

at a discount, the choice being for the already described younger and better, economical carcass. This situation was retained during those years, but naturally relapsed during the war, when the frozen form was resorted to.

Should chilled trade be re-established the fact that good second-grade quarters are readily saleable should prove a sound reason why this particular undesirable carcass

should not gradually go out of existence.

There is one requirement, however, for a successful chilled trade, and that is it must be a continued one, and it is on this aspect that Queensland is up against a major problem. A succession of good seasons with mild winters has possibly made us forget that if left to nature alone, the coastal fattening period is limited and sharply declines with cold weather.

Thus is involved the management of pastures, and before the chilled trade can achieve that success so important to the industry itself, there seems to be no alternative but to envisage a definite fattening activity towards the lines seen in the U.S.A. To these improved areas cattle will be moved from further inland as early as possible and by so doing would thereby avoid the setbacks which are the common story of Queensland cattle.

*Written February, 1950*

## Working Class History

### Townsville's Bloody Sunday

The A.M.I.E.U. Strike in Townsville.

AS a result of several years of struggle with the beef trust, aided by the perishable nature of the product they produced, which was (in season) a circumstance which forced their employer to meet their demands, the members of the abovenamed union succeeded in securing for themselves comparatively good conditions. The militancy which facilitated these was being preserved and fostered by what is wrongly termed,

#### Job Control,

for they did not control the job, but they nevertheless within limits negated the companies' discretionary right to pick and choose its labor power.

Under this the workers were beginning to grow bold and began to work with comfort to themselves and indifference to their employers; foremen who could formerly bully and command were being forced to persuade and plead, and above all, a class bias understanding was beginning to acquire expression.

The many attempts on the part of the company to break this ended in a victory for the workers, but the abolition of Job Control became more and more a matter of necessity—but HOW? They may procure sufficient scabs for the meat industry, but what about the railway workers and the waterside workers? How could these unions be persuaded to scab?

While the companies were so contemplating two prominent Labor Cabinet Ministers entered the picture and advised the companies to force the A.M.I.E.U. into the Arbitration Court and Judge McCawley, who was appointed by the Labor

Party, ordered the cancellation of that which he never gave—Job Control.

I should mention that for several weeks previous to the hearing of the case a strike condition existed, and that in spite of much advertising the companies were unable to procure scabs, but on the decision of Judge McCawley, not only individual men, but whole unions which formerly supported the meat workers, in the name of Arbitration now scabbed with impunity.

Against these odds the strikers entered into an activity of picketing the workers in order to persuade men from being traitors to their class. Some of the pickets were flogged by mounted troopers with stock whips, on others the police drew revolvers and threatened to blow their brains out; complaints by deputation to the Minister for Justice were treated with contempt.

Scabs were supplied with arms; others were sworn in as special constables, and this at a time when not one scab had been assaulted.

All Queensland was overflowing with unemployment; to attract this unemployment to Townsville the Labor Government gave there what they gave nowhere else, that was relief to the unemployed without any uncomfortable formalities, and when the army of labor was sufficiently high they imposed the most humiliating formalities. Many men were forced to scab as a consequence. But many still remained staunch to their union and continued to lift a lance in the new advance. These men could not be tricked by conspiracy, and must therefore be forced into submission by the bayonet and the bullet.

On the afternoon of June 29, now better known as

#### Bloody Sunday

Messrs. Carney and Kelly were arrested on a charge of intimidation by Sub-Inspector Kenny. Kenny, it will be remembered is T. J. Ryan's ideal policeman who was made sub-inspector for refusing to arrest a man who threw a rotten egg at Billy Hughes.

In the evening a crowd of men,

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women and children assembled to give the prisoners a cheer, and request that which was denied—bail. Without any provocation the police fired from the dark recesses of the lock-up; the crowd immediately began to flee for cover, the police keeping up the firing until there was nobody left to fire at. About sixteen were wounded, some of them severely. On the following morning Carney was again refused bail, being taken to and from the Court House under a police guard, and with fixed bayonets.

On the following morning, smarting heavily under the outrage of the preceding day the strikers decided in self-defence against a panic mad police to

#### Seize Arms

and thereupon raided Rooney's and Shaw's procuring for themselves guns and ammunition. A file of police came to suppress the raiders who though nothing more than a confused rabble lined up to give battle. The police retired to the barracks in fear. Sub-Inspector Kenny then wrote to the Strike Committee promising bail for Carney in exchange for the guns, and stating that no future action would be taken against the raiders. This was refused, and the magistrate, after endeavouring to court Carney's influence, to recover the guns, allowed bail. Carney stated he would rather allow his carcass to rot in jail than be so bartered.

Premier Ryan was informed of this letter, and stated that if such were the case, it was very improper and Sub-Inspector Kenny would be dealt with, but he is still Sub-Inspector and is, I believe, the Labor Party nominee for Inspector.

On failing to get back the guns on the bail-barter trick, Kenny sought the aid of the military, but the military officer approached told him it would be better for the Labor Party to carry its own baby.

Premier Ryan then declared: "I have no politics in these matters," and ordered to Townsville 100 militarily equipped police, now better known as

#### Ryan's Bulls.

Machine guns were procured for Ross River and Alligator Creek Meat Works. With the arrival of reinforcements, police persecution began to increase; men were seized, dragged to the lock-up, and beaten unconscious and charged usually with obscene language, the magistrate increasing the penalty on the grounds that that offence was becoming too common; school children were grabbed and taken to the station and bullied for information; their mothers being left in anxious frightfulness. Tom O'Grady, a known antagonist to arbitration, was arrested one night and died early the next morning. His body sustained many bruises. That the workers are convinced that the

Police Murdered Tom O'Grady is proven by the open accusations they make.

To name every instance of police brutality would take too much space; they occur almost every day.

J. O'Brien charged Reardon, president of the A.W.U., with being responsible for

#### Paul Freeman's Deportation.

Reardon began a libel action against the "Courier," for publishing O'Brien's statement, but withdrew it when O'Brien arrived in Brisbane to re-affirm the charge.

Theodore, Fihelly, and others are continually shouting, "Boot out the extremists!" which is always a welcome signal to Ryan's Bulls to increase their bludgeoning outrages. These Bulls could be seen after hours coming from public-houses drunk, demanding to know who had anything to say against the Labor Government, and with filthy lan-

guage abusing and often assaulting some striker or sympathiser.

The arms formerly seized in self-defence were useless against those possessed by the police; it would need a bigger stunt, and that in turn a bigger stunt still, and so on. The people of Australia were not yet ready for that. But that Great Big Stunt is coming and if the workers obtain public power there will be a few Labor M.P.'s and police tried for murder and treason committed against the working class.

The inquiry into the dastardly shooting on the night of Bloody Sunday which produced a compliment for the police, was regarded by the workers as a joke. A lime-light seeker and Mental Flapper like Mr. Kelly, may have taken it seriously. As a consequence of all this, the majority of the workers will have no more Labor Party Government. And the Labor Party can see its own downfall; the leading lights are making themselves secure. While the nobodies must pocket their betrayal and go to work. They will make a move in the direction of becoming respectable revolutionaries, but their disguise is futile for the workers are becoming critical.

The strike was declared off, but the workers have proved that they are not to be trifled with. With fighters for the proletariat like Carney, Neilson and Davis they will come again, in spite of a scheming secretary, who tries to nag them into submission.

YESAC.

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