

IRISH OPINION

THE VOICE OF LABOUR

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

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MARCH 30, 1918.

ONE PENNY

Co-operation for National Unity.

Our-Selves.

The Trams & The Tyrant.

Poisonous Private Slaughter Houses

DOES THE CORPORATION CARE?

The Tragedy of the Child.

Wedged in among dwellinghouses, eating like a cancer into the heart of the city, is the private slaughter house. It is hidden away there for the shame that is on it. Grouped around its doors is a knot of children, and at times women with babes in their arms join the group to witness the carnal scenes. The children are mostly slum children, for it is in the foul air of slumdom that the unscrupulous butcher carries on his anti-social work. The children are ragged, barefoot, dirty and verminous, but despite that they are pressed into service to hold portions of the carcase while the men are skinning it. Sometimes they dodge the school purposely for this, lured by the attractions of the "Jungle." Other times they are not allowed to attend school owing to running sores and various other diseases, but that does not matter at all to the butcher, he uses them and the children get an education in filth. Strong words these, but my readers can test the truth of them at any time by paying a visit to these centres of corruption. Control and inspection in these houses is almost impossible and in consequence there is grave risk of

People Being Poisoned

by diseased meat. If I describe what I have witnessed perhaps it will assist the reader to realise the danger. I have seen, not once, but many times, liver, fat, lungs and udders being taken from an animal and kicked—literally kicked—about the floor. The floor is not clean, nobody would dare to assert that it was, yet this is how food destined for human consumption is treated. These inside portions of the carcase are then REMOVED WITHOUT INSPECTION and sold to a trusting public who rely on the Public Health Department to guard them against disease from this source and pay heavily for the service. There is greater danger of disease being communicated to the public from these inside portions than from any other part, as any medical man will

inform you, and a large percentage of offal is condemned as unfit for human consumption WHEN IT HAS TO UNDERGO INSPECTION. The liver and udders are particularly subject to disease.

The Public Health Department

cannot possibly control this danger. They would require a staff of 100 trained men to handle it effectively, because there are approximately 60 private slaughter houses pouring their poison into the public stomach. Animals in any state can be brought into these places and quickly passed into the shops for sale, and detection is extremely difficult. The meat inspector cannot always be in a shop or in a private abattoir, and between his visits disease laden meat could easily be slipped away. The fact that they do encounter and condemn such meat occasionally is a sufficient indication that the public is being poisoned by diseased meat which has not been detected by the authorities owing to the existence of the private slaughter house. Of the many deadly diseases to which cattle are subject, anthrax is perhaps the most deadly, and in 1916 no fewer than 679 people were found to be suffering from that loathsome trouble, while 84 deaths resulted from it. This is indeed serious! Foot and mouth disease also occurs periodically, and when it comes there is little or no protection against it so long as the private abattoir is allowed to continue. Now let us contrast this with

The Public Abattoir

in the North Circular Road. What a difference and what an absolute guarantee it affords of safety to the public! Let us read Bye-law No. 33. "No animal or carcase, or part of a carcase, or any other article or thing, shall be removed from the premises without being previously reported, and if required exhibited to the superintendent, who shall give the person a pass, bearing a number corresponding to that

(Continued on page 211.)

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Trams and the Tyrant.

Why should Irish tramway workers get a lesser increase on pre-war wages than tramway workers in England, Scotland and Wales? Mr. William Martin Murphy and the Dublin Tramway Company have declined to apply the recent award of the Committee of Production to their employes because, forsooth, it is alleged that conditions in Ireland do not demand its application here. The grounds of Mr. Murphy's decision have no base in fact, for the truth is that the increase in the cost of living is no less in Dublin than in most English cities. No, the real cause of the company's refusal is its unwillingness to act decently towards the men it employs. As in 1913, so in 1918, Dartry Hall provides the villain of the piece. It is the same in Cork, but in Cork the excuse is different. In Dublin it is the cost of living, in Cork it is alleged inability to pay dividends. But in both it is Mr. Murphy. Mr. R. Williams, of the Transport Federation, has made a fair and reasonable offer to settle amicably or refer the question to the Committee on Production. In the interests of the men in Dublin, Belfast and Cork, we hope the Committee's award will be extended to Ireland without any trouble. If not, then it is up to the men to act upon the week's notice they have given and withdraw their labour on Saturday. If they are compelled to take this drastic action, we hope both the employees and the travelling public will teach Murphy the lesson he should have learned long ago. It is only a question of time until the best noted trade unionists are "combed out" through the reduction of the services, and a lock-out is better than a comb-out.

