficient space for letters in THE WORKER. He had a grievance himself. Letters of his had been mutilated and others passed into the waste-paper basket. A letter which he had written on the two four-hour runs question had been thrown out. On inquiry, he learnt that this was because it was against the policy of the Union! Yet he considered himself to be much more conversant with the policy of the organisation than the gentleman who supplied the answer. If space were not given to members in THE WORKER they would go elsewhere, and the time had arrived when this demand should be met.

Mr. Cullinan withdrew his motion in favor of the amendment, which became the resolution.

Mr. McNeill said that he had heard complaints about non-publication of letters, and if the existing space was not sufficient more should be found. Calumnies against the Union might have been squelched had greater opportunities been given for the publication of members' views.

Mr. Ryan moved as an amendment— That members be given more space in the columns of THE WORKER in ventilating grievances affecting the Union. He said that THE WORKER, being the official mouthpiece of the Union, its columns should be open to members. If space could not be found for criticism or ideas by A.W.U. men, then he submitted there must be something wrong. He had seen letters printed elsewhere which could have appeared in THE WORKER. He realised, of course, that one could not tie the hands of an editor, who generally, but much abuse of the A.W.U. could have been saved had there been a readier response to print members' communications.

Mr. Coyne seconded the amendment, which he said would pretty well cover the whole ground.

MATTERS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Martyn said that he would support the general idea that members should be allowed to discuss matters of interest to themselves in the official organ of the Union.

Mr. Lambert said that no exception could be taken to the giving of space to members to express their views and ideas. But he, for one, was not in favor of

allowing lying statements to be published against the Union and officers of the Union. THE WORKER must not be used as an instrument to perpetrate falsehoods and misleading statements, which enemies of the enemy out to damage the Union would like to see done.

Senator Barnes said that they owed quite a great deal to THE WORKER, and members would not get anything like the value of it elsewhere for the money they paid per year. Journalists in the office had to have regard to space, and it was quite permissible to curtail letters for publication providing there was nothing vital excluded. The question was not without difficulties, and what might suit some members would not please others. Members should get properly couched letters printed, and he was certainly at a loss to understand how communications from responsible officials, as had been asserted, had not been published.

The amendment by Mr. Ryan was carried.

EXPULSION APPEALS.

On the resolution from Dunumbral and Cubaroo (N.S.W.)—

That any member expelled from the A.W.U. shall have the right to appeal to Convention,

Mr. Coyne said that he did not agree with rule 14 as it stood, and he would like to see an alteration made which would still admit of a member appealing to Convention. He moved as an amendment—

Omit the last sentence of the first paragraph of rule 14 and insert in lieu thereof, after the word "membership"—but such extreme penalty shall not be imposed, unless it is unmistakably proved the person guilty of the offence said grave breach deliberately committed the offence with treacherous motives. For lesser offences a fine not exceeding ten pounds may be imposed.

Mr. Martyn seconded the amendment, which was carried.

ASIATIC COOKS.

Mr. Cullinan moved in an amended form the resolution from Boatman (Q.)—

That a fine of £2 be imposed on any member of the A.W.U. who knowingly patronises where an Asiatic cook is employed.

Mr. Blakeley seconded the resolution. He said that if members were not careful they would find themselves in places where Chinese cooks were employed unless they first saw the kitchen. These men were keeping white men out of employment by working for less wages.

Mr. Martyn said that the question of colored labor in the sugar industry was re-

ceiving the attention of the Branch Executive in Queensland, as it gravely concerned the A.W.U. When in Melbourne recently he had, in company with Senator Givens, waited on the Acting-Prime Minister, and he (Mr. Martyn) could assure them that the matter was one bristling with difficulties at the present time.

Mr. Butler said that a member might innocently stay at an hotel without knowledge of a Chinese cook being employed, and it was only right that provision should be made to meet such cases.

Mr. Dunstan said that to be logical they would have to bring in the man who went into the bar of an hotel where Chinese cooks were employed. It frequently happened that in country hotels where a Chinese did not act as cook that a woman was made to do the work at sweated rates, less than the Chinese obtained.

After further discussion, the following amendment was moved by Mr. Collins—

That the State Governments be approached with a view of amending the Licensing Acts so as to insert a clause that no colored alien shall be employed on licensed premises.

Mr. Ryan seconded the amendment, which was carried by 18 votes to 5 on the following division—

For—Messrs. Dunstan, Holloway, Coyne, Lundie, McNeill, Black, W. Murphy, Butler, Watts, White, Bailey, McNaught, Ryan, Collins, Harvey, Mooney, Barnes, and Martyn.

Against—Messrs. Blakeley, Last, Cullinan, Kelly, and Lambert.

EXPENSES FOR TEST CASES.

On the resolution from Hughenden (Q.)—

That any member of the A.W.U. who is a witness on any Union case be allowed the same rate of pay as delegates to Convention—

Mr. Kelly moved as an amendment—

That where the Union decides to make a test case of any dispute between any number of members of the organisation and their employers the members of the Union subpoenaed shall be paid at the same rate as Convention delegates.

He said that in Queensland last season a man who was subpoenaed and given 10s. a day by the Union in a test case.

Mr. Dunstan seconded the proposal. Mr. Cullinan said that the matter referred to by Mr. Kelly was not a test case at all, but one for the recovery of money due. Witnesses in important cases, just as in Arbitration Court proceedings, received the same rate as Convention delegates, viz., £1 per day.

Mr. Bailey said that there should be some definition of a "test" case.

The President: I take it that a test case is one in which a principle not previously decided upon is involved.

The amendment by Mr. Kelly was carried.

"WORKER" BOARD OF CONTROL.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Mannefeld (Q.), Breeza, Bookcarrol, Boorooma Shed Hands, Colma Wool Shed, Come-by-Chance, and Cullingrall Shed Hands (N.S.W.)—

That THE WORKER Board of Control be elected by a plebiscite of members. He said that this was a live question in the bush amongst members, who considered that the men occupying the responsible positions of control of THE WORKER should first submit themselves to a plebiscite.

Mr. White seconded the resolution. He said that he had heard a good many members express views in favor of the Board being elected. The principle involved was a clear one, and he did not think much discussion on the question was necessary.

Senator Barnes said that the Board of Control consisted of the President and General Secretary, together with the secretaries of the N.S.W., Vic.-Riverina, and South Australian branches. Now, the Branch Secretary was able to attend to Board of Control matters, with less financial cost to the Union, and was always easily found. The Branch Secretaries' attendance was essential in view of financial matters relating to subsidy, and he did not think there could be a more successful or economical system. Branch secretaries, too, had always to submit themselves to a plebiscite annually, and were essentially elected men.

Mr. McNeill said that whilst there might be some agitation for this proposal, he agreed with Senator Barnes that the presence of the Branch Secretary was required to deal with financial matters, and this was, particularly, the case when any new undertaking was in contemplation.

The resolution was defeated on the casting vote of the President on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Last, Coyne, White, Cullinan, McNaught, Kelly, Bailey, Collins, Harvey, and Ryan (10).

Against—Messrs. Lundie, Black, McNeill, W. Murphy, Butler, Watts, Lambert, Mooney, Barnes, and Dunstan (10).

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonnell House, Sydney, on Wednesday, February 16, at 9.30 a.m.; President Spence in the chair; all delegates present.

WAR PRECAUTIONS ACT.

Mr. McNaught moved the resolution from Western Branch Special General Meeting (N.S.W.)—

That this meeting of the A.W.U. expresses its disapprobation of the penal sections of the War Precautions Act, regarding it as an abrogation of the freedom of speech.

He said that the penal clauses in the War Precautions Act were too severe in cases of civil disputes. Where martial law obtained things were, of course, different. In the Mandeno case at Brisbane (which he had previously referred to) the civil judge dealt harshly with the defendant, whose principal offence consisted in stating that transports had come back from South Africa. "Tousy," Mandeno was one of those who had fought in South Africa. Under the War Precautions Act on a mandate from the Defence Minister trial by jury could be dispensed with, and the Habeas Corpus Act could not be invoked.

Mr. Collins said that as an Englishman he believed in freedom of speech, and more freedom in that respect seemed to be enjoyed in Great Britain than in Australia. The celebrated war correspondent, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, had pointed out that the censorship here in the Commonwealth was much more severe than in Great Britain, and he did not see what harm could result from a full expression of opinion amongst the people.

Mr. Last said that he had in mind judgments of magistrates who had not opened their mouths without fining men £100, with the alternative of six months' imprisonment. The undue severity of the sentences in two cases could be gauged from the fact that on appeal the Attorney-General had reduced the fines to £25. He quite agreed that the War Precautions Act contained a large number of provisions which were essential, and the commandeering of woollen mills to supply military material was one of them.

A DRASTIC ACT.

Mr. Cullinan said that Socialists nowadays dared not open their mouths about the war owing to the restrictions imposed by the War Precautions Act. In years gone by their forefathers had fought and died for the sake of freedom of speech, and to-day the Federal Labor Government had an Act in operation with drastic penal clauses for anyone contravening its provisions.

The President said that it would be just as well if he pointed out that the War Precautions Act was brought in to deal with a large number of things for the safety of the community. Unless there were drastic provisions in such an Act the enemy would be helped, and Ger-

man agents and money could be used against our best interests. The Government were aware of secret activity on the part of Germans in this, as in other countries, and the Act had to be framed to deal with them. Numbers had been interned, and unless strong action had been taken there might have been some serious happenings. Points like that should not be overlooked. Possibly there might have been unreasonable fines in some cases, but it should be borne in mind that they were under civil law, and the Attorney-General could always consider appeals if they were made. He thought that in abnormal times like these people might fairly be asked to be careful in their utterances and conduct.

Mr. Ryan said that if a man had a logical argument it deserved a hearing in the interests of free speech. In some respects the War Precautions Act snatched at the shadow and dropped the substance, although he agreed that there might be restrictions required in many ways. The resolution was carried.

FREE MEMBERSHIP TICKETS.

The General Secretary said that he had obtained counsel's opinion respecting the free membership tickets and the right to vote. It would become necessary to strike out from rule 6 the concluding portion, which was as follows:—"Such ticket shall be issued only by an organiser or the Branch Secretary, and shall not entitle the holder to any vote on any election or plebiscite." The rules never at any time had given free ticket-holders a right to vote or nominate. It was clear that they had not that right, and the object of amending the rule now was to give those engaged in an industry under rule 5 the right to vote. An amendment of rule 12 would have to be made to bring this about. In the first line the words "and the holder of a ticket under rule 6" would have to be added to the words: "Each financial member shall be entitled to vote in the election of all officers and upon all questions," and so on. He moved that the alterations be agreed to. The resolution was carried.

