

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. Vol. I, No. 40.

AUGUST 31, 1918.

ONE PENNY.

A Word with Mr. Shortt. :: Labour in the General Election Scots Priest and Transport Union

The BLACK SQUAD'S FORTY HOURS

SHORT DAYS AND LONG LIFE.

ULSTER'S LEAD TO IRISH LABOUR.

Workers in the "south and west" have long been accustomed to think of Belfast as an industrial Oxford—the home of lost causes, unreasoning conservatism, political and social, with a hopelessly parochial outlook. Their loyalty to trade unionism has been unquestioned, but they have entertained, long after the British worker had abandoned it, the view of trade unionism as a merely protective instrument.

Of civic spirit they have been unconscious, to social ideals indifferent. At least so it has seemed. A new estimate must be formed now, for evidences accumulate of another temper. The spontaneous demonstration against conscription last April was a portent. Equally significant was the warning of City Commissioner Smith, in May, that the Independent Labour Party would be batoned if they attempted to repeat the successful open-air campaign of last year. The Ulster worker is no longer trusted by his Boss to respond to old party cries, and the balance of his political opinions is so uncertain that the I.L.P. must be denied a hearing.

FORTY HOUR WEEK.

The climax has come in a movement in which the Socialist elements have had no part, a movement of the rank and file, in which the ordinary citizen of Ballymacarrett, without any change in his political outlook, is playing the principal part. Last week the shipyard workers crowded the Ulster Hall, and overflowed into the street, and indoors and outdoors

decided to demand a shorter working week. The chairman, James Baird (Boilermakers' Society), succinctly stated the object of the meeting in these words:—"What we aim at is a shorter working week. We propose that work should commence at 8.30 a.m. and cease at 5.30 p.m., with one hour for dinner on the first five working days, and that on Saturday work should start at 8.30 and terminate at 12.30, in all a 44 hours week. No reduction in wages either per week or per day."

This was the aim of the promoters of the meeting, but the meeting itself decided by a large majority upon an amendment in favour of the eight-hour day, beginning at 8.30 a.m. for five days a week—no work on Saturday and no reduction of pay.

The objects sought, as the Chairman said, were

"to leave their boys more time for study, young men more time for recreation, and those no longer young more time for quiet rest. They have determined that in future workers must have ample leisure to enable them to take an active interest in all that concerns the welfare of their country. They were no longer content to be mere producers."

That should be Labour's answer to all the talk about the necessity for greater production after the war. Greater production by all means, provided the producers are secured the means and the leisure to enjoy the product. "There is no wealth but life," and all Labour's activities must be directed to winning opportunities to a freer, fuller, healthier life—physical, mental, spiritual.

FIX A DATE!

This rank and file movement amongst the shipyard workers is long overdue. We note with satisfaction that a number of the Trade Union officials are supporting it, and hope there is no truth in the rumour that certain elements are trying to nobble the committee to take control out of the hands of the men, and then slow down the agitation. Our advice to the men is: "Fix a date, say the first week in October, at latest, when the short week shall begin, and let that be your final decision. Don't let negotiations be opened up which will delay things until the winter is half-way through. Give notice now to enable the firms to make the necessary adjustments, and then stick to your resolve."

Arthur Lynch

was a Republican, but on becoming M.P. swore true allegiance to the King of England.

In violation of his oath, he reverted to Republicanism. He professed Socialism.

Although a pledged member of a capitalist political party, the U.I.L., he joined the Independent Labour Party after it had twice at annual conferences declared its fundamental opposition to all war.

He has renewed his allegiance to the King of England on donning his uniform.

His first oath brought him £400 a year, the second has doubled that, to say nothing of the allowances.

While his fellow-members of the I.L.P. are suffering prison torture for saying "This is a capitalist war," while Irish Republicans are handcuffed at the altar rails,

Arthur Lynch is drawing his salary and his pay.

IRISH OPINION.

 Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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STRAIGHT TALK TO THE MANSION HOUSE ON CONSCRIPTION.

(As Passed by Censor.)

After a rather long adjournment the Mansion House Conference met again on Monday of last week, but without, so far as we can ascertain, doing anything that would meet the mild criticism offered some weeks ago in "The Voice" and heartily echoed in "New Ireland." In that criticism we did not say all we might have said, nor say it as strongly as we felt, because we felt that our T's would be crossed and our I's dotted at the Trades Union Congress at Waterford. Our anticipations were fulfilled, and at its private sitting on the Wednesday morning Congress spoke out right and plain the will of Labour that the Mansion House Conference should justify its existence by giving some kind of a lead in action to the Defence Committees it has called into existence and the country whose confidence it sought and obtained. We wish all the members of the Conference could have heard the spokesmen of Labour tell what they knew of the dependence of the Committees on the Conference, and express their frank opinion of the manner in which the Conference as a body has failed to carry out its obligation to advise the people how to resist the imposition of the blood-tax. Had the whole Conference been listening to the volume of criticism pouring from platform and floor at Waterford, the Conference might not have the feeling of satisfaction it apparently has in its ability to go on for ever in masterly inactivity.