The Lock-Out in the "Trade."

At the time of writing no final settlement of the lock-out in the Dublin licensed trade has been arrived at, but the end does not seem far off. The Assistants' Union are to be congratulated on their first brush with the bosses. We were told that it was preposterous to suggest that trade union practices should be applied to this particular business. Every employer says the same of his business, be his line of trade what it may. But now it appears the impossible has happened since the assistants and their employers met in conference under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor. The first of the assistants' demands, recognition of their union, has been practically won, and agreement has also been reached on the apprentice question. The outstanding question, the minimum wage, has been referred to arbitration and will, it is understood, present no insuperable difficulties in the conclusion of a settlement. The assistants have thus won a victory on principle and have more than a fighting chance of gaining their immediate ends. More power to them.

Without doubt the victory in Dublin will spur assistants in other centres into activity and show them the benefits of organisation and solidarity. In Belfast

the assistants have a vigorous union and on more than one occasion they have shown their mettle. Is there anything to prevent their comrades in other cities from doing as these fighters in Dublin and Belfast have done? Nothing but their own indifference to their own interests and the lack of the initiative essential to the first steps. Dublin has given a good lead and other centres should now follow. With these assistants, as with all other sections of labour, the first step is organisation and entry into the trade union movement. Organise is the order of the day.

Labour Day.

The Glasgow workers, like those in Dublin, have decided to hold Labour Day this year on the 1st of May, and not on the first Sunday. Glasgow and Dublin are the two cities in these countries that lead the van in the militant army of Labour, and from them, if from nowhere else, we may always expect a bold lead. Workers in other Irish towns and cities are to celebrate Labour Day for the first time, in most instances on the Sunday. We would plead for the 1st of May. May Day is International Labour Day and is the one day in the year devoted by the workers to their own enjoyment, benefit and advancement. Now that the idea is being taken up so generally in Ireland we might as well apply it on the day chosen by the International and observed by trade unionists and Socialists on the Continent. In some places, particularly where Labour is badly organised, the first Sunday of the month must suffice for this year at all events. But where the unions are strong and well organised, trade unionists ought to clamour for their holiday on the 1st of May.

A Word to the Young Bloods.

We welcome reasoned criticism of the Irish Labour Party and the Labour movement in all its aspects, and we are glad to note that from some directions at least there is coming criticism that will provoke thought. For our weakness in the Labour movement, as in every other movement in Ireland, is a lamentable indifference to thought and a woeful neglect of reasoned argument. There is no movement in Ireland that does not suffer from a surfeit of emotionalism, and most are guided rather by instinct than by reason. We are the last in the world to deny the intrinsic value of emotion and instinct and of the free play of natural feelings. But all our movements are too much movements of the heart and two little of the head. The happy union of heart and head, that is the ideal some of us strive for, is most often an unrealised dream. Hence a reasoned criticism of Irish Labour, above all a criticism that will provoke our workers to think for themselves, is so eminently desirable that we commend "Lector's" recent article in our pages to our readers, and especially to the young men and young women who are asserting themselves in the Labour

movement. Just as too much had been made of the romance of history and the inevitable reaction compelled perhaps undue stressing of the materialistic conception, so in the pursuit of ideals an overdose of emotion may produce a reaction compelling undue importance to be attributed to reason and thought. But we can well afford the tilting of the scales on the side of thought for a time, for they have been too long tilted on the side of unthinking rhapsody and rhetoric. Think rightly if you can, wrongly if you must, but think and argue and debate. If the young bloods of Irish Labour will do this they will one day give us again that great dynamic force that was the great gift of James Connolly to the Irish people of our generation.

ÉIRE NA DÚRÉAN.

Le LIAM P. O RIAIN.

Óaoime againn dá mbaineann le Connrad na Saéoilge lonnóan do-cúamair ar tuair go cúige ulaó an oíce pá óeire. Tuair oíaoirdeacta do bí ann, agus do b'é P. S. Ó héigeartaig do bí 'sáir oíreorú ó éir. Óeire. Do tárla rinn i oíir eozain an can do bí doó ó néill 'na óige. Ní raib doó ra oútaí, ámtac, le páilte do éur nóimain; bí pé tall i lonnóan á páil oídeactar ó liphex agus a luéc leanca. Ní óearna ran moíán buairca óúinn; éur páoiraig ó héigeartaig 'na luige oíainn go raib an poíumte ós go han-élic, dá óige é; nac raib pé có oíir do "béal a múinte" a'p do íaoil a lán; agus nár. óaoíat dá íaoilacáir i gcúirca Saíana.