Mr. Lambert moved—

That rule 6 be amended by providing that an old age ticket-holder shall be financial for the ten preceding years, in place of three years, now appearing in the rule.

Mr. McNeill moved as an amendment that the term be five years.

The amendment was carried.

Mr. Lambert moved—

That rule 6 be further amended by the addition of the following words after "season" in the third line:—"Provided

the applicant can satisfy the person to whom he applies for a ticket that he has never at any time worked against the principles of the Union."

The resolution was carried.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.
Mr. Blakeley said that he was desirous of obtaining an interpretation of rule 39. The rule in the second paragraph set out that branches must call for nominations for members of the Executive from local committees within a section, and such nominations, after being approved by the branch, shall be submitted to meetings of the local committees within a section for election. The third paragraph laid it down that only members of local committees within a section should be eligible for nomination and election to the Branch Executive. A case had arisen in connection with the Central Branch Executive where a nomination had been received through the Sydney Local Committee. Another nomination, however, came direct to the Returning Officer, but that nomination was held over because it did not come through the local committee. He wished to know whether nominations had to be moved and seconded in the local committee, and was it necessary that a nominee must attend at least one meeting of the local committee before nominating? The standing orders were suspended to admit of the question being discussed.

Mr. Blakeley moved—

That nominations for Branch Executive shall not be necessary to come through the local committee, and any member can attend and vote at any meeting of a local committee when there is an election of a member of the Branch Executive.

Mr. Last seconded the resolution. He said that in present circumstances, with some local committees almost non-existent, it would be almost impossible to get nominations. What procedure should be followed in such a case to elect an executive officer?

After some further discussion, it was decided to proceed to the next business.

EXPERTS BOSSING THE BOARD.

Mr. Butler moved an amended resolution from Barnong (W.A.)—

That experts shall not be allowed to expert and boss any board in any shed where there are more than five shearers employed.

Mr. Watts seconded the resolution.

Mr. Coyne said that a number of the smaller pastoralists were doing their own experting now.

Mr. Bailey said that in N.S.W. there was an Experts' Union working under an award.

Mr. Ryan said that if they were organising on purely industrial lines they could include all employees.

Mr. Holloway said that there were a number of experts who were engineering. The A.W.U. had an undertaking with the Engine-drivers and Firemen's Union on the matter.

Mr. Kelly moved as an amendment.

That where the expert is an employee he shall not be allowed to be boss of the board at the same time.

Mr. Martyn seconded the amendment, which was lost.

Mr. Coyne moved as a further amendment that experts shall not be allowed to expert and boss any board in any shed where there are more than ten shearers.

Mr. White seconded the further amendment, which was defeated, as was also the resolution.

Mr. Butler: Does that mean that an expert can boss the board?

The President: Yes.

ENROLLING EXPERTS.

Mr. Watts said that he wanted an expression of opinion from Convention regarding the enrolment of experts, which was a vexed question in Western Australia. To do so he moved an amended resolution from Barnong (W.A.)—

That experts who are employees, and working in shearing sheds, take Union tickets.

Mr. Harvey seconded the resolution. Mr. McNaught said he was in favor of the A.W.U. organising all industries, which was the basis of the One Big Union. The trouble with some experts was that to an A.W.U. organiser they said they were members of the Engine-drivers and Firemen's Association, and when approached by the Engine-drivers and Firemen's representative the reply was that they were in the A.W.U. Those sort of men were non-unionists and ticket-dodgers, who took all benefits without contributing to any organisation.

Mr. Martyn moved as an amendment— That the question of experts' membership be left to branches.

Mr. Bailey seconded the amendment, which was defeated.

The resolution was carried.

"THE WORKER."

The report of THE WORKER: Board of Control and the balance-sheets were presented and adopted.

Mr. Lamond, manager of THE WORKER, said that the past year had been a difficult one in the matter of printing supplies. It was likely to be so whilst the war was on, and even for a year or two after the war concluded owing to the

shortage of freight-carrying vessels, which was the chief factor in the great increase in prices which had taken place. Paper which before the war was obtainable at £11 10s. a ton, could not now be purchased for less than £20 or £25 per ton. Seeing the large amount of paper which THE WORKER used, the additional amount of money involved in this item alone would be readily understood. There had been a falling-off in revenue owing to shrinkage of advertisements, but in job printing the results had been far better than anticipated, the printing of "The Mirror" providing a paying proposition. Broadly speaking, whilst the accounts were very satisfactory in view of the times, and a fair profit was shown, it was impossible to say what the conditions would be for the current year. Convention had last year decided that the hours of THE WORKER employees should be 44 weekly, and this had added to the cost of production to the extent of at least 1 1/2 per cent. Whilst that was so, however, he personally believed that the departure was a very good idea, and one with which he was wholly in sympathy.

In answer to questions, Mr. Lamond said that the price of THE WORKER to the public could not advantageously be reduced from 2d. to 1d., particularly in view of the high price of paper and printing commodities at the present time. He would like branch secretaries, organisers, and members generally, who had complaints or any subject connected with THE WORKER to communicate with him, and inquiries would be instituted at once.

A.W.U. MATTER.

Mr. Last wished to know what was the method adopted for dealing with matter for the A.W.U. portion of THE WORKER?

Mr. H. E. Boote, editor of THE WORKER, said that "copy" for the Bushworkers' Budget was in the hands of Mr. Mutch. On any matter where there were doubts it was submitted to him as editor, and if questions of policy were involved the General Secretary was consulted. There was a great deal of stuff which came from members that it was impossible to print at all. The instructions were that anything that could be printed (consistent with considerations of space) should go into the paper. THE WORKER itself had to be safeguarded against libellous communications, and discretion had, therefore, to be used in handling such matter.

Mr. Last said that he had written on the question of the two four-hour runs—a reform he considered highly desirable—and yet it was denied publication in THE WORKER, because the gentleman in charge of that department considered it was up against the policy of the Union.

The General Secretary said that since Mr. Boote had become editor it had not

been necessary to consult him on A.W.U. policy matters.

Mr. Blakeley said that there seemed to have been a certain amount of laxity in THE WORKER which would not be allowed in a private firm. A letter in connection with the election of a cook, which was of some importance, had been sent to THE WORKER. A notification appeared stating that it had been forwarded to the Branch Secretary. The letter did not come to hand, and he wrote to THE WORKER. No reply came, and he wrote again, with the result that an answer "came astray." The question involved was afterwards dealt with by the Branch, and had, as a matter of fact, been given endorsement by this Convention.

REPORTS REFUSED.

Mr. W. Murphy said that he had occasion to complain of what had happened to reports sent in by him from the South-Eastern district of South Australia. There was a man living in that district who earlier in his life had been one of the first Labor members, but now set out to be a capitalist. This man did all he could to prevent Union organisers doing their work, poisoned the minds of the men against industrial combination, and, though ready enough to grab the increased rates brought about by unionism, would not himself take a ticket. This individual went into Mount Gambier, and in one of the local papers vilified unionism and unionists, and made a number of malicious statements. He (Mr. Murphy) could not get space in that paper, and he told the men principally concerned that he would give a correct account of things in THE WORKER, which he assumed would give him space to reply to the lying attacks which had been made. He duly sent in the report, but nothing appeared. He sent in another report, pointing out that men were shearing at Henley Park for 20s. 9d. This low payment had been going on for some years, but only part of the report had appeared in THE WORKER. After treatment of that kind he had determined not to write any more reports for THE WORKER until he came to Sydney and had the question inquired into. Mr. Mooney, the secretary of the Tasmanian Branch, had in an issue of last month nearly a column report. Why was that distinction made?

Mr. Lamond said that he did not know the circumstances, because he had nothing whatever to do with the literary department, but there were always more claims upon their space in the busy shearing season than in January, and that was probably why Mr. Mooney got so much space.

THE MIRROR.

Mr. Cullinan said that he desired to have the question of the printing of "The

Mirror" at THE WORKER Office discussed by Convention. He considered that the manager of THE WORKER and the members of the Board of Control deserved to be censured for entering into a contract to print a paper which was publishing many views in direct conflict with the principles of the Labor movement.

A resolution of censure moved by Mr. Cullinan lapsed for want of a seconder.

Mr. Lamond said that it was only fair that the position arising out of the acceptance of a contract to print the "Mirror" should be known. On the general principle raised by Mr. Cullinan as to what THE WORKER should or should not do, he wished to point out that no member of the A.W.U. had shown a greater desire or done more to keep THE WORKER above the suspicion of laying itself open to make money purely for money's sake than himself. This applied in a particular degree to advertising matter, many thousands of pounds having been turned down annually by him because he would not tolerate the publication in their own paper of matter which might lead to the exploitation of members. As to the "Mirror," he might say that the contract was accepted for the printing of an illustrated weekly newspaper on the same business lines which obtained in connection with the job printing branch of THE WORKER. He felt convinced that in the future illustrations would play a still greater part in journalism, and THE WORKER, to keep abreast of the times, would have to extend in that direction. The printing of the "Mirror" afforded them an opportunity of further perfecting THE WORKER's production of picture work, and the advance made in this connection could be readily seen by a comparison of later with earlier issues of the "Mirror." The contract agreed upon was a satisfactory one, which had met with the approval of the Board of Control. It was distinctly understood that THE WORKER management had nothing whatever to do with the policy of "The Mirror," nor with that of any of the other papers which were printed at the office. The "Mirror" was on the same business basis as were "Grit" and "Fairplay," which were conducted by their proprietors on their own lines, THE WORKER merely doing the printing of them as a commercial proposition. Valuable machinery was installed in THE WORKER office, and instead of its lying idle it had been put to effective use in the expansion of the job printing business, which was a very important adjunct of their establishment. Notices had appeared in THE WORKER indicating that THE WORKER was in nowise associated with the policies expressed in the papers which were printed from the office.

CAPITALISTIC IDEAS.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That THE WORKER discontinue printing the "Mirror" newspaper.

He said that the attitude of the Board of Control in allowing the "Mirror" to issue from THE WORKER office was not in consonance with Labor principles, and they should not assist in any form the publication of a newspaper which stood for such capitalistic ideas.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution. He said that for years the A.W.U. had been fighting against jingoism and capitalism, and yet here was THE WORKER, through the agency of its printing plant, assisting in the dissemination of ideas against Labor principles. "The Mirror," he considered, gained a good deal of prestige by reason of its being printed at THE WORKER Office.

Mr. Lest said that although he knew "The Mirror" stood for militarism and conscription, he was not going to support the resolution. He was game to say that nine-tenths of the readers of "The Mirror" did not know where it was printed, and he failed to see how THE WORKER could be connected with it at all by the reading public.

