

The VOICE OF LABOUR

IRISH OPINION.

INCORPORATED

The Workers' Republic.

Founded by JAMES CONNOLLY, 15th August, 1888.

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The Irish People's Old Enemy! THE GRAZIER.

OUR SWEEPING VICTORIES IN MEATH.

The attitude of smug complacency which has been adopted by the officials of the Meath Farmers' Association is not shared by many of their members in the county. Already they are becoming seriously concerned at the imbroglio into which the Ascendancy junta, who control the Association, have led them, and desperately seeking a way out of the mess.

Some of them have found the only way out; and have accordingly signed an agreement with the I. T. & G. W. Union. The pretence made by Mr. Austin that he or four of his Association have endorsed, may be accepted by a majority of newspaper readers outside the war area; but everyone in the county knows that the facts are somewhat out of focus with this official's assertion. There is hardly a branch of the Union in the strike district that has not accepted the unconditional surrender of a member of the duped members of the F.A.; and last week-end witnessed the climb-down of one of the most prominent and active associators in the Dunne district.

After more than three weeks' struggle, J. J. MacCarthy, of Courtown, Dunne, was compelled to realise the folly of the Association's "fight to a finish" policy. One hundred out of Dunboynes' fighting workers are now back at work on the Union's terms. On the whole, it may be stated with truth, that the fight with the farmers has now ended the struggle is now between

The Ascendancy Graziers.

In the Transport Union. The graziers have turned down the suggestions for negotiations made by the Parliamentary representative of South Meath, and have insulted Mr. Duggan for his pains by criticising his efforts for peace as an interference. They still want that "fight to a finish." As to what that fight will be the workers have no doubts or fears.

The blockade of the Dublin Cattle Market has been the most effective weapon in the hands of the workers. The graziers are squeaking. They will ship to Belfast, and then look at the loss of Dublin! Easy, gentlemen-graziers; so fast, we beseech ye! Your cattle will not escape, even through Belfast. Organiser Houston, and the Belfast transport workers will see to it that your splendid comrades on the Meath cattle front shall not be deserted by the fastest workers.

Arrangements have now been made for a tighter blockade of the grazier enemy, whose last resort would now appear to be the utilization of aerial navigation. Why not an appeal to the Air Ministry, gentlemen?

The graziers in their desperation are now clutching at phantom straws. They are trumpeting an alleged surrender of Union men in the employment of Lord Dunsany.

No Surrender.

There has been no surrender of twenty men." Six or seven men have succumbed to Dunsany's bribe—he has paid the men for the period they were on strike, and has also given them the amount of dispute pay which they had drawn, and asked them to send it back to the Union.

The unpurchaseable men are still on strike, and will so continue until our demands are accepted by the noble literary Lord Dunsany has now

left for America

at the stage some of his unintelligible plays, completely unconcerned with the struggle for the life of his serfs in Meath. He did not succeed in getting them speedily killed in Flanders; so he saves them, in the hope that a slower death will overtake them on the fertile plains of the Royal County.

Dunsany is a Dominionist. Is this an example of the fate that awaits the worker when Ireland accepts Plunkett's rejected new order? What does Sir Horace think of his noble nephew?

We trust American labour will extend to Lord Dunsany the welcome he so richly deserves.

The efforts of the graziers to prop their weakening members was exemplified at

Ratoath lately. Grazier Martin wanted peace. He was in a fix with his hay. The graziers broke the Sabbath and some hay rakes; but they saved the hay. They could not, however, provide Martin with a cattle market. The latter expressed his gratitude to his hard-working Sabbath breakers by signing the Union's agreement a few days later.

In the same district a grazier awoke one fine morning to see the hay that he had so laboriously cocked adorning the hedges of his meadow.

THE FAIRS "PROCLAIMED" BY LABOUR.

The hold-up of the Navan Fair was complete in every detail, and strong police reinforcements only served to emphasise the strength of the workers' position.

All markets, fairs and auctions in the area are "proclaimed," so far as the enemy graziers are concerned; and all attempts to rush the workers' blockade are being abandoned as futile. In military parlance—the enemy is on the defensive along the entire Meath front.

WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST.

DEVERE'S NOTORIOUS LETTER.

There can be no mistake about the object of the Irish Farmers' Union of which Lt. Col. Loftus Bryan, of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, is a distinguished light, along with farmers of all parties and creeds.