Saothar agus Eizse.

Bí it-neite cáitneamaca ar ár n-áire láitneac ball. Da léir óúinn go raib an t-óro íaoilac i lán-néim i oíir eozain agus i oíir éonail; níor buiréad ar íbialtaic ná rean i gcúige ulaó na dúréan. Curo againn as a éfuil oí-eolur ar leabna 'r ar oídeamái Séamuir uí éonáile do munneamair ísúróú ar íaoilac-paoíal luéc paotair. Ní raibmar páirca amuis 'r amac le n-a raib le n-áiríú 'na oíreó. Sídeac, do bí éigre agus cinéal áille ar páil acá. Ac pámluigeac pé óúinn íur oual oíib tuille poílama, tuille átair, agus tuille na paóirpe peairanta có maic céadna. Du íeal linn pór neair eolur a beic as luéc éigre a'p eile ar éúrráí líríóicta na héorpa cómáimpearó. Du níor an cairde do méanmáin na mbáro agus do ppoíac na noaoime an t-eolur céadna agus an ppeacacó mtleacta do béad i noáin oíib dá báir. Aoir Tappo, aoir éamoér do béad í. . . . Do b'aoibinn linn nac raib caipitealac le n-áiríú ar don éuma.

Epopée Uladh.

Du íeal le n-a lán againn ísúróú níor oíimne do óéanam ar na neite reo, ar áigne agus ar pmaointe na ngnac-óaoime go háirte. Ac ar oíeact ábailé do doó ó néill do b'éigim óúinn leanúinc do éúrráí eile. Óáimígeamair íliocair, agus cimíeact áimáilte, agus (o'íir camáil) íaoíar. Do bíomar a époíair íol-lacé (Ar leanamaint ar leacanaó a 210.)

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

Lord Mayor O'Neill on Wages.

Most of the misery in the city and most of the evils of drink were caused by the low rate of wages paid to and by the wretched housing of the working classes. Owing to many causes, for which they had not perhaps to thank the employers, wages were a little better.

And Mr. Joseph Mooney, J.P., was one of the platform ornaments and speakers at the same meeting. D.U.T.C.

Socialist Party.

Sean O Cathasaigh's lecture suffered in attendance from good weather, but those who came participated in a keen discussion. Liam Paul recited in excellently appropriate style Pearse's oration on O'Donovan Rossa. There will be no meeting on Easter Sunday. Look out for further announcements.

Socialism Spreading.

There are once more five branches of the S.P.I. in Ireland, and two have been established in Scotland—at Glasgow and Paisley. The Dublin committee is acting pro tem. as National Executive until a convention can be summoned. Will comrades anxious to form branches in their districts communicate with the Secretary.

Co-operation in Dublin.

Comrade Doyle writes from London to learn if any result has followed from the Industrial Co-operative's deputation to the Trades Council. We regret to say that no progress is evident. It is not creditable to the intelligence of the Dublin worker that he should fight like the devil to get money from the boss only to hand it over to the boss's brother, the private profiteer.

Mr. McDermott, of the A.S.E., has been elected to the Committee of the Dublin Industrial Co-operative Society. We hope this will lead to an influx of trade unionists. It is just a little discreditable that a city with 20,000 trade unionists should give so little support to co-operation.

Shell Factories and Engineers.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers is taking time by the forelock and planning out a policy for after the war.

The Irish organisers recently met the officials of the Ministry of Munitions, Area No. 10 (Ireland), and arranged that in any post-war reduction of staffs the dilutees should go first and that as openings occur for skilled men, unemployed members of the union will have preference.

The engineers in railway shops are still awaiting the settlement of their claim for an advance in wages. The Railway Executive Committee is postponing a decision by prolonging correspondence. We advise them not to try the men's patience too long.

Since January 1st, Dublin, the home of Murphyism, has slain 252 children under one year and 467 under five years of age.

Murphyism Rampant.