Mr. Blakeley said that the printing of "The Mirror" might involve THE WORKER in the event of any libel suits arising, and that was a point which required some watching.

Mr. Lamond: That matter is being investigated, and "The Mirror" people are quite prepared to do anything within reason to meet that point.

Mr. Ryan said that he had been surprised on reading "The Mirror" to see matter which ought to be repudiated. For instance, in the last issue he saw a statement printed from a correspondent in which the suggestion was made that all alien Germans met in British Dominions "should be buried right there." Surely that kind of advocacy of violence should not be allowed, and he hoped the Board of Control would look into matters of that kind.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST.

Mr. McCormack said that whilst there might be arguments used in favor of THE WORKER printing "The Mirror," were those arguments sufficiently strong to outweigh objections lodged as to this particular newspaper running counter to the Labor movement as a whole? THE WORKER was a great deal different to other newspapers, and maintained a good standard, and that was all the more reason why there should be no association—in direct though it might only have been—with a journal which was in such violent opposition to Labor ideals. Mr. Lamond

had mentioned how careful he had been in the past to cast out any advertising matter which was not of a proper character. That was a commendable principle to display seeing that the particular class of advertisements had found ready publication in other journals. That fine spirit of discrimination which had been displayed might also have operated with respect to a newspaper like "The Mirror." If the dropping of "The Mirror" printing meant any financial loss to THE WORKER, he thought that the A.W.U. should be called upon to make good the amount, and he believed members would sooner do that than have such a journal issued from the office of their official organ which had always stood for Labor ideals.

Mr. Harvey said that "The Mirror" had come out against the Broken Hill miners, who were fighting for 44 hours per week, although this Convention had expressed itself in favor of the men having 44 hours. The A.W.U. stood for Labor, and this "Mirror" newspaper was all the time preaching the doctrines of Capitalism.

STORM IN A TEACUP.

Mr. Coyne said that he considered the whole matter was being looked at in a narrow light. THE WORKER, merely by printing the "Mirror," by no means identified itself with the views of that journal, which, if brought out at any other place, would have to be "stood" just the same. There was nothing in the world to prevent the editor of THE WORKER criticising the "Mirror" if he thought fit just as the "Daily Telegraph" or "Sydney Morning Herald" could claim the same right to review utterances by THE WORKER. THE WORKER had to adopt business methods, and in increasing the revenue of the paper less obligations were cast upon members of the A.W.U. In his opinion there was nothing very substantial in the complaints which had been voiced, and to him it all appeared very much like a storm in a teacup.

Mr. Martyn said that he had no intention of casting a vote on this subject at all. If it were decided that at some future date the printing of the "Mirror" should be discontinued because it disseminated matter in opposition to Labor policy, then it logically followed that other papers which they printed should also cease business relationship with THE WORKER. That would mean the display of an intolerance worse than that exhibited by their most bitter opponents, and in his view, therefore, the resolution was almost beneath notice.

Mr. Dunstan said that Queensland representatives could hardly do anything which might mean cutting off financial supplies from "The Australian Worker."

in the management of which the New South Wales, Victoria-Riverina, and South Australian branches were alone immediately interested. It was for those three branches to arrive at a decision on the subject.

PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

Mr. Kelly said that, notwithstanding the attitude which Mr. Dunstan had assumed, he, as one of the Queensland delegates, proposed to record his voice and vote against the printing of the "Mirror" by the official organ of the southern branches of the A.W.U. There was an important principle involved in this matter, and if they allowed their machinery to be used for the turning out of such stuff as had appeared in the "Mirror," what next would they be coming to? It had been stated that the "Mirror" would continue to be printed whatever decision Convention might arrive at. If that were done it was something over which they could have no control, of course, but delegates did have some say as to what should be done with the printing plant of the A.W.U.

Mr. Collins said that for over a generation Labor had been seeking to mould public opinion in the Commonwealth, and the process had been a slow one. Yet they found, after the long fight which had been waged, that from their own union premises was being issued a journal diametrically opposed to the principles of Labor. The "Mirror" was entitled to say what it liked. Nobody there would deny that right. What he wished to deny the "Mirror" was, however, the opportunity of publishing anti-Labor views through the medium of the machinery of a Labor newspaper. Certainly the Labor press could not be run successfully entirely on sentiment, but he maintained that as a publishing house THE WORKER should not be out so much for profit as the desire to teach the people.

RESPONSIBILITY SHARED.

Mr. McNeill said that he, as a member of the Board of Control in no way wished to shirk his share of responsibility for the "Mirror" contract. When the matter came before the Board they were informed that the paper was to be of the illustrated weekly magazine type for the household and non-party. They did not know whether "The Mirror" would advocate conscription, denounce Labor, the A.W.U., or anybody else. The Board had nothing to do with the policy. Having considered the question the Board agreed that the proposition was a good enough business one to be accepted, and it was accordingly agreed to. Matter had appeared in "The Mirror" since the acceptance of the contract which justified delegates bringing

the subject up for discussion, and it was only right that the facts should be set out. THE WORKER had a magnificent plant capable of turning out expeditiously, and in good style, all classes of printing work, and its services were eagerly sought. He had heard some complaints about "The Mirror," and had stated the position which could have been learned just as readily had those who complained communicated with THE WORKER Manager, who would have placed the facts before those seeking them. Personally he was indifferent as to whether "The Mirror" was printed at THE WORKER or not, but he hoped that delegates would bear in mind the information which had been placed before them that day.

The President said that from the time of the signing of the contract "The Mirror" had come out on more sensational lines, and it was not quite the kind of paper which he had originally thought it would be. In the circumstances people were liable to blame THE WORKER Management without knowing the position from the beginning.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. Lundie said that he wanted delegates to thoroughly understand that the members of the Board of Control were not endeavoring to shelter themselves behind the manager. They accepted the responsibility. Members had spoken to him about "The Mirror" being printed at THE WORKER office, and he had urged the need of some disclaimer appearing dissociating THE WORKER from "The Mirror." The tone of "The Mirror" had changed, and it was impossible for the Board to foresee that, but in running a job printing business—a proposition of which he was not much enamored—those risks had to be taken. The terms of the motion by no means carried any censure on the Board to his way of thinking, and to show that he did not believe such was the case he proposed to vote for it.

Mr. Lambert said that he, as a member of the Board of Control, was quite prepared to accept his responsibility in the matter. The Board watched over the business interests of THE WORKER, and, apart from what had been said at Convention, it was quite possible that the Board itself might have considered the whole question of continuing to print "The Mirror."

Mr. Lamond said that if the Convention or Board made it a rule to shut out papers on account of policy matters it might conceivably be said that it thus assumed responsibility for every line which was printed in other papers turned out at THE WORKER office. There could be no responsibility on THE WORKER's part for what appeared in "The Mirror," and, in dealing with the printing of other

papers, it was impossible to bind them down to follow any particular line of policy. THE WORKER itself might decide to attack the Labor Party if it were thought necessary, and the whole question bristled with difficulties wherein it was impossible to draw the line of discrimination.

The discussion having ended, an amendment moved by Mr. Mooney and seconded by Mr. Last, was carried referring the matter to the Board of Control of THE WORKER to deal with.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

NINETEENTH DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Thursday, February 17, at 9.30 a.m. President Spence in the chair, all remaining delegates present. The President announced that on the previous evening Mr. Black had applied for leave of absence, and been excused from further attendance.

MR. LAMOND AND CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Cullinan moved the resolution from Therribri (N.S.W.)—

That this meeting of members of the A.W.U. deprecates the action of Mr. H. Lamond, manager of THE WORKER, in connection with universal conscription, and urges THE WORKER Board of Control to ask him to tender his resignation.

He said that last year, when the capitalistic papers got going on conscription they found men for many years connected with the Labor movement, and with the ability to lead, throwing in their lot to bring about militarism in Australia. Citizens of the Commonwealth knew what militarism was, and what it led to in other countries, and had other Labor leaders taken up the attitude assumed by Mr. Lamond conscription would have been here, because the rank and file could not have stood up against it successfully. Mr. J. C. Watson had joined this conscription idea, and they found Mr. Lamond, who had run THE WORKER for years, and fought ably and earnestly for the Labor movement, stepping into line with him. Mr. Lamond had to his credit many fine fights for Labor, and he must have known how opposed conscription was to Labor principles, yet he had allowed himself to be nominated on the council of the Universal Service League. Mr. Boote, as editor of THE WORKER, however, had fought in direct opposition to the Universal Service League, and was to be complimented for what he had done. For his action in this matter the Board of Control should ask Mr. Lamond to resign from his position as manager.

WORKING CLASS AND MILITARISM.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution. The Convention at an earlier stage had expressed itself in no uncertain terms in condemnation of the principle of conscription. The attitude of the working-class against militarism was well-known, and a vigorous propaganda against it had appeared in THE WORKER. Yet they found one of their leading lights in the movement coming out supporting a conscription league which was run by pseudo Labor men and capitalists.

The General Secretary said that the Executive had had the matter before them, and it was dealt with by the Board of Control, when Mr. Lamond was there.

Mr. Lundie said that the Board of Control had handled the question when he had asked for some explanation from Mr. Lamond for the position. Mr. Lamond had withdrawn from the Universal Service League on seeing that Laborites were against the scheme, his explanation being accepted, and nothing further was done by the Board.

Mr. Harvey moved as an amendment—
That this Convention deprecates the action of Mr. Lamond, manager of THE WORKER, in connection with universal conscription.

He said that he was pleased that the Board of Control had taken action on the subject, and, that being so, there was no necessity to carry the full terms of the resolution.

MR. LAMOND'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Lamond said that he found himself in a difficulty in discussing the subject matter of the debate at this particular time. That was one of the reasons why he had at an early stage severed his connection with the Universal Service League. Mr. Cullinan had stated that he (Mr. Lamond) had been a fighter in the Labor movement. That was perfectly true. During the most of the years he had been fighting, as Mr. Cullinan had also, for the Labor platform, there were legislative provisions for the defence of the Commonwealth demanding the service of every able-bodied male for the protection of Australia. That Act had stood unquestioned by the Labor movement for several years, and they had won two Federal elections on that policy. When war broke out the question of Australia taking part in the great international conflict arose. The Cook Government acted, and the Fisher Government followed with considerable ardor—and threw itself into the fight. He had seen, as no doubt all of the delegates had seen, thousands of very young men—altogether too young—sent to the front. At the same time, he saw hundreds or thousands of young men, much better fitted

for the hardships of war, who remained at home. He realised that involved in the final issue of this war was all that the Labor movement had fought for, and built up in Australia. Some people differed from that view, but he felt as certain as he stood there that day at Great Britain failed to gain a decisive victory in this war that Labor's White Australia ideals and the most perfect democratic machinery the world had evolved would go by the board. A man could but give his own opinion just as he was now doing. He was uttering his own personal views only, remembering that democracies had been undone in the past by people seeking to interpret other people's views, not by the free expression of opinion by men who had thought for themselves.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE LEAGUE.