The time has now come when we must speak still more bluntly than before on the gross neglect of its primal duty the Conference is guilty of before the people. We shall not waste words in defining that duty; the Conference as well as those who are watching the situation closely, knows what that duty was and is. We shall, instead, repeat the charge made at Waterford, and demand publicly a public denial of the truth of the charge. It is this: that not only has the Conference not issued any counsel on the manner

and method of resisting conscription, but it has declined even to consider concrete proposals for resistance by practically shelving all such proposals laid before it. What else do its prolonged adjournments mean if not this? This is a grave charge, the gravest charge that could be framed against any responsible body of men of any authority in this great crisis in the history of this country. It is no overstatement, it is literally and sadly true in essence and in fact. We are sorry that we should be compelled to make it against men who, however we may differ from them, are still the accredited spokesmen of a section of our people. But truth is more sacred than any person or any party, it is above and beyond any art of diplomacy or any actical necessity, and it must be told. Our duty to Labour, our duty to the working class to which we belong, our duty to the people from whom we spring, and our horror of the terrible and dire calamity conscription will bring upon this country, compel us to declare the truth and the whole truth. We do this without any thought of what either friend or opponent may think. No man who loves this people will shrink from sacrificing himself, but no man who loves this people will dare to sacrifice his people as none will dare to sacrifice the thing he loves. Therefore the bitter truth must be told that, ere it is too late, the people may save themselves.

It is therefore the duty of all who realise that conscription is still a real and immediate danger to so keep the country informed that it may not fall into the great error that the menace has passed. It is their duty to shake up the local Defence Committees out of their lethargy as forcibly as need be, and compel them to devise effective ways and means of saving the people. It is their duty to make each parish or other local area the basis of defence, and to make the people of each such area understand that on them alone, and not upon any central body, depends their salvation. Not upon any central body, but with the parish and in the last resort upon the individual lies the initiative and the responsibility. Would to God we could burn this great truth into the heart and consciousness of every man and woman in Ireland; we should have little fear for the future of this people.

We know that the military have divided Ireland up into ten military areas; that its quota of recruits is demanded of each of these areas; that compulsion will be enforced in an attempt to levy its quota from each area; that the method will be to draw a ring of steel round each area and starve its people into submission (this has been publicly boasted of in certain districts in Co. Cork, for instance; that a new and bigger round-up of suspects has been suggested as a preliminary to all this; and that so long as Lord French and his retinue rule Ireland this policy is not, and will not be, abandoned. We pay no heed to all the soft talk to the contrary, for we have no evidence that the heart of Dublin Castle has changed, or that militarism is less blood-thirsty to-day than it was in April and May. If any man in Ireland, on or

off the Conference, has evidence of a public or private nature to show that conscription is definitely shelved, even for the present, we implore him in God's name and for the peace of this country to publish that evidence, and to publish it now. Vague generalities and optimistic speeches will not satisfy us, as they will not serve the people. We want the facts and the proofs. Until we have them we propose that Irish Labour shall give no responsible man in Ireland an hour's peaceful sleep.

To the Mansion House Conference we have this to say, and we can say it with all the weight of the organised workers of Ireland behind it: With or without your lead and guidance, your sanction and your moral authority, Irish Labour will carry out its Dublin and Waterford pledge to resist conscription by all the effective means in its power. Irish Labour has already on more than one occasion shown its temper and its strength; it will not fail to show them again tomorrow if vacillation in Ireland or folly in England force it to the issue. This was the mandate of the Waterford Congress, with its two hundred and forty delegates and its organised membership of a quarter of a million determined men and women, to the Mansion Conference, to the three Labour men on the Conference, and to the Labour representatives on all local committees. We charge all three to ignore this mandate at their peril. Of the Labour men on the Conference we can speak with confidence; they have been tested, and they have stood the test. They have been neither asleep nor indifferent, they have a policy, a programme and sound counsel and advice to deliver, and they will deliver them. Can as much be said of the Conference as a whole, or of the members of the local committees? It is for themselves to say.

One word more in final warning. With or without the help of other elements in the country genuinely opposed to conscription, Labour will offer its resistance be the cost what it may. On its National Executive, on its Trades Councils, on its Trade Unions, on all its officials and on its rank and file rests a terrible responsibility, and Labour is alive to its duty and obligation. But it must help to avert the dread day, and it must impose its will now upon the local committees everywhere. All else is nothing beside this great disaster which is facing Ireland. A great disaster, did we say? Nay, a glorious triumph if Labour but wills it.

Australian Workers for Peace.