The autocrat of the streets to whom the corrupt corporators of the past presented the highways of the city, has announced the suspension of traffic on certain lines. Citizens are grumbling, the T.C.'s will protest, meanwhile Murphy saves the expense of these routes and sacks trade union tramway-men.

Public convenience is not consulted. Murphy's aim is profit. Dublin pays dearly, especially Clonsilla and Clontarf, for its horror of Socialism, even of that milk and water kind that municipalises tramways.

Lipton's.

An anonymous correspondent points out that our references to the Irish managers may be interpreted as applying to the men in charge of branches. The people responsible for Lipton's Irish policy are the District Inspectors—a title with unsavoury associations.

What's Wrong with the S.C.W.S.?

Co-operation is in bad odour in Enniskillen at present. Three Enniskillen bacon curers have been refused allocations of pig carcasses by the Food Controller and as a result have had no work for their men. Two of these curers are private traders and they have retained the services of their employees.

The other establishment is owned by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, which was refused an allocation because it submitted a false return to the Food Controller. In any case it had over-purchased and could not expect the supply for March. These Scotch democrats promptly pay off 40 men without consideration for their wives and families.

The S.C.W.S. invasion of Ireland we have always thought a mistake. It is the very negation of the co-operative principle. Better far that the S.C.W.S. should have aided in the establishment of local bacon factories than that it should have begun to operate at Enniskillen on thoroughly capitalist lines—even in its treatment of the workers.

Now, Bob Stewart, we want you to act. Re-open the factory. You can find work of some kind, and for the future try to introduce the spirit of co-operation in Enniskillen.

Our Enniskillen correspondent has discovered that St. John's Apocalypse is not complete. Another John (no saint, this one) has visited the headquarters of the Cooneyites to promise more miracles "in the near future." The Enniskillen workers are not waiting for John Dillon's "near future"—they are joining the N.A.U.E.

Guide to Versifiers.

M. C. (Roscrea)—Get M. H. Gill's Intermediate text books on English Literature, Junior, Middle, or Senior Grade, and study carefully.

We hear that the Light Weight Champion who employs the women grocers is to be the candidate for the new Saint James' Division. His platform is calculated to please all parties. Now then, Labour, who is your candidate?

Belfast Pawnbrokers.

A deputation of the Pawnbrokers' Branch of the Shop Assistants' Union visited the Employers' Association on 19th inst. to urge that the shops close for three days at Easter. The employers have since arranged to close for two days, which the assistants regard as satisfactory.

It is surprising to learn that pawnbrokers' assistants are still being paid at pre-war rates. With the purchasing power of the sovereign at 9s. 6d., that means their wages have been reduced by more than half. There is no excuse for this state of affairs, and we hope the assistants will at least bring back the real value of their wages to their pre-war standard.

Sligo has formed a branch of the Irish Automobile Drivers' and Mechanics' Union, which embodies every eligible man in the district. This is the fifth town which has been made completely blackleg proof.

Lower Than The Horse.

The high wages of the workers are universally put forward as the explanation of high prices. The half-yearly report of the United Co-operative Baking Society, Belfast and Glasgow, shows that other factors are at work.

INCREASES.

On 1916-17 costs—Wages, 13 per cent.; fuel, 33 per cent.; horses, petrol, etc., 38 per cent.

On pre-war costs—Wages, 23 per cent.; fuel, 58 per cent.; horses, petrol, etc., 63 per cent.; paper, 174 per cent.

Horses must be fed, and if the cost of keeping a horse rises by 58 per cent., the horse owner must pay.

The cost of feeding the inferior two-legged cattle—men—has risen by 114 per cent. Wages have risen only 23 per cent. The owner only pays one-fifth of the extra cost. The man tightens his belt.

Workers Educational Association.

T. J. (Belfast) informs us the Belfast W.E.A. has carried on classes in Botany, Economics, Irish Industrial History, and kindred subjects for seven winters, with courses of public lectures on Saturday evenings. It has also circulated widely proposals for Educational Reform in Ireland, which we may discuss fully in the future.

Queenstown.

The recent declaration of the Bishop of Cork and his clergy with regard to the proposed hospital in Spike Island is timely, but his Lordship might well direct public attention to the state of affairs prevailing here. He will have behind him the public opinion of the town.

ANDREW
DOYLE

Transport Union Notes.

Dublin Dock Worker.

The steady depletion of Irish shipping by sinking and commandeering goes on, and the dock workers have an ominous outlook. Efforts are being made to secure a better allocation of shipping, and some improvement may be looked for.

