

## SUPPRESSING THE I. W. W.

The people of this continent cannot but sympathize with the efforts of Australia to suppress the Industrial Workers of the World. This outlaw society has always been and still is the enemy of genuine labor organizations. Under a Labor Government, members of the I. W. W. in Australia have been convicted of counterfeiting, arson, murder and other crimes against humanity and the State.

Punishment has been duly meted out by the courts, but the law has not hitherto provided any machinery for dealing with the more insidious activities of the order. The I. W. W. is a school for crime. It suggests crime, it advocates crime, it incites to crime. The criminal law can deal with burglars, because they do not form an association openly advocating burglary and instigating its members by means of writing and speeches to commit burglaries. Burglars are at war with society just as is the I. W. W., but they do not plead high motives for their depredations, nor do they abuse the privileges of free speech and a free press in order to increase the number of burglars.

Such is the explanation given in the Australian press of a new bill introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament making it a criminal offence for the Industrial Workers of the World or others to advocate or incite the committing of illegal acts or offences and providing penalties for such offences. In introducing the bill, Mr. W. M. Hughes, the Labor Prime Minister, cited from a work on sabotage circulated by the I. W. W. in Australia which suggests the smearing of bread ovens with kerosene and other malodorous matter, the putting of sand or emery powder in the gear of machines, and running cement into tramway gear, and which declares of all such outrages that "the end justifies the means."

Slowing down of production and reduction of output are notorious parts of the propaganda, which Mr. Hughes described as industrial suicide. He denounced the doctrines preached as treachery to the State, and affirmed that it would be a sign of weakness on the part of the Government not to suppress them. Wherever they are found, the I. W. W.'s are a danger to society, and especially to the wage-earners, who would suffer most if these extremists were able to carry out their plan of destroying industry and stopping production. The Industrial Workers of the World have done much harm in Western Canada, as in the United States, but it is to the credit of organized labor in general that it has not been stampeded by these vicious agitators. It is certain that in war-time there should be no room for the I. W. W. within the British Empire.