The following resolution was carried by 104 votes against 75 in Sydney Trades Council:—"Whilst fully expecting anti-Labour forces to misrepresent and calumniate our action; we refuse to take part in any recruiting campaign and call upon the workers of this and all other belligerent countries to urge their respective Governments to secure immediately an armistice on all fronts and initiate negotiations for peace."

The Workers' Republic. The great only appear great because we are on our knees: LET US RISE.

The Men of Kildare.

Few of the recent movements on an extensive scale deserve a greater rejoicing than the victory last week of the farm workers of Kildare. Under Tom Faheen, the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union has swept like a hurricane over the plains of Tone's great county, and in thousands of homes the biggest of the Union's recent achievements is acclaimed with joy and gratitude. The material gain to the farm labourers is very considerable, but it is little compared to the great moral gain which good organisation and good leadership have won. After a short, sharp and stiff fight the labourers on the land in the whole county have gained an increase of seven shillings and sixpence over the legal minimum wage of the Agricultural Wages Board. This beats even the big Dublin County victory of some weeks back, and is in advance of more recent claims in the Counties of Meath, Down, Donegal, Derry and Cork. But it is not all. It was won in face of the determined opposition of the farmers, and in spite of the argument put forward by them that the South Kildare Labour Union had asked for no more than half a crown over the legal minimum, and that the Meath Labour Union had settled at the same low figure. The North Kildare farmers were not overburdened with wisdom when they put forward that argument, for it has been their own undoing. They are creating the One Big Union that is going to make the standard all over the country, and that this is so is recognised by the South Kildare Union, which has since entered the Transport and General Workers' Organisation. When other local bodies learn this lesson they will be within sight of what may well be the Promised Land for the agricultural labourers in Ireland. Who will follow Kildare's lead?

The Pupil Rebukes the Master.

Our ever-welcome contemporary, "The Irish Homestead," is, as we should expect, sorely troubled that of late the relations between the farmers and their labourers are not so harmonious as they might be. We have been reading its "Plain Talk on a Grave Matter" with rather more than ordinary interest and a little sorrow. For few journals in or out of Ireland have we as much respect as for the "Homestead"; it has held up a beacon of light in dark places of Ireland, and inspired much of as good work as any done by any group of people for the regeneration of this nation; and we shall not readily forget the debt of gratitude owing it by those of us whose faith in Ireland's manhood and Ireland's potentiality it has helped to strengthen. But we are just a little grieved over some of the things it left unsaid last week. Left unsaid, we are sure, not because of any want of thought or of wish, but because even Homer nodded on occasion, and a busy preacher and propagandist may forget many a little thing in his sermon. The "Homestead" forgets, we

think, that before the war the Irish farmers paid their labourers a much lower wage than that paid by the English farmers, that even under the Corn Production Act the minimum wage in Ireland is lower than in Great Britain, that in Great Britain in many instances the wages of agricultural labourers are higher than in Ireland even where the Unions in Ireland have raised wages above the minimum, that there are local Wages Boards in Great Britain but none in Ireland; that these local Boards have raised wages much more above the original minimum than have any of the Unions in Ireland, and that before the Tillage Order was enforced the farmers in Ireland had two or three years of war and war's profits, but shared very little of their windfall with their labourers. But the labourers and their Unions cannot forget all these things. They are facts, and they go into the scales with the increased cost of living, alternative and better-paid employment, the wages paid in munition factories, the demand for labour and all the other factors which have influenced the farm workers. We do think they count for something against the Tillage Order and the admitted increase in the cost of production, and we think it would be a nice calculation if someone would determine exactly the relative increases in the cost of production of agricultural produce and of the cost of production, under present conditions, of healthy men and women, strong and noble, able to take the high and dignified place, and live the full life which both the "Homestead" and we would desire for them, and which their Creator intended them for.

But Blames not the Bard.

The "Homestead," we know, will agree with us when we say that its proposal that the State should investigate the cost of production and fix both prices and wages suggests only a temporary settlement. Neither of us loves the makeshifts of the State as at present functioning, both of us have good reason to fear it. For all that, until we can substitute something better, we suppose we shall have to put up with it, but in the meantime what is to prevent Labour and the farmers from coming to an amicable understanding for the time being, until both farmers and labourers can see the higher path for themselves? It is not the labourers who block the way any more than it was they who were responsible for the recent strikes.

A Word with Mr. Shortt.