Work or Wages.

If it does not eventuate, what is the docker to do? He must demand from the shipping industry and the Government, since the profits of his labour go to them, a full sustenance for himself and family, whether he is employed or not.

Pertarlinton.

Messrs. Russells still remain obstinate, but their creditors cannot be expected to approve the continued employment of scab labour at fancy wages and food galore.

Sergeant Devlin, R.I.C., is pursuing a course of action towards the strikers that can only be described as provocative. The imprisonment of one-legged men may gratify his peculiar tastes, but it does not conduce to good order in the town.

Athy.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien last Sunday addressed a great meeting which was planned as a mere organising meeting but which turned out to be a town's labour demonstration with two hands. The workers' cause will not look back, and a branch of the Union will be working here within the next few weeks.

Bagenalstown.

A new branch was opened by Mr. T. Farren on Sunday, 24th inst., with a large enrolment.

Leixlip.

The workers at Wookey's are pressing their claim for increased wages—and God knows they need a rise. The working week in this year of grace runs to 70 hours a week, and sometimes more, and for this men, Christian men with wives and families to feed, clothe and house, are expected to thank Wookey's for 15s. or 17s. If they keep good time—in starting—the men get 1s. a week good time bonus, but if they lose two hours they lose the bonus. There is no bonus for a prompt stoppage.

Boys of 15 years of age, with bodies unformed, labour for the same hours and get 10s. in wages. They can have no time for sport, for self-culture, or even for religious duties. The carters start at 7 a.m. and on the days they take their horse to Dublin they return home about 9 or 10 p.m.

While on this day's excursion on the open road they are allowed 6d. for meals en route!

The County Dublin farmers are in friendly negotiation with the Union for the settlement of standard rates of wages for agricultural workers throughout the county.

The Building Trades Conference.

The outcome of the policy recently adopted by the Dublin Trades Council of

making an all-round push for increased wages, has been that the united demands of all the workers employed in the building trades has secured earnest and fair consideration from the employers.

The employers, acting jointly, called a conference of all trade unions affected, the Trades Council attending. The workers demand was for 6d. per hour increase on pre-war wages. The employers' offer of 4d. per hour has been accepted, after reference to the men. This means that generally tradesmen will have 1s. 1d. per hour as against 9d. per hour pre-war. Wages generally will be increased by from 12s. 6d. to 16s. 8d. per week.

This has been won by unity of demand. The deduction is, unity of organisation should be maintained.

THE PROFITEERS' FRIENDS.

Unhampered by public control or criticism, the British Food Ministry in Kildare Street carries on as the chief agent of public and private robbery of the common people.

Milk.

The other week it was announced that the Ministry was about to fix the price of next winter's milk and the milk profiteers, the purveyors of filth, are invited to collaborate. Mr. Kinnear advertises that the prices will not be lower than this year's.

Tea.

Many workers have been refused supplies of tea on the plea of shortage. Despite the alleged shortage an advertisement in last Monday's papers allows an extended period during which the tea profiteers may demand 3s. 8d. per lb., or 1s. 4d. in excess of control price.

The tea-men, who have been talking about shortage, will now have ample supplies to sell at 3s. 8d.!

NOTES FROM CORK.

On the first Sunday in April a convention of delegates from the unions will decide whether the Trades Council is to adopt the Trades Congress scheme of labour representation upon a national basis or continue on the old unprogressive local basis. It is to be hoped that Trade Unionists, who are alive to the needs of the hour and want the political labour movement to be conducted on a national basis, will see to it that their unions instruct their delegates to adopt the Trades Congress scheme.

There is at Cork University a Workers' Educational Association for lecturing to workmen about the moon and about pre-Christian archaeology. In the same university there is a course of post-Christian capitalism. Boys are employed by the College to weed and work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for five shillings a week, with stoppages for any time lost on wet days or by slackness. The boys have struck and are now replaced by little girls who dig dandelions for four shillings a week. What do the workers and the students think?