When the Universal Service League was projected, Mr. J. C. Watson had come to him saying that a movement was on foot to extend the provisions of the Defence Act to apply to the present war. He told Mr. Watson that he had no objection to giving his name in as a member. To Mr. Watson he had pointed out that he was not in favor of the Government calling men to the colors for any war which the Empire might in the future embark on—it was for this war only.

The manifesto of the league was altered to embrace that idea, and he also contended that there was to be no alteration of the existing Act of Parliament without the people being consulted. When he found that there was a radical difference of opinion as between fighting for Australia here and in Gallipoli, and that Labor leaders had expressed definite views on the subject, he resigned from the League, declining to take up any attitude which could be construed at the time into an attack on the pronouncement for the Federal Government made by Mr. Fisher when Prime Minister.

NOT POPULAR VIEWS.

His views, he knew, were not popular in the Convention, but he was not so sure that a ballot of unionists on the question would give the result that Convention believed it would. The decision of the A.W.U. would bind him for the reason that he had been so long associated with their paper, THE WORKER, that nothing would be more distasteful to him than to take up a position of antagonism to a body which he considered represented the best in organized Labor in Australia. He had learnt that one man in the interest of the common good must subject his opinions to those of the majority, and for this and other reasons he had refrained from further association with the Universal Service League. Under the

voluntary system there were three classes who joined—(1) Those who were forced to do so by unemployment; (2) very young men, or lads, impressionable and eager, whose youth and inexperience had greatly contributed to the deaths from sickness; and (3) those who joined because they deemed it their duty to fight for their country. On this question of service the attitude of Labor, he considered, should be one of two things—either not to take part in the war, or, if taking part, to arrange to send proper fighting forces from amongst those best fitted to undertake the campaign. He had joined the Universal Service League in his capacity as a private citizen and never had any official documents of the U.S.L. borne mention of his association with THE WORKER.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH.

Mr. Holloway: Would you be prepared to take the same course with wealth as the League wanted with men?

Mr. Lamond said that he did not think there could be any doubt as to the conscription of wealth. The war had proved up to the hilt that there was enough money in the Commonwealth if the Parliament had the courage to take it. He had been in favor of the conscription of wealth before war broke out, as well as being in favor of it now. At the last Inter-State Labor Conference the question of increasing Old Age Pensions had been discussed. It was a scandal that with the high cost of living only 10s. per week was paid, yet they were met with the objection that to increase it as he had advocated would mean another million and a half in taxation. But he had always taken the position that as the wealth was here it should be put to its best uses in the interests of the community.

IN THE DARK.

Mr. Butler opposed the resolution. He said that until this year the A.W.U., through its highest body, had not declared on conscription. Therefore, Mr. Lamond was in the dark. He would like to controvert one of Mr. Lamond's statements as to White Australia ideals being jeopardised unless the war was won by the Allies. There was another way in which White Australia was being jeopardised, and that was by men leaving here and Austrians being allowed to take their places. So great an evil had this become in Western Australia that the miners had had to take up a stand against the filling of their places by these alien enemies.

Mr. Dunstan was against the resolution. He said that want of employment had forced many men to enlist, and if they had had conscription in vogue he believed that many A.W.U. men now lying dead and buried in Gallipoli would have been alive and at work to-day. Fully 30,000

A.W.U. members had gone to the front, many through unemployment. He would sooner see conscription properly carried out than the form which forced men to enlist and then learn that their places had been taken at reduced rates by those who were left behind.

Mr. Ryan seconded Mr. Harvey's amendment. He said that he would not be a party to discharging any man merely because he disagreed with him. The amendment by Mr. Harvey was carried.

LOCAL COMMITTEE AND BRANCH ELECTIONS.

Mr. Last moved to amend rule 59 by deleting the words "within a" from local committee sections.

He said that the effect of the proposed alteration would be the adoption of procedure similar to what obtained when nominations were called for organisers and branch officers.

Mr. Cullinan seconded.

Mr. Blakeley moved as an amendment—that rule 59 be amended to provide that the Branch Executive shall consist of President, Secretary, two Vice-Presidents, and 12 members elected in accordance with rules 22 and 25.

He said that this method would conduce to better branch government, and would be representative of the whole of the membership. Under existing conditions the Branch Executive was not a properly elective body, but this proposal would make for that, and give all members a say in the ballot as to who should constitute their branch controlling power.

Mr. Kelly seconded the amendment. Mr. Bailey opposed the amendment, which he maintained would work out most unfairly in branches where local committees had done good work.

Mr. Lundie said that with the exception of the one branch all other branches were satisfied that the present local committee system had operated all right. The remedy was for Western Branch to cure any existing defects existing within its boundaries.

The amendment was defeated by 13 votes to 6 on the following division—

For—Messrs. Last, Holloway, Blakeley, White, Coyne, and Cullinan.
Against—Messrs. Lundie, Murphy, McNeill, Butler, Watts, Bailey, Collins, Harvey, Mooney, McNaught, Dunstan, Barnes, and Lambert.

WORKING WITH UNDERPAID

BLACKS.
Mr. Watts moved in amended form the resolution from De Grey (W.A.)—

That if members are found working with aboriginals who are not paid full rates they be fined not more than £5.

He said that members were not prepared to work with blacks who were getting no payment at all and it was only right if the aboriginals did the work that they should receive a cheque for the amount due to them. Members in W.A. should see to it that the blacks were fairly treated, and in order to enforce that position a fine should be inflicted on those who cared not what was done. A fine of £5 might appear too much for a first offence, but by making that the maximum amount he considered any case arising could be met.

Mr. Butler seconded the resolution, which was carried.

CANCELLED NOMINATIONS.

On the resolution from Meunt Florence (W.A.)—

That this meeting of members of the A.W.U. considers that the General Executive is deserving of the severest censure for not notifying the W.A. Branch Returning Officer of the cancellation of the nominations for the offices of that Branch—

Mr. Watts said that although the action taken by the Executive Council was no doubt necessary, the incident caused a lot of bother because of no official notification being sent as to the ballot in progress being nullified.

Mr. Butler said that, whilst no exception was taken to the action of the Executive Council, a number of members were aggrieved because they did not know exactly where they stood when the ballot was called off without any official explanation being tendered to the returning officer.

The President said that the conduct of the former secretary of the W.A. branch had upset the whole thing. That gentleman had failed to notify the change in nominations, and it became necessary for the Executive Council to act promptly.

The General Secretary said that Convention had arrived at a definite decision regarding nominations last year, and the Executive Council had to see that the mandate of Convention was carried out.

SALARIES AND PLEBISCITES.

Mr. Kelly moved—
That no official's salary be increased without a plebiscite of members in that particular branch.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

Mr. Kelly moved—

That no organiser receive an increase in wages without a plebiscite of members is taken for the particular district in which the organiser is engaged.

Mr. McNaught seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

QUESTION OF RE-COMMITTAL.

Mr. Blakeley desired to re-commit the question dealing with an elective Board of Control for THE WORKER.

Mr. Lundie protested against any such thing being done. Mr. Black, who had voted previously on the question, had been excused from further attendance, and apparently "noses" had been counted. Hence this move. It was the first time any such thing had been attempted at A.W.U. gatherings in such circumstances.

The motion for recommitment was declared defeated on the following division—
For—Messrs. Holloway, Last, Coyne, Blakeley, Cullinan, McNaught, Collins, Martyn, and White.

Against—Messrs. Barnes, McNeill, Murphy, Butler, Watts, Lambert, Bailey, Harvey, Mooney, and Dunstan.
Mr. Blakeley: I dissent from the President's decision and demand another division.

The President: I called out the names of delegates as they voted. In such circumstances it is out of order to call for another division.

Mr. Blakeley: I demand another division.

The President: Very well. The Vice-President must deal with the question.

Mr. Bailey (Vice-President): I refuse to put the motion in the circumstances that the President has ruled the matter out of order.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

Mr. McNaught moved—

That our organisation be open to workers of all callings, and, further, if registration prevents enrolment, that such registration be cancelled.

He said that something of this kind must be done if the A.W.U. were to progress. At the present time organisers did not organise industrially, and what was desired was not amalgamation of craft unions, but industrial organisation in the broadest sense.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, which he said, was one of the most business-like that had come before Convention. Whilst registration might not have given away anything as far as the A.W.U. was concerned, it had certainly tied their hands in the matter of general industrial expansion.

The President said that the amendment of the Arbitration Act enabled the A.W.U. to enrol industrially.

Mr. Ryan said that whilst that might be so, agreements which had been arrived at with other unions did not permit of additional expansion, but merely the retention of those whom the A.W.U. had previously organised within their own ranks. A very big question was opened up by the terms of the resolution.

"BODY-SNATCHING."

The General Secretary said that the Act was now wide enough to enrol other industries provided there were at least 100 employees associated with them. It had to be remembered that there were other organisations who had their fields of operation as well as the A.W.U. That position could not be surmounted unless the A.W.U. went in for what was known in Union circles as "body-snatching"—a procedure to which he was opposed in view of obligations which had been mutually entered into and must be respected. The Act now gave a wide scope, and industrial organisation could go on always provided that other unions with prior claims were not encroached upon in contravention of existing agreements between the A.W.U. and those bodies.

Mr. McCormack said that the basic principle of the One Big Union was industrial unionism, and Queensland seemed to be the only branch that was giving it effect. In Queensland they had examples of unions which had entered into agreements with the A.W.U. coming in and absorbing men who had previously been industrially looked after by the A.W.U. This Convention had decided in favor of arbitration, which meant that all agreements must be respected and the present resolution could not be carried without a decision of the one favoring arbitration.

The resolution was defeated.

TRUSTEES.

On the motion of Mr. Lundie, seconded by Mr. Last, it was agreed to re-appoint the trustees of the Union elected last year, viz., Messrs. R. Bow, F. W. Lundie, H. Lamond, J. Mooney, J. McNeill, and E. Grayndler.

MEETING-PLACE OF CONVENTION.

Sydney, Melbourne, Toowoomba, Launceston, Ballarat, and Adelaide were nominated as the meeting-place of next Convention. Sydney was selected.

COLOR OF TICKETS.