We must have a bigger paper. This week, for instance, lack of space prevents us from telling a Galway correspondent's story which equals anything perpetrated recently in British prisons in Ireland, except, of course, the brutal treatment of the hunger-strikers last year, and the bestial treatment of the men in Belfast prison some weeks ago. We refer to the treatment of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sheehan. Jack lay in

damp clay in Claremorris camp for several nights after his arrest. We wonder how Mr. Shortt would relish a bed of damp clay; we know others of our governors enjoy beds of softer but hardly cleaner stuff. After Claremorris, Sheehan was held untried for five weeks in Galway jail, and then it was declared by some peelers that so far back as June 3 he sang "A Soldier's Song" and "The Felons of Our Land," and recited the loyalist novelist's ballad, "Sheamus O'Brien." The peelers, it seems, disagree as to whether it was he or his wife sang what is described as "a conscription song." A fine, intelligent force, the peelers! Since then Mrs. Sheehan has been prevented by the police from renting halls and running concerts anywhere in the West, and her 3 children have been thrown on the charity of friends. To make assurance doubly sure, she, too, has now been arrested, so we presume the peelers have at last agreed upon a common story. The deportations go merrily on. Mr. Frank Thornton was arrested as he came out of Belfast jail on Friday and deported to Reading on Saturday. What explanation has Mr. Shortt to give for Thornton's deportation after the collapse of the plot stunt?

Labour in the General Election.

Whether a general election comes before the end of the year or not Labour must select its candidates without any further delay. All other parties in Ireland have already selected their standard-bearers for the seats in which they intend to fight, or are to complete their tickets within the next few weeks, and it behoves Labour to get its ticket ready at once. The necessity is all the more urgent because certain prominent adherents of other parties (Home Rule and Unionist, to be explicit) are endeavouring to make arrangements by which bogus or unofficial "Labour" candidates, backed by non-Labour support, are to be run in Belfast and, we are informed, in Dublin, if not, indeed, elsewhere. Such candidates will be, of course, merely Independents, and will in no sense be Labour candidates, although they may be members of Trade Unions, and will most certainly endeavour to exploit the Labour vote. We shall have no scruples in describing them in their true colours when they come forth to battle. They won't carry the Red Flag. But even thus early it is necessary to point out that under the constitution all Labour candidates for Parliamentary seats must obtain the sanction of the National Executive, or else stand as Independents, or as candidates of some other party. In making selections of candidates, therefore, local Labour Parties, Trades Councils and Trades Unions must apply at once for the N.E.'s sanction of the men or women selected. If this is not done, and at once individuals, and not a movement, will be fighting under the name of Labour. Beware of the cloven hoof, whether it be wrapped in Orange or in Green. Red is Labour's colour.

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

MORE PAY FOR WILLIE JOHN.

Twenty thousand Ulster farmers are pledged to advance the wages of 40,000 labourers, following on the conference in Belfast, presided over by Sir T. W. Russell. Men over 21 receive 5s. over the Agricultural Wages Board minimum. Men between 18 and 21 who are married or are supporting widowed mothers receive the same advance. Others of the same age receive 3s., those under 18 2s. Women over 18 receive 2s. 6d. advance.

This agreement, come to at a conference of the Ulster Farmers' Union with the Workers' Union and the National Amalgamated Union, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President D.A.T.I., is practically a vote of censure on the dilatory tactics of the A.W.B. in postponing revision of wages scales.

The agreement holds until November hiring fair. Every labourer must hold fast to the union and prepare to enforce revised terms then. The farmers are solidly organised in "One Big Union." The labourers have learned the value of organisation. Slackness now will be fatal.

The Mooney Case.

Unions which have not sent resolutions for the release of Tom Mooney to the nearest American Consul are requested to do so. The Cumannacht na hEireann is asking the T.U.C. National Executive to undertake publicity of this American "Frame-up."

BRIEF NOTES.

Longford branch I.T. and G.W.U. now has its 200 members. Practically all the town workers are in its ranks, but some shopmen are holding back. A misunderstanding at Messrs. Hobson's was satisfactorily and amicably arranged. **Co. Kildare** rural wages settlement has been generally accepted. On the Cartan demesne, Maynooth, there was a two-days' strike, but Mr. T. Farren interviewed Lord F. Fitzgerald, the trustee of the estate, and secured the acceptance of the county settlement. Four farmers remain obstinate. At the Turf Club, Curragh, following on the crippling of a valuable horse, the stewards have not only conceded the men's demand of 33s., but as an earnest of good-will have given 1s. extra. **Cork** shipowners are withdrawing ships to influence the strikers. Sunday last, the Co. Dublin members of **Bray** Branch I.T. and G.W.U. consulted with Mr. Farren, organiser, regarding non-observance of Co. Dublin agricultural wages agreement. The men struck on Monday to enforce settlement. Sean Burns formed a branch of the Transport Union in Thursles on 23rd inst. Eamonn Rooney addressed a public meeting there on Sunday last. Cathal O'Shannon and Thomas Johnson spoke at Trim. Now that Shortt has explained that non-political meetings are not under the ban, the open-air campaign should be extended. At all meetings "Lines of Progress" should be on sale.

VOICES FROM CLONMEL.