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ÉIRE NA OIRIÁN (6 leathán a 207).

reacáir doo ó néill agus doo. Rua ó Dóinnail. Do b'éadac an ceapántar do curadóir ar an gcóirín pá tseorú pártáil uí éiréarais. Uí ábair ní-éropée ann. Uí cúmaéta neam-éoiriannata le moctú ra gliaíó go minic. Do éirínnigear ar a nroubairt a. e. trác: surab inr an rriopad a éorruigear saé gníom ríor-íaoéca. Do éirínnigear ar bun-oirdeam do bun-oirdeamaí ríli an laocair, ó nomérop go camoér: go mbíonn bainé as na véite (nó mún-cúmaéca) réin le móir-éogaó ar ron ruailce agus dúcair. Do éirínnigear ar seaéctain na cársa, 1916.

Eachtraí an Lae Indiú.

Agur reo nro a éiríneann úna oim. Ir beas trác acá ar doo ó néill i bhrífoct saéoilge. i bhrífoct na nultac réin, má'r buan mo éiríne. Tá oíl-manntacé asainn um eoşan rua: eoşan a' éosaíó mar glaoctar air; agus do'cuill ré i san don asó. Ac doo ó néill, agus doo ó Dóinnail, agus a gcó-éoirí! Ir réirín il-réad ríleata do ríomáó um a n-imeacéca agus a laocair. Dúiríó, a ríli! Ac ná véanaió veairmáó, iar nroureacé daoib, do úian-éropó an lae inoiu: an éropó ar ron na b'pó-éaóine, ar ron raóirre na meannan agus ráir aigeanta: Uíóinn ríor-ábair rílióca ionainn réin agus i n-ár otiméall de ríor.

Aighe agus Talamh.

Dá mba nro é go raib buanar i n'pán do'n óro saolac véad ré pánaé as luéc caipcealaéca veit as rúil le cúmaéct i néirinn, dar le pártáil ó héiréarais. Tíocraó acá móir ar raogal na n'raóine le himeacéca aimpire san aimpur, ac do learráí do'n réin éumannaí i gcúrráí raocair a' r' véantúraí. I scáir na neite rin véad éire na héiríompláir gluaróca do érióca na héorpa, dar leir. Uí léarráir agus ionróillríú le n-aiú' na trác ar an rúnéangal a bíó (agus a bíor) roir aighe na n'raóine agus talamh an dúcair.

Szannail na Szóilann.

An oíce céadna do éugamar an bócaí óirínn rór agus ní veairmáir r'cao ná cóinnuí go raibmar ar air i gcónaéca na rean: agus seán mac h'óil, áro-éarboş. Tuam, as éropó go tréad ar ron na saéoilge. Máire ní flannáile do 'bí sa' n'ceorú an taca ro, agus ba lágaé léiréannata an tseorú í, mar ip dual do inşin tomáir uí flannáile. Uí cúir b'póin agus cúir doibneara meargca le n-a céile ran raóaire agus ran r'éal, ní sa óom a ráó. Cúrráí-oirdeacair i néirinn ó'n am ran go oí an lá inoiu! Ir r'zannalac íao. Agus ip eagal liom go b'ruil na r'ir oibre neamáiréacé i véaóib na r'zannla go r'óill. Ní hamláir sur toil leo éropó le tréannar ar ron eiré aigeanta agus raóirre inleacéca a zelonne. Ir micró 'oóib eirge, ar nóir luéc raocair i véoréca eile. Ní trác ó'a fáillí 'oóib é.

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Thos. Scully, A.B., writes to ask the sailors and firemen of the port of Dublin when they are going to wake up and call a halt to the half-gods of Maritime Hall who are using the members of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union in the interests of capitalism and British Imperialism.

POISONOUS PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

(Continued from front page.)

in the register of animals or articles removed, such pass shall be handed to the gatekeeper before the bearer can pass out." This is no lightly made rule, "more honoured in the breach than in the observance," but is strictly carried out in all its details. Every care is exercised to guard the public health and meat condemned as unfit is removed for destruction. The entire place is under constant and strict supervision and is equipped with suitable plant for the proper handling of the animals. Cleanliness in all sections is rigidly enforced, even to the cloths with which the meat is covered for removal to the shops, as I pointed out last week. One fault only do I find, but it is a very serious one indeed, and I would strongly urge the authorities to have it remedied. It is this. The blood of slaughtered animals is caught in shallow pans and then transferred to barrels and cans. Therefore all blood is mixed. But if the carcass or any portion of it is condemned as unfit for human food the

Blood is Never Condemned,

and indeed it may have been already removed from the abattoir for the purpose of making black puddings. Purify the blood and you purify the flesh, say the doctors, yet here you have scientific men aiding and abetting the spread of disease in our city. The remedy for this is obvious and as easy as it is apparent. All blood can be set aside until it has been passed as pure by the meat inspector.