We reprint below the organising circular issued by the County Kildare Farmers' Union. It is printed word for word from the original document received by a Co. Kildare farmer. As the recipient refused to spend even 1s. for each £5 poor law valuation on "smashing the 'liberty of Labour Organisations'" he handed the letter over for publication in the "Voice."

COUNTY KILDARE FARMERS' UNION.
Fredk. V. Devere,
County Secretary and Organiser.
Telegrams: "Devere, Naas."

Naas, May, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I regret to notice that your name does not yet appear on our roll of members. I am quite sure that this is due to an oversight on your part, or to lack of opportunity to attend any of our organising meetings, and that it is only necessary to remind you to secure your membership and support.

Our Union is out to strike a blow against the liberty of labour organisations, against oppressive taxation of the farmer, against vexatious and restrictive regulations which hinder the development of agriculture, against rings and combines which adversely affect the farmers' position.

We stand for Protection and Progress for the farmer—for liberty to carry on his industry. With every confidence I ask that YOU should join in the fight. I am glad to be able to say that the County Kildare Farmers' Union is to-day one of the strongest County organisations in Ireland.

The subscription is a mere bagatelle—1s. for each £5 Poor Law valuation.

I enclose form of application for membership. Will you fill it up and return it with your subscription TO-DAY?

Yours very sincerely,
FREDK. V. DEVERE,
County Secretary.

A BIG YEAR.

The annual report of the I.T.G.W.U. for 1918 is just published and should be widely circulated. Two telling sets of facts revealed give a key-note to the Union's vigorous life.

In June, 1918, there were 43,788 members.

In December, 1918, there were 67,827 members in 210 branches.

These figures have been put in the shade by the growth during the last half year just closed.

Strike pay totalled £8,407 3s. 2d., a small price to pay for the very substantial advances gained during the year.

The total expenses, including the final payments of the mortgage on Liberty Hall, dispute pay, loans and grants, work out at less than 4s. per member per annum.

A striking figure is the cost of badges. The little Red Hand badge has cost £976 during 1918.

The credit balance for the year totals £17,929 7s. 11d.

The auditor's report recommends the opening of bank accounts by the branches. It would be well if the executive arranged to make the Union its own banker. In this way the whole

Waterford Corporation Climb Down.

Stolen Wages Replaced After Strike.

The employees of the Waterford Corporation who are members of the I.T.G.W.U., acting as all other members of that Union act to improve their conditions, early in June placed a demand before the City Council for an increase of 12s. 6d. per week. At a meeting of the Council held on the 1st of July the demand was discussed. Councillor Keane, a labour member, together with other labour members, stated the case for the employees, and after a lengthy discussion the employees were offered an increase of 7s. 6d. The offer was put to the vote and nine members voted in favour of the increase and eight voted against. The increase thus granted by a majority of one was accepted by the men.

The employing section of the city decided that it was very dangerous to grant increases to civic employees. They were afraid that the Corporation workers were setting a headline for their own employees, and of course they objected.

Some members of the Corporation signed a requisition for a special meeting of the Council to rescind the resolution granting the increases. A meeting was held on 22nd July and the resolution rescinded by 15 votes to 11. The Mayor first read a letter from the Sec. Chamber of Commerce, expressing surprise at the Corporation raising wages of employees above the standard in the city. Comment is needless.

When the members of the Corporation filched from them the increase of wages the workers were left with no other means of protest than striking, and they withdrew their labour.

In their action they were supported by the Trades Council, comprising all organised workers in the city. Immediately they ceased work the public began to realise of what use to the community were the scavengers.

To protest against the employer members of the Corporation a public meeting was called for Sunday, 27th inst., and was held on the Mall, Waterford. Ten speakers addressed a meeting of 5,000 persons. The speakers represented every class of worker in the city, and the bands of various political parties united for labour. The demonstration was effective, for on Monday the Mayor sent for the I.T.G.W.U. representative and offered 5/- per week in lieu of 7s. 6d. taken from the men. The latter refused anything less than the amount previously granted, 7s. 6d., and also demanded that, as they would have to clean up all the dirt that was accumulating on the streets during their period of idleness, they be paid for the time of their idleness.

On Thursday, July 31, Father O'Connor visited the I.T.W. office at the instigation of the Mayor and suggested that the case should be settled by arbitration. But there was nothing to arbitrate on.

Father O'Connor suggested that the Mayor and friends would use our refusal to arbitrate against us. It was pointed out to the rev. gentleman that he was being used as a tool. The men on strike refused to consider arbitration as they claim their increase was filched from them unfairly.