I am very glad to learn that the very energetic President of the Irish Clerical Workers has arranged with the Commercial Club for to hold their committee and general meetings in their rooms—a very good commercial stroke of business.

Messrs. Crean's Tannery employees have returned to work, having been granted 5s. per week, making them 24s.

The Brewery could not beat this.

The Irish Clerical Workers' Union in Clonmel are going strong, increasing their membership every week. They total over 80 members now, in the space of nine weeks.

They have made a grand stroke for the clerical staff in Cleeve's Condensed Milk Factory in obtaining the following (new concessions):—14 working days' annual leave; half-day every Thursday; office hours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; overtime afterwards; time and half for Sundays; 12s 6d. increase to staff of £1 per week; 10s. per week up to £2. (Not too bad.)

The famous Brewery of stout, ale and minerals could only see their way to grant their staff an increase of £13 yearly all round. What say the Trades Council? (More on this subject later on.)

The Dockers and Riverside workers branch of the Union are growing apace in the county, and are looking for a large house to form up as a club. I am very sorry to hear they decline to fall in with the Trades Council meeting. I hope on due consideration they will withdraw their objection. They should let by-gones be by-gones, for the old Trades Council are long dead and forgotten.

The automobile drivers and automobile mechanics have started a branch of their Union, some 30 members joining first night. Rush it, A.D.A.M.!

The grocers' assistants and allied trades are calling a meeting for next Thursday at 4 p.m., to form a branch. As I know the sincerity of the principal promoters, I heartily wish their undertaking every success. SYD.

Co. Waterford.

The farmers of Waterford have not shown the reasonable spirit of the Co. Dublin and Kildare. 130 men are out in **Killrosenty**. At Clonea, Kill and Fewes, the men have the farmers beaten. **Kilmacthomas**, **Portlaw**, and the greater part of the county are affected.

Ballyshannon.

Town workers here are labouring all the hours God sends for 17s. a week, and rural workers are the same. The A.W.B. promised to send an inspector months ago. He is still awaited.

Baldoyle.

A lady whose name recalls Christmas and beer has sacked a man for asking payment for Sunday work.

Belfast.

That firm of German origin, Harland and Wolff, Ltd., pay 6½ million pounds in wages every year. That is only a small part of what the workers produce for Herren Harland and Wolff.

SCOTTISH PRIEST AND TRANSPORT UNION.

ADVICE TO MIGRATORY WORKERS.

The following letter has been received by Mr. W. Brett, Achill Sound, secretary of the local branch of the I.T. and G.W.U.:

The Presbytery,
Troon, Ayrshire.

11/8/18

Dear Mr. Brett,

I saw several squads to-day of the Irish workers and exhorted them to be faithful to the Union.

Many of them informed me that they had not paid their contributions for weeks, as no one interested knew what should be done. I promised to write you and that you would write the gaffers and direct them to collect weekly and forward to you.

Would you kindly communicate to secretary of the Union in Donegal, and ask him to do the same?

It is a great pity that you allowed the men to come here before they got better terms. **You must perfect your Union and by next year demand a living wage and a human habitation.**

You are doing a noble work.
Wishing you every blessing.

Faithfully,

T. A. HAYES, P.P.

Other clergy, notably the Hon. and Rev. Canon Douglas of Maybole, and Father Carey, are showing great activity in securing decent housing for the migratory labourers in their district. The thanks of the entire union are due to them for their labours to ensure the physical and spiritual well-being of the workers.

FOOD CONTROL PLUNDER.

The committee of civil servants, government hacks, and private profiteers, from which Labour withdrew its representatives months ago, known as the Irish Food Control Committee, has by edict increased the price of Dublin bread by ½d. per 4 lb. loaf.

There are two ways of meeting this bare-faced robbery. One is to refuse to pay the licensed over-charge. The other is to follow the example of the Isle of Man and hold up all business until the price is reduced.

Note, please, that this theft is not caused by any increase of wages given to employees in the baking trade. They are asking more money, but they have not got it.

The same gang has refused the reasonable request of the Irish Co-operative movement, that at an appointed time holders of sugar cards should be allowed to change their source of supply. This privilege has been allowed in Great Britain but refused here. Why? Because in Britain the transfers were almost exclusively from private profiteers to co-operative shops.

"Anna Liffy."—You must send name and address as guarantee of "bonafides."

GARCON!

HOTEL WORKERS' PROGRESS.

The large and enthusiastic meeting in the Trades' Hall last Sunday was inspiring, especially the large and highly creditable representation of ladies, whose presence dominated the gathering—very agreeably to all present.

At the time of writing I cannot foretell what the coming negotiations may bring forth, but should matters be unsatisfactory, even should we be compelled to stop work, I am absolutely confident we shall finally win, and win well.