The Obvious Remedy.

The presence in our midst of disease-spreading centres is a foul blot on our city. It is a black page in the history of civic authority and civic progress, and it leaves Dublin, not Ireland's Capital and Erin's Guide, but leaves it straggling behind our other cities with out of date methods and slipshod, filthy practices. The remedy is to abolish the private slaughter house and concentrate all killing in the public abattoir. There it can be cleanly and scientifically handled and as the city grows the abattoir can be extended to meet the demand, for the Corporation possesses exactly double the amount of land at present occupied by the abattoir. Interviewed on this question, the Food Controller stated:—"Wherever practicable, the establishment of slaughter-houses run on co-operative—i.e. public—lines will be encouraged, and the Ministry of Food are in communication with the Board of Agriculture as to the best means of organising these." Action must be taken at once, and Trade Unions, Co-operative Societies, Sinn Fein Clubs, the Socialist Party of Ireland, and indeed all bodies with the public weal at heart should discuss this evil and forward resolutions to the Corporation demanding its immediate remedy.

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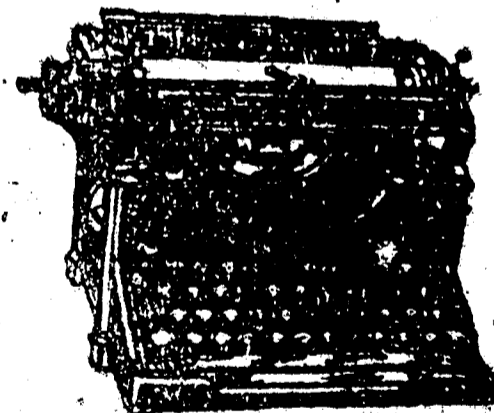
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In Briton Ferry, South Wales, one in every twenty-four persons buys the "Labour Leader."

If "Irish Opinion" sold in Ireland in like proportion our circulation would exceed 120,000 copies. It doesn't.

Blackburn (Lancs.) people paid £58 to hear Philip Snowden speak the other Sunday.

Co-operation as a Base for National Unity.

A Co-operator's Reply to Lector.

Lector makes a plea for friendly discussion. He places before readers of "Irish Opinion" several points of issue apparently irreconcilable. He claims for Sinn Fein that it is essentially a national and economic movement. He fears that an Irish Labour Party would mean the same old game played by workers instead of gombeen-men, and is troubled by Connolly's extraordinary change from cosmopolitan communism to Irish revolutionary socialism. He exhibits some distrust of English Trade Unions but is anxious lest the connection be too hastily cut, and finally he asks, "What exactly does Irish Socialism mean?" What he claims for Sinn Fein might reasonably be given as a simple answer—it is essentially a national and economic movement. Surely no less could be said of an Irish Labour Party with or without the moral and economic gulf possible between it and Sinn Fein. Who shall say that Connolly's life's work was other than national and economic? And whether our Trade Union headquarters are in Dublin or in London their Irish utility is still national and economic. Even the Redmondite Nationalists claim national and economic good derived from the piecemeal legislation they have succeeded in obtaining, whilst Ulster Unionism is in fact national and economic.

Probably no writer in recent times has succeeded in getting to bedrock on Irish subjects with the same directness as James Connolly. His chapter on Labour and Co-operation in the "Re-conquest" is one of the most eloquent appeals to the commonsense of Irishmen that it has ever been their good fortune to hear, but since it was made it has been passed by almost unheeded. The urban societies for whose benefit the appeal was mainly intended, are still in much the same parlous condition. Here, as Connolly shows, is a method of direct action at once national and economic. It has the great advantage of in no way interfering with the progress of any other "movement" having similar aims—unless, perhaps, that which Mr. Thos. Johnson calls "Ulster Capitalism." Excepting capitalism it provides an ample field of national and economic endeavour for Catholicism, Socialism, Protestantism, Sinn Feinism, Unionism, Trade Unionism, and all the "isms" one can readily enumerate, probably giving more strength than weakness to each, or at any rate to whichever may be based on really sound principles. At first this looks a tall order—but think. A scrutiny of the different co-operative committees working in Ireland at present would discover each of the "isms" well represented. The chairman of the Lloyd George Convention, the Stockholm delegate, clerics of all denominations, and Sinn Feiners and Parliamentarians beyond number here find a common cause,