On the motion of Mr. Lundie, it was decided that the rotation system of colors should be followed for the color of tickets.

GENERAL RETURNING OFFICER.

Mr. H. Lamond was re-appointed General Returning Officer at the same fee as formerly (£2 2s.).

NOT AN ORGANISER.

Mr. Bailey said that he desired to bring before Convention the fact that certain statements were being circulated about the A.W.U. by "Jack" Talbot, who claimed:

to be one of the oldest members of the organisation. Talbot had, he believed, been talking about the Union being badly run, and had asserted that he was at one time an organiser of the Union. This man had not been an organiser of the A.W.U., and he wished delegates to know that that was so.

General business, of which the required notice had been given, was next called on.

RURAL WORKERS' LOG.

Mr. Harvey moved—

That each Branch be given complete control of the Rural Workers' industry in each particular State, with power to vary the Rural Workers' log if necessary, and power to make the best possible arrangements to suit local conditions.

He said that whilst they had a Rural Workers' log it was not operated, and all he was asking to be done was the same as had been decided with respect to the Construction Workers' log, which was to be used as a guide for branches in future negotiations.

Mr. W. Murphy seconded the resolution. He said that there were a number of things in the Rural Workers' log which required looking into, and if branches were given the power to handle it in the light of local conditions advance could be made in a direction which required effective organising on the part of those understanding rural industries and their various ramifications. He felt sure that if branches were given a free hand in this matter great good could be accomplished within the respective territorial boundaries without adherence being given to absolute uniformity.

Mr. Blakeley opposed the resolution, which he said made for sectional as against general control. He did not believe in branches being divided up on this question, and if the log required amendment that should be done rather than sacrifice the principle of uniform payment which it sought to attain.

Mr. McNeill said that he did not think it would be wise to hand the log over to the branches. Uniform rates and conditions had been aimed at, and it had to be remembered that, whilst exception had been taken to the log in some respects, it had in other regards been eminently fair and reasonable, considerable increases on the amounts named having been granted by farmers in the Riverina this season.

REFER TO COMMITTEE.

Mr. Bailey said that he was against the branches taking this matter over on their own. As one who had helped to frame the log, he was sure it had done a certain amount of good, and could be

used as the basis for future work. The log was capable of revision possibly, but it should not take a committee long to re-draft it and submit a report to Convention on the subject. He moved as an amendment—

That a committee of 5 be appointed to revise the Rural Workers' log and report to Convention.

Mr. Lambert seconded the amendment. He said that it would be far better to leave the matter for the Union as a whole to deal with than give it over to branches, for conflict of conditions and rates was likely to take place with various branches working out the log. Revision of the log was required in view of recent happenings, and hence he supported the appointment of a committee to go into the subject.

Mr. Lundie said that he favored Mr. Harvey's proposal, because he did not believe that a flat rate for the Commonwealth was altogether practicable. In South Australia he considered they could by conferences have rates agreed upon and an award made of a satisfactory character.

Mr. White supported the amendment. He said that he had had experience as an organiser last year and previously in the field, and it was necessary that revision of rates and conditions should be made in some portions of the award. A decision should be arrived at by Convention, so that there would be no doubt in the future. If a committee of revision were appointed he would like to see something done respecting wheat lumpers, so that their wages could be defined, and thus do away with the varying rates which had obtained in the past.

THE FLAT RATE.

Mr. Mooney said that he did not think that an all-round flat rate could be made to obtain for the Commonwealth at present, and the question would be better left with the several branches after revising the log.

The amendment was carried, Messrs. White, McNeill, W. Murphy, Harvey, and Mooney being appointed as a committee to revise the Rural Workers' log, and report to Convention next day.

A letter was read from Mr. M. Todd, secretary of the New South Wales Branch of the Federated Coopers' Union of Australia, seeking support for the 62 of their members who had been out on strike for seven weeks against a number of firms who refused compliance with Union conditions granted by other houses. It was resolved to vote £25 to assist the wives and dependents of the men engaged in the fight.

A wire having been received from Mr. T. J. Lonsdale, of Charleville, stating that

the carriers there had been locked out and big trouble seemed to be threatening, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Coyne, that the General Secretary should telegraph assuring the carriers of the support of the A.W.U.

Convention adjourned at 5 p.m.

TWENTIETH (CONCLUDING) DAY.

Convention re-assembled at Macdonell House, Sydney, on Friday, February 18, at 9.30 a.m., President Spence in the chair; all delegates present except Mr. Black, who had been excused from further attendance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. Blakeley said that he desired to make a personal explanation. Earlier in the sittings of the Convention, when Workers' Budget were under discussion, he had stated that he had seen letters which might very well have appeared in THE WORKER. As a matter of fact, those letters had appeared in another paper, and that was where he had seen four out of the five he had spoken of. No member of THE WORKER staff had shown him any correspondence on the subject whatever, and he brought the matter up in fairness to members of THE WORKER staff who might be quite wrongly blamed.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That any member resigning from the Australian Workers' Union in accordance with rule 13 shall be given a clearance ticket by the secretary of his branch. Such tickets shall be uniform in size, shape, color, and wording (save as to the names of different branches), and that butts be kept in each office for future reference.

Mr. Ryan seconded the resolution, which was defeated.

At this stage a letter was read in answer to a previous statement made by Mr. L. E. Evans to Convention respecting his advancing deposit money for an election in Tasmania. The writer denied liability for guaranteeing the amount. The letter was "received," Mr. Evans, who addressed Convention on the subject, intimating that he proposed to proceed further on the subject.

RURAL WORKERS' REPORT.

Mr. Mooney, as chairman of the committee appointed to revise the Rural Workers' log, said that the members had deliberated on the position, but could not arrive at a general agreement, and it had been considered advisable to hold an industrial conference to deal with the situation. He wished to move the adoption of the report of the committee, which was as follows:—

That it be a recommendation to Convention that an industrial conference be held in Melbourne during next May to revise the present Rural Workers' log, such conference to consist of two delegates from the States of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, and one delegate from Tasmania—such delegates to be confined strictly to men working within the industry.

Mr. McNeill seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, which was discussed at some length by delegates. Eventually the following amendment by Mr. Dunstan was carried—

That whilst adopting the Rural Workers' log, it should be used by branches as a guide to make the best arrangements for its carrying out. Where branches overlap, the secretaries to consult each other.

HEAD OFFICE SUSTENTATION.

Head Office sustentation was fixed at 1s. per member.

OFFICERS' MEMORIALS.

The President reported that the Donald Macdonell memorial had been unveiled last year at Stuart Mill, and with the balance of money remaining a cot in the Royal Alexandria and the Randwick Hospitals had been endowed. The memorial to the late Tommy White, recently unveiled at Waverley Cemetery, had a small balance left, and a cot had been endowed with the remainder.

A resolution was carried agreeing with the action taken.

UNIFORM PRICE LISTS.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That, with a view of securing uniform price lists from all sheds in each State, that a booklet (similar to earnings records) be printed and distributed by each branch, such booklet to contain a list of the usual articles used at messes in shearing sheds, with an f. s. d. column opposite each article, also a page with blank lines and money columns for the insertion of articles not included in the aforementioned printed list.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Cullinan moved—

That Convention urge the Federal Labor Government to place the Referendum proposals before the people of Australia at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution. Senator Barnes said that no doubt delegates had read the report of the Federal Executive meeting when this subject was

dealt with. At the present time there were not sufficient Labor members in the House of Representatives to put through a constitutional alteration bill.

Mr. Cullinan withdrew the resolution.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS.

Mr. McNaught moved—

That a condensed report of all Executive meetings or Executive business be published in THE WORKERS; also minutes of Executive doings be referred to and read at ensuing general meeting.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. McNaught moved—

That all rates and conditions in the various industries in the A.W.U. adopted by Annual Convention be printed in separate objective policies for each industry, irrespective of what award or agreement is at that time existing. And it be part of the "Objective Policy of each Industry" that members shall advocate and obtain, where possible, rates and conditions laid down in such policy.

Mr. Kelly seconded the resolution, which was carried.

PAID PRESIDENTS.

Mr. Martyn moved—

That the resolution of Queensland Delegate Meeting at its last meeting creating a new office of paid president for the branch, and the consequential resolutions thereon, be rescinded, and the Queensland Branch Executive be instructed to immediately give effect to this resolution.

He said that at the delegate meeting in Brisbane a motion had been carried by a majority of one vote to pay the president of the branch an honorarium of £300 per year, and when travelling his hotel and other expenses. He considered that this was a mistake, and he asked Convention to rectify it. The payment of president was a complete innovation for the A.W.U., and rule 75 distinctly laid it down that the General President's services should be performed in an honorary capacity. Following that specific rule, the practice had been always that the presidents of branches should not be paid officials. It was a wise provision. Apart altogether from the financial aspect of the case, which involved at least another £500 annually, he failed to see how the president of the Queensland Branch could act as president and organiser as well. Inevitably there would be some clash in the dual position, because it might be difficult to determine where one acted as president or as organiser and where as

president he might have to sit in judgment on his own actions. The president was largely required for consultative purposes in the business of the branch, and the creation of the dual position opened up considerable difficulties, which should be obviated by the Convention wiping the delegate meeting decision out.

POSITION UNSOUND.

Mr. McNeill seconded the resolution. He said that he could not see any sound argument in the payment of a president, and this would be a very dangerous precedent to establish in the A.W.U. He believed Mr. Riordan, the Queensland president, to be a capable organiser and a good man generally, but considered that the delegate meeting had taken an unwise step in deciding on paying their president.

Mr. Kelly said that if there was one thing more than another that the Convention should recognise it was branch autonomy. Provided always that a branch worked within the Union constitution, its local autonomy should be free and unfettered. The retiring president of the Queensland Branch had stated that there was nothing in the constitution prohibiting the payment of a branch president. Well, a majority of the delegate meeting decided that the president should be paid, but it was also agreed that he should be subject to the Executive. Whilst it was true that decision to pay the president £300 a year was arrived at by a majority of only eight to seven, still Mr. Martyn, had he desired to be fair and just, might have added that when Mr. Dunstan wished to have the whole motion rescinded he was turned down by twelve to two, as was shown on page 21 of the official report of the proceedings. The present president of the Queensland Branch was one of their best organisers, and he was satisfied that Mr. Riordan would make a great success of the new departure they had entered upon. He again wished to remind them of a branch's right of local autonomy, and in the light of that to point out how unfair it would be to go against the decision of the delegate meeting.

THE DUAL POST.