As a newly-organised section of workers we are passing through an ordeal unique in the history of our business, which, when passed, shall have brought us out of the rut in which the past held us (to our humiliation and shame). We are, as it were, bathing ourselves in the baptismal font of Trades Unionism, from which we shall emerge cleansed for ever of the degrading servitude of the past. Yes, we have much to be thankful for, much to congratulate ourselves upon for the work which has been accomplished,

T. GORDON,
29 Eden Quay.

BUILDING TRADE AND AIR BOARD.

Nothing has happened since last week to alter our opinion that the present dispute in the building trade has been forced by employers deliberately and with malice to a crisis with the object of crippling trade unionism. In this they have the Air Ministry, with Sir Wm. Weir, of Japanese Naval notoriety, at its head; the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Munitions as their accomplices.

The policy of the Ministries in labour disputes has hitherto been to take direct responsibility for production where employers show themselves unreasonable. It has been so constantly in England. It was so in Boland's case. Now, in anticipation of this dispute, the Ministries have retired from control of the aerodromes, handing them over to the contractors, who were hitherto no more than foremen acting for the Air Ministry.

This means that Government plant and rolling stock formerly used will be replaced by contractors' plant, the use of which will now figure in the accounts with the usual percentages added. Thus the taxpayer will pay more. And why not? Should not Irish contractors share the MacAlpine spoils of Loch Doon and Cleveland contracts?

Air Ministry work is stopped, and nobody is responsible but Sir Wm. Weir, a notorious anti-union fanatic, always at loggerheads with the employees of his own firm which, by the way, is one of the largest contractors for aeroplanes, and the federated employers of Dublin.

A Cardinal Error.

His Eminence Cardinal Logue, in his letter to the Press, says:

"Unfortunately, owing to a printers' strike, Messrs. Browne and Nolan could not print the document."

This may be a slip of the pen, but it is very unjust to the Typographical Association, who are the victims of a "sympathetic lock-out." We have lately been looking up the anti-Trade Union pamphlets of the "Messenger" office, and we find that the "sympathetic strike" was fiercely condemned, not because, it was carefully explained, it was a workers' movement, but on the ground of principle. Evidently the principle is only applied on one side.

Clerical Acquiescence.

At present the "Irish Ecclesiastical Record," "The Irish Messenger," the "Far East," and other ecclesiastical publications are held up by the lock-out. We shall be glad to learn what influence is being used by those responsible for these journals to bring the anti-social, anti-Christian, and immoral lock-out to an end.

Irish Labour Press.

Waterford Co-operative Society gives its support to the worker's press, and has applied for membership in the Co-operative Society. The secretary says: "Without an active, virile paper, such as the 'Voice of Labour,' to combat the efforts of the capitalistic press, we might as well have no trade unions."

A Real International.

The co-operative wholesale societies of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland are forming the Northern Co-operative Union to make joint purchases from overseas countries. Co-operative shipping is in the plan.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Butter | Five Fundamental Facts | | Bread |
| Mem. for the Month— BECOME A MEMBER DURING SEPTEMBER. OUR OWN BAKERY SUPPLIES THE FINEST BREAD. | <p>1 CO-OPERATION kills the profiteer and reduces prices, eliminates the middleman, and saves his profits for the benefit of the members.</p> <p>2 CO-OPERATION stands for pure goods—no adulteration—no trickery—no dishonesty—no sharp practices. Only the best is good enough for YOU.</p> <p>5 CO-OPERATION saves your money as you spend it, because all profits are divided among the members. In other words, it is equivalent to a rise in wages.</p> | <p>3 CO-OPERATION is the greatest educational force in the country. By "minding their own business," the members have laid the foundations for a Co-operative Ireland.</p> <p>4 CO-OPERATION is the pioneer of the 48-hour week. It has abolished sweating, and set a headline for the workers in their struggle for better conditions.</p> | Smart Service at these Stores— 17 Annesley Bridge Road. 32 Drumcondra Rd. 62 Sitríc Road. 50a Seville Place. 132 Thomas St. 19 Bath Street. 69 Phibsboro' Rd. 144 S.C.R., Kilmainham. Bakery— 165 Church Rd. Warehouse and Stables— 13a East Road. |
| Bacon | of CO-OPERATION | | Tea |

On these are built the success of the
Industrial Co-operative Society (Dublin) Ltd.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION.**A LENDING LIBRARY FOR TRADE UNIONISTS.**

We are encouraged to hope that our Lending Library may assume larger proportions and touch a wider sphere in the near future. We should like our Library to be the nucleus of a Lending Library for all Irish Trade Unionists. The need for books must increase as the intelligence of Labour becomes more alert. We have a fairly good assortment of fiction and of books on social questions, a few valuable modern books on International problems, and regrettably few on Trade Union, Co-operative and Labour subjects. But if our scheme catches on we see a way of remedying the latter defect. We are open to gifts of advice and suggestions as well as of books, and we hope that whoever has any such to give, or those who merely want to see the books, will write to us or call at Denmark House any evening in the week, but preferably Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday.

