

asked if Robson was to be brought in. 'Yes,' replied Macdonald. 'But he can't walk,' protested the sergeant-major. At this moment the lieutenant lost his temper, and said, 'Bring him in! Use any force you like!' A few minutes later Robson was carried in unconscious between two soldiers. Almost before he was inside the door, Dr. Newell jumped to his feet and yelled, 'That man is malingering your Worship!' This was more than we could stand, and exclamations of 'Shame!' 'Tyranny!' etc., filled the air, in spite of the cries of 'Silence!' from the policemen. One of our comrades shouted out, 'Do you call this justice? You can put me in hell!'

"All the soldiers and the two who were supporting Robson were nearly breaking down to see the poor chap kept there all the time the court sat. His head was all on one side, and he was as white as a sheet. He said after he came round in the afternoon that he did not remember anything that occurred in the Court.

"We had to face a magistrate and answer a charge of failing to drill and clean guns, without even a quarter of an hour's notice that we were to be tried. In order that we might say all that we wanted to, we pleaded not guilty. Worrall demanded an adjournment of the case, so that we could get a lawyer, but this request was refused, and we were told that we had no case. Bombardier Moir and three other soldiers gave evidence that we had been requested to drill and had refused. — had to give evidence that we had refused to drill, and while he was giving it, his knees nearly broke under him. We could see the tears in his eyes. Still, we decided to ask him no questions, as he has treated us splendidly, so far as is in his power. We left all our questions for the lieutenant, and he found out to his cost that we were not conscripts who did not think. We called him everything. Tom Nuttall asked him if he remembered his promise concerning drill, etc., and he denied it. Worrall threw back at Macdonald the text from which he had preached to some of us on the previous Sunday morning, 'Honour thy father and mother,' and added that we were treated like dogs for doing so. The magistrate interjected that he thought that text meant that we should honour and obey all persons set in authority over us. Williams replied that he was twisting the Bible just as he was twisting the law.

"In the midst of this, we were each sentenced to seven days' extra detention, except Robson, whose case was adjourned for seven days.

"Once outside the chamber of horrors, we again got going, and gave three hearty cheers for Bill Robson, who was being carried back to his bunk in the barrack room. Then came three more cheers for the Passive Resisters' Union, followed by three blood-curdling hoots for the benefit of Lieutenant Donald Macdonald, R.N.Z.A. A similar honour was bestowed on T. A. B. Bailey, S.M.

"A substantial dinner had been prepared, and was offered to the hunger strikers. Seven of the ten decided to feed after forty-eight hours starvation, on condition that it was served in the barrack room. Williams, Hooper and Worrall desired further concessions, demanding among other things that they should be given their bedding in their cells during the day. Not satisfied with the answers to these demands, they refused the tempting dinner that was brought to their cells. Later in the day, they were assured that they would be allowed to have their blankets during the next day, that the rations would be increased, and that we should all be allowed to have our meals together in the barrack room. That evening, the three last hunger strikers, after a fast of fifty-eight hours, had tea with their comrades in the barrack room. During Thursday afternoon we were each asked twice if we would drill and clean armaments, but all hands refused as usual."

#### LABOUR CONGRESS TO THE RESCUE.

On Friday, July 4th, a letter from the boys on Ripa Island was read at the Labour Congress then sitting at Wellington. The Congress, comprising delegates from nearly all the Trades Unions in New Zealand, resolved, on the motion of Mr. McCullough, the Workers' Representative on the bench of the Industrial Arbitration Court:

"That this Congress strenuously protests against the wicked and barbarous method of imposing solitary confinement on the boys now incarcerated on Ripa Island for refusing military service, and calls upon the Government in the interests of humanity to immediately release these boys."

That evening, the members of the Congress, to the number of 400, marched in a body to Parliament Buildings. Twenty were admitted to interview the Prime Minister (Mr. Massey) and the