Mr. Dunstan said that he had had strong reasons for opposing the proposition at the delegate meeting. He had himself been president of the South Australian Branch and an organiser at the same time, but as an organiser he had always to take the same chance as others, because the two positions were kept quite distinctly apart. One of the things that had stood to the A.W.U. in the past was that the presidency of the branches was an unpaid office. Whilst Mr. Theo-

dore, the retiring president of the Queensland Branch had stated there was nothing prohibiting payment, the mover of the motion had attempted to get over any possible difficulty by describing the payment as an honorarium. What was the difference between £300 per year and expenses and an honorarium of £300 with expenses? The financial aspect was one that required looking into. At no time could the Queensland Branch afford the additional expenditure proposed, and more than ever such a payment would press exceedingly heavy at the present time.

Mr. McCormack said that he had discussed the question in Brisbane. If there was to be a kind of general organiser, why not say so? If, however, the president was to travel over a good deal of Queensland during his tenure of office, he would not be of much value to the organisation, which wanted a ready call on his services for official work. Some suggestion had been made that a layman and not a politician should be made president, but any man desiring to run for the presidency should have the right to do so. Not one word had been advanced against the president, who had filled the chair since the inception of the A.W.U. amalgamation in Queensland, and who had given much time and consideration to the work of industrial combination on the most modern lines. Though he had heard Mr. Theodore lauded to the skies, there was an attempt by officials to keep the politician out merely because he was a politician, apart altogether from his industrial merits. He hoped Convention would not sustain the delegate meeting motion. Let Queensland, if desired, appoint Mr. Riordan as a general organiser, but not as a paid president.

SETTLE IT THEMSELVES.

Mr. Ryan said that as one of those who were present at the delegate meeting he held that the members of the Queensland Branch should settle this question amongst themselves. The retiring president had stated that he did not think there was anything against the payment being made, and whether there was or not he could not personally say. He did consider, however, that the calling of the £300 by the name of "honorarium" was a bit of a farce. Notwithstanding that he would be voting against this resolution, believing that branch members themselves could settle the question this year.

Mr. Collins said that he was against the resolution. If they appointed a president they should place him in a position that he could carry out his duties. No financial provision was made for the president at the present time.

The General Secretary: The constitution allows payment of expenses if a president is engaged on Union business.

Mr. Collins: Mr. Theodore, when president, had devoted nearly 50 per cent. of his time to the organisation, and when a man put in so much time and energy there should be remuneration. The delegate meeting representatives said they were out to block the politician.

Mr. Dunstan: Irrespective of how it affected the Union.

Mr. Collins said that at Newcastle he had found the president, secretary, and treasurer of the coal miners were paid men. Nothing could be said against Mr. Riordan's ability, and he believed this was a step in the right direction, giving equal opportunity for all to occupy the post of president.

ACTION UNWISE.

The General Secretary said that as Mr. Riordan was a good organiser, why should he not be elected an organiser? There would be nothing to prevent him from being president, but as an organiser he would be under the control of the Executive the same as other organisers. Whilst it was correct to say that there was nothing in the rules specifically preventing the payment of a salary or honorarium to a president, still rule 35 set out that such officers were to be allowed payment when engaged on Union business. If a branch wanted to pay a president the proper way to go about it was to have it brought up at Convention because it introduced a new principle which was altogether outside questions of local autonomy. Queensland, he felt, had acted unwisely in rushing into this matter in the way the delegate meeting had done. Any payment made to a president by way of salary or honorarium he considered was illegal unless such payment were sanctioned by the Convention, as the supreme body in the affairs of the Union.

The resolution was carried by 19 votes to 3, on the following division:—

For—Messrs. Lundie, Last, Coyne, Holloway, McNeill, Martyn, Harvey, W. Murphy, Butler, Watts, White, Cullinan, Blakeley, Bailey, McNaught, McCormack, Mooney, Barnes, and Dunstan.

Against—Messrs. Collins, Kelly, and Ryan.

MEMBERS ENGAGING.

Mr. Blakeley moved that rule 109 be printed in THE WORKER during the shearing season. The rule, he said, was more honored in the breach than the observance.

The resolution was carried, the following being the rule referred to:—

ENGAGEMENT.

109.—Members may engage stands through the Pastoralists' Union office, but no member shall engage through labor agencies where fees are demanded, nor with anyone requiring payment or monetary consideration of any kind in return for providing employment or for obtaining employment for such member. Any member committing any breach of this rule shall be fined £2.

After the commencement of shearing at any shed, no shearer or shed hand, when applying by telegraph or telephone for employment, shall make such application to the shed overseer or manager, but shall communicate with the chairman or representative.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

Mr. Blakeley moved—

That the highest authority of a branch without districts shall be the Branch Executive.

He said that he wanted this as a recommendation for the Executive Council to consider.

Mr. McCormack seconded the resolution. Mr. Last opposed the resolution. He favored the Branch Executive being the authoritative body, provided that there was a broad franchise.

The resolution was carried.

SURPLUS WEALTH TAX.

Mr. Holloway moved—

That this Convention of the A.W.U. recommend the Federal Government impose a surplus wealth tax for the purpose of meeting war expenditure.

He said that the British Government and the New Zealand Government had taken this action in direct taxation. The

millions which had been subscribed in war loans represented surplus wealth, and those giant amounts should be taxed. They had the spectacle of the shipping combine, which before the war had £50,000,000 profit, now drawing £220,000,000, on an immensely reduced tonnage. This, too, after providing for all contingencies.

Mr. McNeill seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Holloway moved—

That the Federal Government guarantee the same security and conditions to labor as they do to capital.

He said that in the world war crisis which was now raging they found manhood at a terrible disadvantage compared with Mammon. Capital was treated with tender regard, and was paid high interest on war loans, whereas workers had to fight in the war and for the means of subsistence against an ever-increasing cost of living.

Mr. Lundie seconded the resolution, which was carried.

THE "CUT-OUT."

The President announced that the 1753 resolutions listed on the business paper, together with others which had been considered, representing about 2000 items, had now been finally disposed of, and he thanked Convention delegates for the attention they had bestowed on their work, which had been of a most important character.

Votes of thanks to the President, General Secretary, Minute Secretary (Mr. C. A. Akhurst), Official Reporter (Mr. J. M. Mackay), and Doorkeeper (Mr. L. E. Evans) concluded the proceedings.

Convention finally adjourned at 3.40 p.m. on Friday, February 15th.

Australian Workers' Union, HEAD OFFICE, SYDNEY.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1915.

<p>ASSETS.</p> <p>Office Furniture (book value) £ 131 6 5 Less Depreciation 0 11 4 Investments— Shares, Labor Papers Ltd. 124 15 1 Loan Accounts— "The Worker" Trustees 2,000 0 0 New Zealand Federation Labor Hotel, Club, and Restaurant Caterers' Employees' Union 100 0 0 Subsidy Dues— Western Branch, A.W.U. 71 18 0 Commonwealth Bank of Aus- tralia, Savings Bank Branch.. 235 8 3 Do, Do, Guarantee Fund 139 2 2 £85,470 18 6</p>	<p>LIABILITIES.</p> <p>Funds— General Fund £ 85,146 4 9 Labor Daily Levy, uninvested, .. 4 1 0 Labor Daily Assistance Fund .. 0 5 0 Memorial Funds— Donald Macdonell 8 13 4 Thomas White 57 12 3 Guarantee Fund 68 5 7 Contingent Liability— For additional claim (amount not yet ascertained) by Westra- lian Branch against Guar- antee Fund 254 2 2 £85,150 10 9</p>

We hereby certify that we have audited the Books of Account of the Australian Workers' Union for the year ended December 31, 1915, and that the foregoing Balance-Sheet is correct and in accordance therewith. We further certify that all moneys shown by the books to have been received during the year have been duly accounted for.

Sydney, January 29, 1916.

W. H. FLITCHER, F.C.P.A.
 W. E. BOOTH, F.C.P.A.
 Auditors.

Australian Workers' Union—Head Office.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure from January 1 to December 31, 1915.

<p>EXPENDITURE.</p> <p>1915. £ s. d. f. s. d.</p> <p>To Shares—Labor Daily £ 460 0 0 Donations— Newsboys' Union 100 0 0 Northern Colliery Employees' Union 1,000 0 0 Salaries— R. Grayndler, General Secretary 500 0 0 C. Alhurst, Assistant Secretary 286 16 0 H. McCulloch, Clerical Assis- tance 208 13 4 Geo. Terry, Clerical Assistance 9 6 8 Legal—Cancellation Case, Station Hands' Case, and General 1,004 15 0 General Expenses and Fares— E. Grayndler, General Secretary, Fares and General 268 9 0 R. Lundie, Westralian Trip 26 12 6 Unveiling Donald Macdonell Memorial at Stuart Mill, St. Arnaud, Victoria 33 10 8 £328 12 2</p>	<p>RECEIPTS.</p> <p>January, 1915. £ s. d. f. s. d.</p> <p>To Bank Balance— Commonwealth Savings Bank, 2,169 6 6 General Cash in Hand 21 19 7 Petty Cash in Hand 1 1 7 December 31, 2,192 7 8 Interest on Current Account 151 18 5 Labor Daily Levy Account— Central Branch, A.W.U. 946 0 0 Queensland Branch, A.W.U. .. 2,255 18 0 Victoria - Riverina Branch, A.W.U. 501 0 0 Tasmanian Branch, A.W.U. 66 0 0 Western Branch, A.W.U. 1,166 14 6 Western Branch, A.W.U. 500 0 0 Labor Daily Assistance Fund 5,435 12 6 £2,732 0 0</p>

166 19 6	162 6 0	"Australian Worker" Advertis- ing and Printing
	3 10 0	Messrs. John Sands, Limited, ing and Printing
	1 3 6	Transfer Cases
Branch Advances—		
	20 0 0	Central Branch, A.W.U.
	80 0 0	Queensland Branch, A.W.U.
	20 0 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	18 0 0	A.W.U.
	17 0 0	Western Branch, A.W.U.
135 0 0		Branch Ticket Sales, 1915 Account—
	2 10 0	Adelaide Branch, A.W.U.
	16 10 0	Central Branch, A.W.U.
	13 14 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	40 0 0	A.W.U.
	13 14 0	Western Branch, A.W.U.
	20 0 0	Western Branch, A.W.U., 1914
92 14 0		Office Furniture
45 15 6		Audit Fees
10 10 0		Guarantee Fund—
62 10 0		Transfer to Guarantee Acc.
		Postage, Telegrams, Incidentals,
		and Exchange—
19 15 1		Postage
37 14 2		Telegrams
23 1 10		Incidentals
8 14 9		Bank Exchange
1 0 1		Cheque Book and Bank Draft ..
21 0 0		Telephone Service, Trunk Line,
		etc.