Finally, at a special meeting held on Saturday last, the Corporation of Urbs Intacta humbly restored the stolen 7s. 6d. and the workers' wages remain intact.

Waterford bosses have had their lesson. Let us hope it will serve. Councillor Jones at least has no illusions, for he has told his reactionary fellow-councillors "Labour cannot be beaten."

The funds of the Union would be pooled, while every branch would, by its cheque book, have free control over its own funds. The local accounts could be automatically audited by the banking department thus avoiding the delay and expense of sending special auditors when branches require reports on their own funds.

We hope to see some scheme of this nature adopted in future. Perhaps a good step in this direction would be the inclusion next year of a tabular statement showing the financial standing of each branch.

On OTHER PAGES

- THE CONGRESS.
- PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. (Full Report.)
- EIGHT HOUR DAY IN FRANCE.
- SOVIETS AND RELIGION.
- HUNGARIAN SCHOOLS.
- JOTTINGS FROM ULSTER.

BRITISH WAGES GOING UP. TRADE BOARD PROPOSALS.

SHOE-REPAIRING TRADE WAGES.

The Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved to issue a proposal to fix general minimum time rates of wages for male workers as follows:—

	Per week of 48 hours.	s. d.
For male workers over 21 years of age	...	65 0
For male workers of 20 and less than 21 years of age	...	45 0
For male workers of 19 and less than 20 years of age	...	37 6
For male workers of 18 and less than 19 years of age	...	32 0
For male workers of 17 and less than 18 years of age	...	27 0
For male workers of 16 and less than 17 years of age	...	22 0
For males workers of 15 and less than 16 years of age	...	18 0
For male workers under 15 years of age	...	13 0

The Trade Board also proposes to fix overtime rates on the general basis of time and a quarter for the first two hours, and time and a half after, with double time for all employment on Sundays and on customary public and statutory holidays.

PAPER BAG MINIMA.

The Paper Bag Trade Board proposes to fix general minimum time-rates of wages as follows:—Male workers 1 1/2 per hour, female workers 8d. per hour, together with lower rates for "learners" in the trade, a piece-work basis time-rate of 3d. an hour for female workers, and overtime rates of time-and-a-quarter for the first two hours, time-and-a-half for the second two hours, and double-time for Sundays and holidays.

In connection with the Boot and Shoe repairers, the I.T. and G.W.U. it should be noted organises these workers all over Ireland, and where there are any outside the Union local secretaries should at once get them to join up.

A Trade Board is in process of formation in Ireland, and the Boot sections in Dublin and Waterford are pressing forward new demands.

A similar recruiting activity in respect of paper bag workers is needed. Cork, Waterford and Limerick are organised by the I.T. and G.W.U.; Dublin by the Irish Women Workers' Union.

Whether an Irish Trade Board is set up or not nothing can be gained by the workers without unity.

GORK SAYS "HANDS OFF."

Each of the local papers had reporters at the "Hands Off" Russia, meeting arranged by the Socialist Party of Ireland, but not a word of the proceedings appeared in the press. G. D. Burns occupied the chair, and rousing speeches were delivered by P. Donovan, Tadgh Barry and John Good (N.U.R.).

Liam de Roiste, T.D., sent a letter fully associating himself with the demand for the withdrawal of the Allies from Russia.

MEATH BOSSES' SHAM UNION.

The Meath Labour Union, with which the Farmers' Association has made an "agreement," is listed in the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress report as having 200 members. Mr. Austin, of the Farmers' Association, admits that 2,000 Transport members are on strike.

Yet he expects the very dubious 200 to bind 2,000.

The Workers' Republic.

The great only appear great because we are on our knees
LET US RISE.

The Silver Jubilee of Congress.

As we write the silver jubilee of the Irish Trade Union Congress is being celebrated in the most appropriate way it could be celebrated—by the discussion of questions upon the issue of which the future of the movement in the next few years depends. We go to press too early in the week, owing to the censorship, to be able to comment upon or report the proceedings at the Drogheda Congress. That we shall do next week, and in just whatever language the discussions at Congress calls for. In the meantime, we anticipate that at Drogheda, as at Waterford, and largely from the same causes and sources, the early stages of Congress will be anything but quiet. That we could and would welcome if this kind of heat were introduced from good motives, and upon questions of first principles and tactics. Let us say at once that that is not so. Let us say all that is on our mind when we say so.

On the Seeking of Office.