national and economic. And why? Because the co-operative movement is at once collective and individualistic. It provides a system which preserves the rights of the least equally with those of the most important individuals. Does Lector work actively in his spare moments for his local society or does he still continue to hand the profits of what his Irish stomach consumes over to the gombeen-man or the English of International Trusts? Does he (and those of his readers to whom the question applies, be they Sinn Fein or Trade Unionist) recollect that every shilling spent in undemocratically-controlled concerns is a shilling to be used in the future to his (and their) disadvantage? Spending is essentially an economic question. It is very prosaic, this Peaceful Revolution that Connolly preached, but it is and can be made, as he shows,

"Capable of almost infinite expansion, and not the least amongst its attractions is the hope that the minds of Irish men and women, once set thus definitely in the direction of common work, common ownership, and democratically controlled industry, their thought would not cease from travelling that path until they had once more grasped the concept of an Ireland of whose powers, potentialities and gifts each should be an equal heir, in whose joys and cultures all should be sharers."

Reading these words one hears that noble voice calling "shame" to the men for whom he spent his life, who, when the Government (to which they have such professedly rooted objection) imposed a simple sugar ration card, gave those cards to the gombeen-men and Trust shops and passed by the doors of the democratically-controlled shops which can find place for them all without prejudice to any of the different lines along which Lector scents cleavage. Lector is to a great extent reasonable and right. He finds points of difference and points of agreement between Sinn Fein and Labour. The Co-operator points a way which will include not only Sinn Fein and Labour but Parliamentarian and Revolutionary as well, and this without detriment to other spheres of action. Connolly saw the possibilities of this practical method and looked to the linking up of town and country with great hope. The country does fairly well, but they have, as yet, little to link up with. The townsmen still, apparently, prefer the gombeen-men and the Trusts. Your Republic, your Colonial Home Rule, or your status quo ante make no difference, the struggle for economic freedom will remain.

"For the only true prophets are they who carve out the future which they announce."

CO-OP.

OURSELVES.

When appealing for support for "Irish Opinion and the Voice of Labour" four months ago I stated that when the paper had justified its existence as an honest, untrammelled exponent of the cause of Labour in Ireland, I was prepared to invite my friends of the Labour Movement to share the responsibility for its continuance.

I have decided, somewhat sooner than I anticipated would be necessary, to fulfil my promise (or threat!) and have asked a committee of men prominent in the Labour Movement to take steps to form a Co-operative Society to relieve me of my trust. By this means it is hoped that sufficient new capital can be raised to keep the paper in being until peace conditions return and allow newspapers to be produced at a reasonable cost.

The reduction in size compels the forfeiture of some of the most valuable features of our little journal, and it has been decided that a more direct appeal must be made for the support of the average worker. A larger proportion of space will therefore be devoted to the work of the Trade Unions, their demands, problems, and branch activities. For this reason it is considered desirable that the editorial control should be in the hands of someone in daily contact with the Trade Union Movement, and **Mr. Cathal O'Shannon** of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (also well known in the Gaelic League and Militant National Movement), has kindly undertaken the responsibility.

I desire to thank all those who have helped to establish the paper by contributing so freely and so ably to its columns. In particular I wish to acknowledge the services of Mr. Andrew E. Malone, who, with rare ability has edited the paper and brought it through difficulties the nature of which only those in close contact with his department can appreciate. Mr. Malone undertook the editorship at my pressing request, without thought of reward, his sole desire being to assist the democratic hosts in Ireland to a sense of their power and responsibility, to make the Labour Movement conscious of its destiny and to bind together the forces of Trade Unionism, co-operation and nationality as parts of a unified social and political democracy. He has succeeded in a far greater degree than even the steadily-rising circulation of and growing interest in "Irish Opinion" proves.

It is with regret we relinquish our "International Notes," which have been a feature specially appreciated by all our readers.

Further intimation will be given regarding the proposed co-operative organisation which is to acquire the Irish Labour Press. In the meantime any well-wishers anxious about the future of "The Voice of Labour" or who may be eager to be amongst the first hundred shareholders may send cheques, or postal orders, bank or treasury notes, to the undersigned or to Mr. William O'Brien, c/o this office. A nod is as good as a wink to a discerning democrat!

THOMAS JOHNSON.

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.