16

466 15 10		Refunds—
		Australian Carriers' Union ..
		Memorial Funds—Donald Mac-
		donnell Fund—
	147 0 0	Mr. Geo. E. Atyeo, Monu- mental Mason
		"Maddonell Cot" Endowment for three years in Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children
	90 0 0	"Maddonell Cot" Endowment for two years in Renwick Hospital for Children
	60 0 0	W. Taylor, Framing Photos
	0 6 0	Thomas White Fund—
	4 0 0	Mr. C. Marguet, Drawing Design Messrs. Ross and Bowman, Monumental Masons
	46 5 0	Mr. John Heckley, Photographs Mr. W. Taylor, Framing Photos
51 15 6		Executive Council—Fees and Fares—
	36 5 0	Mr. T. L. Brown, Western Australia
	31 10 0	Mr. Thos. Fleming, South Aus- tralia
	50 12 4	Mr. John Bailey, New South Wales
	26 3 2	Mr. Jas. Macpherson, Victoria, New South Wales
	10 8 6	Mr. E. G. Theodore, Queensland Wales
	7 0 0	Mr. A. J. Watts, Western Aus- tralia
	15 0 0	Mr. C. A. Hudson, Western Australia
210 0 0		Sale of Agreements, &c.
	0 13 7	Refund—Mr. George Terry

06

200 0 0		"Worker" Subsidy—
		Tasmanian Branch, A.W.U.
		Guarantee Fund—
		Adelaide Branch, A.W.U., year
	20 0 0	1915
	20 0 0	Queensland Branch, A.W.U.,
	75 0 0	year 1915
	75 0 0	Tasmanian Branch, A.W.U.,
	32 10 0	year 1915
	32 10 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	10 0 0	A.W.U., year 1915
	25 0 0	Western Branch, A.W.U., year
	25 0 0	1915
	12 10 0	Westralian Branch, A.W.U.,
	12 10 0	year 1915
175 0 0		Legal—
	70 9 0	Costs Recovered in Equity Suit Queensland Branch, A.W.U.,
	11 15 10	Sugar Workers
82 4 10		Refund Advances—
	20 0 0	Central Branch, A.W.U.
	80 0 0	Queensland Branch, A.W.U.
	18 0 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	17 0 0	A.W.U.
135 0 0		Branch Ticket Sales Account—
	2 10 0	Adelaide Branch, A.W.U.
	16 10 0	Central Branch, A.W.U.
	16 10 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	13 14 0	A.W.U.
	40 0 0	Western Branch, A.W.U.
72 14 0		P.L.L. Sustainment Fees—
	3 0 0	Central Branch, A.W.U.
	1 0 0	Victoria - Riverina Branch,
	3 0 0	A.W.U.
	1 0 0	Western Branch, A.W.U.
	7 0 0	Sale of Agreements, &c.
	0 13 7	Refund—Mr. George Terry

Australian Workers' Union.

GUARANTEE FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for Year ended 31st December, 1915.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance in Savings Bank Branch, Commonwealth Bank	272 10 0	By Payment First Instalment T. L. Brown Defalcation to Westralian Branch, A.W.U.	200 0 0
Head Office, Guarantee Fee	2 10 0	Cheque Book, 30, at 1d.	0 2 6
Adelaide Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	20 0 0	Balance as at 31/12/1915, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Savings Branch	254 2 2
Tasmanian Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	10 0 0		
Victoria-Riverina Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	32 10 0		
Queensland Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	75 0 0		
Western Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	25 0 0		
Westralian Branch, Guarantee Fee ..	12 10 0		
Interest on Current Account ..	177 10 0		
	£454 4 8		£454 4 8

E. GRAYNDLER,
General Secretary.

Special Organising		Miscellaneous—	
	389 8 10	Refund Western Branch Collection, New Zealand—	2 6 6
		Federation of Labor	2 15 0
		Labor Daily Assistance Fund ..	6 0 0
		P.L.L. Sustentation Account ..	2 4 10
		Mrs. McNamara, Newspapers, etc.	1 0 0
		"Pastoral Review"	0 10 0
		"Industrial Gazette"	2 4 4
		Lighting—Electric Light for General Offices	3 1 0
		Workers' Educational Association Fees	20 1 8
		Convention Expenses—	
		Mr. Jas. Mackay, Official Report, Fares and Fees	67 0 0
		Mr. W. G. Spence, President, Fees	18 0 0
		Mr. I. E. Evans, Doorkeeper ..	18 0 0
		Mr. S. Walder, Hire of Chairs ..	2 0 0
		Loan Account—	92 0 0
		Hotel, Club, Restaurant, and Caterers' Employees' Union Bank Balance, as per Pass Book ..	100 0 0
		Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Savings Bank	236 8 3
			£11,177 17 8

REPORT OF THE WORKER BOARD OF CONTROL

COVERING

AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1915,

AND

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDED DEC. 31, 1915.

Mr. President, Officers, and Delegates,

We beg to present the customary accounts, namely—

(a) Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance-sheet for the year ended May 31, 1915.

(b) Approximate Accounts for seven months ended December 31, 1915.

2. The period covered by these accounts has been the most difficult in recent years. Constant attention has had to be devoted to every detail of the business in order to shepherd our resources for a more trying time ahead.

3. The heavy Federal tax on reel paper and the sharp advance in shipping freights have added greatly to the cost of producing newspapers, while the question of future supplies has been one of constant anxiety. We have now a certain supply of paper for twelve months, and arrangements have been made for further supplies, which will come forward in due course should there be no further disturbance of shipping between America and Australia.

4. The ever-increasing cost of all materials brought from abroad adds to the expense of production, and the continuance of the war may lead to a famine in some essential lines. Every possible effort is being made to provide against such a contingency.

5. Our new offices in St. Andrew's Place were occupied early in the year. They are roomy and central, and have added greatly to the efficiency of the staff. An account showing the cost of the new offices is included in the accounts.

6. As forecasted in our last report, there was a decrease in most items of revenue during the year ended May 31, 1915. Branch payments fell £500; advertising receipts nearly £2000; sales and subscriptions, £250. Wages in some departments were increased by new awards, and other increases should follow the increased cost of living, so that the utmost care will need to be observed in financing the business while the war lasts. Our efforts to meet this new position were so far successful that the year closed with a profit of £1390 13s. 7d. This is less than we would look for in normal times, but under the adverse conditions existing must be regarded as satisfactory.

7. The approximate statement to 31st December, 1915, shows a slight improvement in advertising and a heavy fall in sales and subscriptions. Job printing shows an improvement, due in part to the printing of "The Mirror." These accounts are based on the assumption that Branch payments for the current year will be the same as for 1914-15. It now appears probable that there will be a reduction of nearly ten per cent. in this item. However, the extension of the Union agreed to by this Convention will next year more than compensate for the loss in membership, and with careful management we shall weather the storm.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. SPENCE, President.
E. GRAYNDLER, Secretary.

H. LAMOND, Manager.

THE WORKER ACCOUNTS

MAY 31, 1915.

No. 1.—PROFIT AND LOSS.—THE WORKER.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Advertising and Bill-posting	136	1	2	By Worker Advertising Sales and Subscriptions	9019	12 5
Consumable Material ..	185	6	6		1762	13 9
Commission	1434	5	5			
Cartoons & Illustrations	752	12	1	Branch Payments for Year 1914-15—		
Literary Contributions	660	12	6	1913-1914 (unexpired subscriptions)	580	15 7
Newspapers and Magazines	29	3	8	10,497 Members	2624	5 0
Publishing	422	19	11	Central Branch	2229	0 0
Worker Paper	3016	10	10	Tasmanian Branch	191	10 0
Worker Postage	1506	0	5	Vic.-Riverina Branch	2235	15 0
				Western Branch	2251	5 0
Wages and Salaries—					10,112	10 7
Editorial	2641	2	3	Less Branch Subscriptions unexpired	639	12 6
Mechanical	2855	5	11	Newsagents		0 2 6
Publishing	1282	10	2			£20,255 6 9
Bad Debts—						
Advertising	33	16	0			
Newsagents	10	13	9			
Balance to No. 5 Account						9472 13 1

No. 2.—PROFIT AND LOSS.—JOB PRINTING.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Binding and Other Outside Work	1120	5	9	By Job Printing—		
Commission	59	0	3	The Worker	231	7 11
Consumable Material ..	1950	10	3	General	7312	19 10
Freight	6	5	5	Work in Progress		7544 7 9
				Bad Debts Recovered ..		86 16 6
Wages						40 0 11
Bad Debts						
Balance to No. 5 Account						£7671 5 2

No. 3.—PROFIT AND LOSS.—ETCHING.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Consumable Material	78	19	1	By Etching—		
Wages	205	10	10	The Worker		184 7 10
				General		225 1 3
Balance to No. 5 Account						£409 9 1

No. 4.—PROFIT AND LOSS.—WORKER PUBLICATIONS.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Stock on Hand	95 6 10	By Sales	290 18 9
Printing and Binding	67 14 0	Stock on Hand	70 14 11
General Purchases	2 8 4		
Royalty Cook Book, 1st Edition	10 0 0		
Postage	87 18 6		
	107 13 5		
Balance to No. 5 Account	£290 18 9		

THE CALL.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Wages—	274 13 7	By Advertisers	409 13 11
Editorial	167 16 11	Newsagents	266 11 4
Mechanical	78 9 8	Sales and Subscriptions	105 18 6
Printing and Illustrations	156 12 6	Cash from Contributing Branches	1388 1 0
Cartoons and Illustrations	213 10 7		
Editorial Contributions	336 2 3		
Etching	374 8 9		
Worker Paper	133 19 3		
Publishing	66 8 8		
Bulk Postage	34 14 4		
Consumable Material	85 14 4		
Bill Posting and Advertising	96 11 2		
Commission	12 18 2		
Fares	2 15 3		
Stationery	1 18 4		
Newspapers	1 4 6		
Registration Fees	5 5 0		
Bound Volumes	10 7 6		
Legal Expenses	10 7 6		
Balance to be refunded to the Contributing Branches	251 0 8		
	£2170 4 9		

SALE OF BATHURST STREET OFFICES ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bathurst-st. Building	£2878 13 4	By Sale of Bathurst-st. Property	12,000 0 0
Less Depreciation	47 19 7	(Cash £5500, Mortgage £6500)	0 0 0
Bathurst-st. Site	2830 13 9		
	3925 10 4		
Electrical Installation	212 19 0		
Fire Alarm	67 14 7		
Fittings and Fixtures	608 0 5		
Gas Fittings	20 14 8		
	909 8 8		
Less Depreciation	31 13 1		
Expenses re Sale	432 2 7		
Removal Expenses	479 6 1		
Balance to Capital Account	3454 2 8		
	£12,000 0 0		