An attempt is being made, under cover of names which are held, and worthily held, in high honour in Labour in Ireland, to introduce into Congress a practice which is contrary to both the spirit and constitution of Congress. Certain delegates desire to reach office in the movement, and for the most part, we believe them unworthy of office. But they have every right to try. Where they sin, and sin grievously, is in trying to climb into office not on their own merits (we suspect they know how far their own merits would carry them), but on the merits and achievements of other and absent men. That oughtn't to be good enough for Congress, and we hope Congress will show once and for all that Labour will have none of it. Criticism of the National Executive we hope there will be, and plenty of it. Criticism of individuals, and printed criticism at that, we hope there will be. Rejection of candidates we hope there will be, but we trust it will be on their merits or demerits. Election to office on the merits and achievements of other people we hope will never be tolerated by the working class, whose representatives meet at Drogheda this week.

Carry On.

Congress ought to be above all that kind of thing. Congress ought to be above the mean, the little and the petty. Congress ought to be bigger even than the unions affiliated to it. It ought to be worthy of the noble, and, on the whole, unselfish working class it represents. That working class has its faults, and its sins, and nobody knows both of them better than we who write these words. Perhaps it is inevitable that some of those faults and sins should be reflected at the Congress of its representatives. But not the sin of littleness, of meanness, of spite. Congress has too great a responsibility, too onerous a mission, too serious a task to waste its time and its energy in the littleness and pettiness of mean and petty men, who steal other people's names for their own advancement. Will the Drogheda Congress rise to the occasion as did the Waterford Congress? We do not know, but we shall be surprised if Drogheda does not continue on the path Waterford cut out for it.

Syndicalism in France.

In spite of the failure of the General Confederation of Labour to carry out its promise of a general strike on July 21, there is still hope for France. The general strike failed partly because the rank and file as a whole were not ready for it, but much more because the leaders of the C.G.T. were weak, and, perhaps, afraid of the consequences. But the revolutionary minority is stirring, and it is the revolutionary minority which always makes revolutions. Not only from "La Vie Ouvriere," the fighting organ of the revolutionists, but also from the more parliamentary organs, "L'Humanite" and "Le Populaire," it is clear that many of the French unions are up in arms against the National Executive of the C.G.T., for its calling off of the strike. These unions will leaven the lump. They are already restoring to French syndicalism its pre-war revolutionary faith and ardour. Let us be understood clearly on that. Outside France the term syndicalism has been, and is still applied to what is properly spreading revolutionary syndicalism. The word syndicalism by itself simply means trade unionism. Before the war there were two currents within the movement in France, revolutionary syndicalism and reformist syndicalism. Being the more active and the more prominent the revolutionary syndicalists gave their name outside France to the revolutionary unionists everywhere.

Its Failure in the War.

The greatest tragedy in French Labour during the war was the defection of the leaders from revolutionary to reformist sections. Before the war the C.G.T. Secretary, Leon Joubaux, inspired nearly as much terror in French capitalism as

did, say, Larkin in Ireland. The definite touchstone of the revolutionary syndicalists was their anti-parliamentarism. Readers of the "Peasant" will remember Frea Ryan's study in contrasts between the anti-parliamentary movement on the continent, and the anti-parliamentary movement in Ireland. During the war the C.G.T. lost its fine fighting spirit, and departed from its revolutionary tradition. It is on those grounds the revolutionary minority are fighting it now. In "La Vie Ouvriere," Verdier, the Secretary of one of the Federation of Unions, puts the position very clearly, when he says: "Under pressure from trade unionism, and on the advice of the Socialist, Albert Thomas, the Government gave the workers power without authority, giving them the right to nominate workshop delegates. It put them beyond the control of the unions, and deprived them of the union mandate. While the workers were given the right to choose delegates the unions were refused the right to choose their representatives. The function of the workshop delegate is elective, and is determined by the workshop duties, that is, by the employers. A second example is met with in the nomination of these same worker delegates chosen by the Government from a list of names—presented by the unions. It was in this fashion Joubaux was selected and named by the Government to represent the C.G.T. at the Peace Conference." And the remedy for this dependence on the Government is for the unions "to return to our own independent and autonomous action, revolutionary action, which is the only reason for the existence of syndicalism."

Towards Revolution.