Education.

From books to Education! The I.W.W.U. hopes to see in the near future the realisation of their resolution on the Trades Congress agenda, of an Education Committee appointed by the Trades Congress Executive. We are in a hurry to see Labour occupying itself with educational reforms. But meanwhile the Trade Unions can do much to facilitate them by a determined campaign for shorter working hours. We must have more leisure before we can attempt more education. No one is fit for any sort of education, however attractive, after 10, 9, or even 8 hours of hard, monotonous toil. The curtailment of working hours is almost the most vital need of the workers. We only half realise how necessary leisure is to every human being. We need it not only for study, but for pleasure, and for all those educative influences which help "to keep the soul alive," such as reflection, friendship, exchange of ideas, art, music, and all the revelations of beauty that the world offers. We are robbed of our just rights, when these things are denied to us through the cruel demands of industry, and the whole world is impoverished spiritually by this denial to so many, for it is impossible to imagine what a wealth of intellect, character and genius may be wasted by the conditions under

which industrial workers are compelled to spend their lives.

The need is greatest for the young people, of course, and indeed there is something peculiarly inhuman in condemning a child to factory life at 14 or 15 years of age. We of the I.W.W.U. have this subject much in mind, and are discussing ways of arousing the Trades Boards to set an example all round by a drastic reduction in "learners' hours."

GENERAL ACTIVITIES.

We hope this week to have our claims for increases for various women workers in Messrs. Boland's referred to arbitration. We are agitating for the waitresses in the Kingstown shop (Galligan's), as well as for the women in the two bake-houses, and in Ringsend mills.

Mrs. Callendar reports that the women in Messrs. Harvey's printing firm have received increases of 3s., 2s. 6d., and 2s. on existing wages. Our Waterford branch is making big strides; Kilkenny prospers, and we have designs upon Enniscorthy.

We are still negotiating for the workers in Goodbody's Tobacco Factory. We find that employers in this trade suffer from a strangely persistent dislike of Trade Unionism; they are all of that type of philanthropic employer who are content long to give their women employers magnificent wages, and are only held back by the emptiness of their coffers. A Trade Union, being incapable of appreciating this Mother Hubbard philanthropy, can only do mischief by stirring up discontent and throwing suspicion upon the noble intentions of our employers!

THE TRAGEDY OF DUBLIN.

This pamphlet of the Dublin Tenants' Association, 10 Lower Abbey Street, repeats the criticism of slum purchase, and the condemnation of the refusal of the Corporation Housing Committee to put into operation the powers it possesses to acquire sites and build houses equipped with allotments.

In our pages, Mr. J. Vincent Brady has already expounded this criticism, and the Association has lost no opportunity of keeping the matter before the public. No adequate or direct reply has been forthcoming. The chairman of the Corporation Housing Committee seems to rely on the votes of the people given on

the issue of Irish Independence to confirm his do-nothing policy in respect of Housing. That will not do.

So far, however, the Association has not given us any constructive policy. Finance is at the root of the housing problem. The cost of site purchase is a heavy charge, but heavier still, as Mr. Johnson made clear last week, is the annual tribute to the non-working loan-monger. How does the Dublin Tenants' Association face the problem of usury?

NEWRY UNITED TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.

A specially summoned meeting of above Council was held on the 19th inst., when the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and I was instructed to forward same to various public boards.

DAN F. SHERIDAN, Sec.
Resolved.

"That we emphatically protest against the arrest and detention of Robert Kelly, President of this Council, who was charged with promoting a meeting and making a speech; and we call upon the National Executive of the Irish Trades Union Congress, Trades Union Branches, and all public boards, to protest most strongly against this suppression of free speech."

CO-OPERATIVE ADVANCE IN DUBLIN.**HALF-YEAR'S TRADE £13,573 9s. 8d.**

Mr. J. J. Athey presided over a good attendance at the half-yearly general meeting of the Industrial Co-operative Society (Dublin), Ltd., in Banba Hall on 22nd inst. The cheering report showed sales almost £4,000 in excess of last half-year, and double those of the corresponding period last year. There is room for improvement, too, for members' purchases average only 8s. 2d. per week.

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"The Voice" and its Work.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Athey paid a tribute to the "Voice of Labour's" consistent advocacy of co-operation.

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**WATERFORD UNITED TRADES AND
LABOUR COUNCIL.**

The attention of the Council was called to the article in the "Voice of Labour" commenting on the Council's action in applying for a permit to hold a public meeting. Suggestions were also made in the article referred to that the permit was applied for on the "sole responsibility of certain prominent members of the Trades Council," and asking such members to explain their supposed action.

The Secretary recounted the circumstances already known to the delegates in connection with the matter, stating that he was directed to apply for the permit at a meeting of the Executive Council, and produced proof of such directions.