No. 5.—PROFIT AND LOSS.—GENERAL.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Audit	40 0 0	By Discounts & Allowances	165 19 2
Bank Charges	34 1 5	Interest Bathurst-street	57 10 10
Board Expenses	72 5 2	Mortgage	5378 6 2
Consumable Material	41 14 10	Balance from No. 1 Acc.	1587 14 10
Fares	17 17 1	being gross profit	
Insurance	136 2 1	Worker	124 19 2
Interest paid to Branches	183 0 0	Balance from No. 2 Acc.	
Interest	95 0 0	being gross profit	
Legal Expenses	976 13 8	Job Printing	107 13 5
Light and Power	218 18 10	Balance from No. 3 Acc.	
Linotype Accessories	27 15 11	being gross profit	
Maintenance Fire Alarm	9 13 6	Etching	7198 13 7
Maintenance and Telegrams	137 3 10	Balance from No. 4 Acc.	
Postage	18 12 2	being gross profit	
Printing and Distributing	16 3 1	Publications	2886 6 0
Red Plague Pamphlets	92 9 10		
Rates and Taxes	291 8 7		
Rent	14 3 7		
Repairs to Building	85 4 6		
Repairs to Machinery	117 9 10		
Services	17 4 0		
Stationery and Office Expenses	35 15 11		
Technical College Fees	20 0 0		
Telephones	192 1 4		
Worker Picnic	2886 6 0		
Melbourne Office	47 19 7		
Depreciations—	21 12 5		
Bathurst-st. Building	7 2 0		
Etching Plant	20 5 5		
Electrical Installation	3 11 10		
Fittings and Fixtures	0 13 10		
Fire Alarm	2 2 9		
Gas Fittings	12 16 11		
Library	673 14 9		
Office Furniture	53 17 6		
Plant	4 13 9		
Type	558 10 9		
Melbourne Office	2186 13 3		
Wages—Managerial and Clerical	100 0 0		
Extra Reserve for Employers	1390 13 7		
Liability	£7422 3 7		
Balance to Capital (Net Profit)	£7422 3 7		

BALANCE SHEET MAY 31, 1915.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Capital	21,476 - 8 2	By St. Andrew's Place Building	13,350 2 4
Less 1086 Tickets (1914-1915) erroneously certified by Vic-Riv Branch last year	271 10 0	St. Andrew's Place Site	7,250 14 10
		Advance Commissions	907 1 8
Bal. from Profit Loss	21,203 18 2	M.S.S. on hand	13 14 6
Bal. being profit on sale of Bathurst-st. Property	1,390 13 7	Electrical Installation	501 15 6
		Fittings and Fixtures	1,094 3 11
Employers' Liability Reserve	3,454 2 8	Gas Fittings	48 4 0
Loans—		Library	4 4 0
Central Branch	2,000 0 0	Office Furniture	124 12 5
Western Branch	1,000 0 0	Office Plant	195 1 0
		Plant	6,507 12 1 7
A.W.U. Executive Advances	2,000 0 0	Type	412 2 7
Western Branch Advances	709 17 2	May Outway Fire Alarm	150 0 0
Advance Advertising	124 2 7	Melbourne Office—	
Advance Subscriptions	50 3 11	Office Equipment	41 15 3
Branch Subscriptions	639 12 6	Rents due	8 13 4
Reserve Against Outstanding returns	60 0 0	Sticky cash on hand	1 0 0
Mortgage Creditors—		Stock on hand—	
Worker Building	2218 11 8	Publications on hand	70 14 11
Interest due on Mortgage	99 2 9	Worker Paper	1,759 12 4
Sundry Creditors—		Stationery	23 19 3
Publications	12 17 7	Consumable Material—	
Suspense Account	251 0 3	Printing	32 14 9
Call Balance to be refunded to contributing Branches	183 12 9	Jobbing	76 17 11
Overdraft Commonwealth Bank	4 13 9	Furnishing	500 2 4
Overdraft Bank of N.S.W., Melbourne		General	110 11 3
			18 5 2
		Work in Progress	2,592 17 11
		Unexpired Premiums—	
		Insurance	42 12 9
		Telephones	8 12 4
		Rates and Taxes	36 0 4
		Newspaper and Magazine Subscriptions	3 11 1
		Sundry Debtors—	
		Advertising	1,298 3 4
		Newsagents	403 12 10
		Job Printing	1,113 15 3
		Less Doubtful Debts	2815 11 5
		Reserve	300 0 0
		Branch Payments Due—	
		Adelaide Branch	548 10 0
		Tasmanian Branch	664 10 0
		Western Branch	29 0 0
		Less Credits—	
		Central Branch	£96 11 8
		Vic-Riverina Branch	189 5 0
		Machinery Suspense	285 16 8
		Telegrams and Postage	956 3 4
		Deposit	43 9 1
		Cash in Savings Bank of N.S.W.	52 15 0
		Cash on hand	368 10 4
		Mortgage Bathurst-st. Property	76 10 7
		Interest due on Mortgage	497 15 11
			6500 0 0
			23 14 2
			£43,866 19 10

We hereby certify that we have audited the books of account of the Worker News-paper and Printing Works, Sydney, for the year ended May 31, 1915, and that the foregoing balance-sheet is in accordance therewith. We further certify that in our opinion the latter has been properly drawn up so as to fairly disclose the position of the business at the date mentioned. Stocks, work in progress, and prepaid commission have been certified by responsible officers, and the values thereof are accepted by us as correct at the figures stated.

W. H. FLETCHER, F.C.P.A., } Auditors.
W. E. BOOTH, F.C.P.A., }

Sydney, Sept. 16, 1915.

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AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

SUMMARY OF BRANCH BALANCE SHEETS, AS AT MAY 31, 1915

ASSETS

	Adelaide.	Central.	Queensland.	Tasmania.	Vic.-Riverina.	Western.	Westralia.	Totals.
	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.
Land and Buildings	5090 0 0	1000 0 0	750 7 4	—	2259 16 10	1052 18 0	—	10,153 2 2
Office Furniture and Effects	180 0 0	134 15 6	361 1 0	21 0 0	124 1 5	219 12 9	61 0 6	1,101 11 2
Motor Cycles, Bicycle, Accessories, Horse, &c.	—	276 2 0	229 17 6	—	—	359 11 6	7 10 0	873 1 0
Investments—								
Shares Kerr & Co.	—	—	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	2 0 0
"Echo" Newspaper	—	—	1307 0 0	—	1461 10 0	—	—	1,461 10 0
Labor Daily Newspaper	—	—	—	—	—	709 17 2	—	1,807 0 0
"Worker" Plant, Old A/c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	709 17 2
Loans and Advances—								
To Agents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
"Worker"	—	2000 0 0	—	—	—	1000 0 0	—	3,000 0 0
Mt. Morgan Local Committee	—	—	25 0 0	—	—	—	—	25 0 0
Labor Papers Limited	—	1000 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	1,000 0 0
Head Office Subsidy (Prepayment)	—	—	1111 11 0	—	—	—	—	1,111 11 0
Ballarat P.L.C.	—	—	—	—	119 15 0	—	—	119 15 0
Central Political Executive (Prepayment)	—	—	131 7 2	—	—	—	—	131 7 2
Rayson Bros. A/c. (Shears to arrive)	250 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	250 0 0
"Worker" Subsidy (Prepayment)	59 4 0	26 16 8	5 10 10	—	—	—	—	32 7 6
T.U.S. (in stock)	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 1 0	70 5 0
Sundry Debtors—								
Subscriptions and Dues	138 17 1	60 2 0	703 19 5	—	59 10 0	47 0 8	—	1,009 9 2
Interest	—	60 0 0	102 6 9	—	—	—	—	162 6 9
Irregular and Dishonored Cheques	—	17 12 6	—	—	—	—	—	17 12 6
Overpayments to Agents, Etc.	—	—	—	—	—	1 10 0	—	1 10 0
Balance Liabilities over Assets	2294 10 3	2331 1 3	7769 2 10	178 17 10	2512 17 11	2888 5 2	649 5 6	1,566 9 3
Cash in Bank	138 8 5	38 3 6	51 9 1	5 18 5	198 3 6	—	—	18,086 14 11
Cash in Hand	£8150 19 9	£6944 13 5	£12,550 12 11	£1123 0 0	£6735 4 8	£6278 15 3	£791 6 8	£42,574 12 8

LIABILITIES

	Adelaide.	Central.	Queensland.	Tasmania.	Vic.-Riverina.	Western.	Westralia.	Totals.
	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.	f. s. d.
Funds—								
Funeral Fund	224 18 6	251 10 0	66 10 2	—	73 4 0	0 4 0	—	616 6 8
Koombana Relief Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	44 19 6	44 19 6
Thomas White Memorial	—	4 18 0	—	—	—	—	—	4 18 0
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	44 10 9	—	—	—	—	11 7 0	—	55 17 9
1915-16 Advance Issues	—	—	4079 7 0	—	—	—	—	4,079 7 0
Head Office Subsidy	—	—	—	927 15 0	—	—	—	927 15 0
"Worker" Subsidy	698 5 0	—	0 5 0	193 15 0	218 0 6	29 0 0	145 9 1	1,284 14 7
Levies—								
Original Levy	—	55 10 0	—	1 10 0	—	—	449 15 0	506 15 0
Special Levy	1117 10 0	—	674 0 0	—	501 0 0	14 10 0	—	2,307 0 0
Queensland "Worker" Building Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4 15 0
Overpayments	—	1 16 6	—	—	—	2 10 0	—	4 6 6
Compensation and Wages Claim	—	10 10 2	—	—	10 18 0	29 8 8	26 8 0	77 4 10
P.L.L. Fees and Dues	—	157 12 8	0 5 0	—	—	—	65 12 6	228 11 2
Ordinary Miscellaneous Creditors	—	65 7 5	58 7 3	—	—	—	33 16 7	157 11 3
Suspense Account	—	—	26 1 3	—	—	—	10 0 0	36 1 3
Trust Accounts	—	—	70 18 8	—	—	—	—	70 18 8
Capital	6065 15 6	6397 8 8	7570 3 0	5932 2 2	6191 15 7	6191 15 7	—	32,157 4 11
Combs and Cutters	—	—	—	—	—	—	15 6 0	15 6 0
	£8150 19 9	£6944 13 5	£12,550 12 11	£1123 0 0	£6735 4 8	£6278 15 3	£791 6 8	£42,574 12 8