Reverting thus to the propaganda, and the practice of pre-war days, the revolutionary French syndicalists are getting ready for revolution. The fight for the conquest of power in the C.G.T. has begun, and it will be bitter. In the end it will fall to the revolutionaries in France, as it is falling to the Left Wing in the United States. It will fall to the revolutionaries because they see where the real seat of power of the working class is—namely, in the Unions and on the job. Anti-parliamentary, anti-militarist, anti-imperialist, and anti-capitalist, they are on the side of the angels. Good luck to them.

"The Voice of Labour."

In several quarters satisfaction has been expressed at the enlargement of "The Voice," and some greedy readers are asking for more. We wish we could give it to them, but the time is not yet. After all, the readers of "The Voice" can make the paper as large as they like. For instance, as soon as our circulation goes up a few thousand again, we are prepared to add at least two pages. And remember the cost of two pages now would almost have published "The Voice" at its present size in pre-war days, and that for a fair circulation. Remember, too, that the price of the paper to the reader remains at a penny. We give more reading matter in our six pages than any other weekly does for a penny. But we want to give still more, and we will if our readers, secretaries of branches and clubs, etc., will bestir themselves to get new readers. We are planning new features, and at present we are rejecting important matter every week for want of space. Last week, unfortunately, we had to devote our additional space to important matters of a kind which we hope we shall not have to discuss at length again. That was necessary, and if need be we will do as much again. But we hope the necessity will not arise. We want all our space for a score of other big and important problems which are pressing on the movement at present, and if our readers will help as much as those who are willing to write for them, we are in a position to promise them a weekly newspaper and review equal to any published by Labour in any part of Europe.

MORE MEDICINE FOR JOHN MACLEAN.

St. Enda's College,
The Hermitage,
Rathfarnham.

The Editor of the "Voice of Labour."
A Chara—I had the experience of being present for the first time at a proclaimed meeting, but I have had the pleasure of hearing John MacLean speak a number of times. I confess the attitude of the audience surprised me. It was evident that they did not know him, nor what he represents. Of Mr. MacLean's personal integrity and sincerity I have the highest opinion.

He is, indeed, a great man and a great power, and I hope he will succeed in his great work of establishing the Proletarian Commonwealth—but his zeal and desires made him paint a picture that is far too rosy-tinted, at least as regards the condition of affairs in Glasgow. As one who resides in Glasgow, I am in a position to judge quite as well as he is,

and I would advise the Irish people not to be carried away by Mr. MacLean's eloquence and heroics. To one in the know the idea of Glasgow being a revolutionary storm centre is farcical in the extreme—and as for any sympathetic interest in Irish affairs, it is simply non-existent. Mr. MacLean represents only a microscopically small section of the community—class consciousness hardly exists yet in Glasgow,—and if Ireland is to wait till the British working classes are educated enough to help Ireland to secure its independence—then it will have to wait till the Greek Kalends or Tibb's eve.

Each and every one of the Labour and Socialist candidates at the last election in Scotland were asked were they in favour of Irish Independence, and none of them would give an unequivocal answer—not even John MacLean. Does Ireland want to throw off the rule of British Imperialism for the rule of British Bolshevism? Frankly, I was most disappointed and astonished at the enthusiastic plaudits that greeted Mr. MacLean's sallies against the Irish people.

The need of educating the soldiers and British people is certainly great, because they are, indeed, sunk in abysmal ignorance both of Irish affairs and their own degraded position.

Cathal O'Shannon added his quota to the denunciation of the Irish working class—but he knows, and I know, that they are a thousand years in advance of British Labour.

There is a lot to be done, and the task is often heart-breaking; but let us maintain a correct perspective and get, as John MacLean would say, "a guid conceit of ourselves." Ireland—Sinn Fein—leads the world to-day in constructive, political and intellectual statesmanship. Irish Labour has earned the admiration of all, by the sacrifice it made in standing down at the General Election. Don't let it now destroy everything by following a will-o'-the-wisp of waiting for the British Revolution and believing the nonsense that Sinn Fein is in danger of being captured by middle class bourgeoisie or any other class. Sinn Fein is simply "ourselves," Ireland.

When we are free, Irish Bolsheviks can fight for their idea, and I for one wish them good luck. But, for God's sake, don't let us adopt the soul-destroying wait-and-see-have-patience policy of John MacLean. We have had patience for 700 years—are we going to enter a desert of patience for another 700 years?

I am a bit suspicious about Mr. MacLean's effort to inflame the Irish against America. And, in conclusion, I hope Irish labour will follow Irish leaders, and leave Scotch (that is, British) leaders to carve out their own destinies.

Scotland is badly in need of Sinn Fein. It is the most nationally degraded country in the world. We sometimes grieve at our shoneens—Scotland is a nation of shoneens.