The following resolution was then passed unanimously:—"That we, the members of the Waterford United Trades and Labour Council, accept full responsibility in every detail for the application of the permit for the public meeting and procession proposed to be held in connection with the recent Congress, and that we desire to place on record our appreciation of the life-long devotion of Councillor R. Keane, Mr. E. Dalton and Thomas Dunne to the Labour movement."

Not Guilty.

From the report of a recent meeting of the Waterford Trades Council, which we gladly publish, by request, above, it will be seen that the Council accepts "full responsibility in every detail for the application for the permit" which raised such a dust before Congress, and that neither the Clerical Workers nor the Carpenters in Waterford had taken the action we had attributed to them. Although our space is limited, and this week we are compelled to omit much and more urgent matter of importance, we hasten to accept Waterford Council's correction, and give it publicity in our columns. We are just as jealous for "The Voice's" reputation for accuracy as we are for its reputation for principle in all things, and we regret most heartily that "The Voice" should have published a statement which we believed (and for Waterford's sake hoped) was true, but which we now find was inaccurate.

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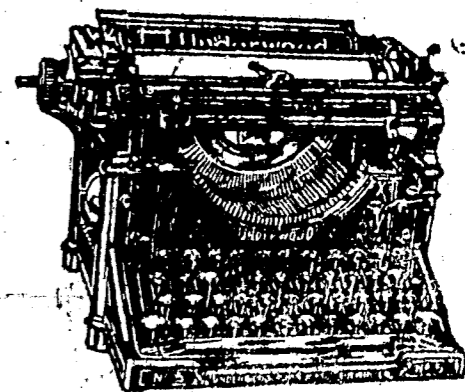
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SRÁID UÍ CONAILL.
(Ar Leanaimint).

Bí cunnatar inr na nuadactáin le soiriú ar dá cátaim móra do ábhuí sinmanna a riaróeann agus níor ariúgar gur éirí don tuine an olige ar ceadóar aca nó go ndearmadó don éagsóir ar dáoine gur leo coigtes inr na cátaicáib céadna. Cátaim aca párair na rianince, do báiró sinmanna rigtes an comaltair éogair ar foinnt de na riaróeannair ir mó ra cátaim tá sráid seoirre aca agus sráid builren agus sráid bioctor Emmanuel. ní cunnead liom an bpuil sinmanna haéodáin na Rúire porcingeal, seapán agus na tíoréa eile atá ra comaltar aca ar riaróeannair ac san amur tá nó béró. an cátaim eile atá as ábhuíreadó a riaróeann iradó bérreirre í, cátaim eamonn aríon. Tá in rion go bpuil an t-átrú dá úeannam ann rúo leir an searmáineacár do baint ar na riaróeannair. Leat-céso bliadóan ó foim nuair bídear as togbail riaróeann úr go tuig i mbérreirre ní rab don ainm galánta go leor do muintir bérreirre ac ainm coigchíocac. agus go móir-móir sinmanna do baint le sapanair agus as carceatráca na searmáinóte. Bí blas fallóa blas ríacómar protercúnac ar prupria street agus berlin street agus William street, agus seoirse street do luige go bog ar púraib na bpeair mburde i mbérreirre. ac ríaróir! ní mar ríltear bítear agus cáinís an t-am gur úirre leir an sear burde an iúáileac go rab an oisán aige agus an ríora uacóar bíore, agus an coróin muipe in a róca na an protercúnac móir ó nírúir. agus anoir tá ré as baint an searmáineacár ar a riaróeannair. agus ní' don tuine as cur an olige air! agus da seuiré réin cá bpuil an bpeiteam béarad bpeit a dáoréa? an ndearpáó an cam béalac é, no uilliam ó moíroa, na an soiriúonac?

Anoir náirb oíreannac am t-am é uínné le beagán de'n fallóacár do rírióar a riaróeannair baile áta clíac air. tá go leor ainmann méirleac agus rírióac fall págta ar an riaróeannair fóir gur ceairt a úbíre, abair, Supton street Doiret street, Capel street, Westmoreland street, Brunwick street, Gloucester street, etc. búo ceairt iáó do rígnábdó ar agus ainm uúéacár do

éirí ar gac ríáir aca. b'éoirí go seuirreair ar an olige oíriann air agus b'éoirí nac seuirreair. Ir cuma. Tá an cumact reo asainn réin san ceao do'n olige. Ir sráid uí conaill sráid uí conaill an ainneoin an bpeiteamair do éuro seáin. "ní réoirí," aoubairt pánnell "coris do cur le mairreáil náiríun" agus cáir can ré aríam rícal ní b'píre nó ní b'uarle.

C. U.

Municipal Movies.
Clydebank Town Council are opening a municipal cinema. Kirkintilloch and Saltcoats also run civic cinemas

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