H. WARREN HUTCHINSON.
Glasgow.

OUR REPLY.

In spite of some of their shrewd and just observations, our correspondent falls into error. Most of those present know both MacLean and what he represents, and, on the whole, they stand in Ireland for what MacLean stands in Scotland. We agree that Glasgow may not be all MacLean painted it, nor even the Clyde, but to our own personal knowledge, and that of not a few workers in Ireland, the sympathetic interest for Ireland does exist over there. And, of course, nobody ever heard a speaker on an Irish platform in England, Scotland, or even Dublin, paint a rosy, not to say bloody, picture!

We don't advise the Irish people to wait for the British Revolution, and we don't even advise them to wait for the Irish Revolution. MacLean, we are sure, would be at one with us in counselling them to work for and help to make both. But no doubt the Ukrainian, Polish, Finnish, and Lettish workers heard that old saw about the Russian Revolution, and if not the Greek, the Russian Kalends came all right. MacLean is in a minority, but so were Lenin and Trotsky, and so were Connolly, and we have a kind of not very pleasant but not yet unforgettable recollection that so were Clarke and MacDermott.

Of the majority of those days some are now with the majority, and will, we suppose, when the Socialists are in the majority. We should like our correspondent to give the questions put to MacLean and Labour and Socialist candidates at the General Election, and the answers given. Most certainly we heard Walton Newbold declare himself unequivocally in Motherwell, both in public and private.

In answer to our correspondent's question we cannot say if Ireland wants to throw off British Imperialism for British Bolshevism. But we can assuredly assert that the Irish workers don't want to throw off British Imperialism in order to replace it by capitalism, whether British, American, or even Irish. But there are people in Ireland who would like them to do that. Anyway, Bolshevism is not British or Russian or Hungarian, it is international.

Our correspondent accuses us of denouncing the Irish working class. We

did nothing of the kind. We did denounce some of the sins of the Irish workers and the Irish people, and when the workers or the people don't relish the truth when it is told to them (we have plenty of experience of that as better men before us had), we will just go on telling it all the same. Sure, "let us maintain a correct perspective," and that's why we like to see the medicine dosed out.

It's humbug to say

that Ireland "leads the world to-day in constructive political and intellectual statesmanship." Ireland does indeed show some statesmanship in certain directions, but now isn't "leading the world" politically and intellectually just a wee bit "too rosy tinted?" We should like to see Ireland leading in social statesmanship, but that day is not yet. We are told to wait till Ireland is free before we fight for Bolshevism.

Our position is that Ireland cannot be free till Ireland is Bolshevik. Don't be patient, says our friend, but let the workers be patient. That's just the point. We have been too patient, and at MacLean's meetings we showed how. Now that the workers are getting impatient we intend to do our best to persuade them not to fall back into impotent patience and waiting.

Our correspondent doesn't like MacLean's attitude on America. Obviously that is because our correspondent won't listen to MacLean's argument. Our correspondent ought to study the relations between the United States and Mexico. Perhaps he will think again when we point out to him that America is raising a loan for Koltchak to replace the Soviet Republic by the new Tsarism, and that an American Ambassador, Mr. Roland Morris, has gone from Tokio to Koltchak's Government at Omsk, where the "Russian State is now being restored." We haven't yet heard of the arrival of an American Ambassador in Dublin. We welcome our correspondent's letter, but we are keeping our correct perspective.—Ed.]

THE TRAMP.

By Wilby Heard.

Bound for where, you Blanket Stiff?
And what your mission, pray?
With stern set face and sluggish gait,
Where ends your weary way?

No sound escapes those hardened lips,
They make no threat or plea,
The stones beneath his road-worn feet
Bring answer back to me:

"His mission is to follow e'er,
Will-o'-the-Wisps of Greed,
Which dance and lure at Mammon's beck
Just such as him to bleed,

"With stern-set face and sluggish step,
He plods from place to place;
Upon his back his HOME, his ALL—
Proof of the new formed race.

"His journey ends there, over there,
No not just there, but there;
And then from there still further on—
Still ends most anywhere."

THEY GREASE THE FAT SOW IN CO. KERRY.

From Abbeyfeale comes a resolution adopted by the local branch condemning the County Council for preferring men with farms of land and cattle to the labouring man when workers are required for Direct Labour on the roads.

In some parts of the country the introduction of Direct Labour has been thoroughly dishonest. The old "contractor," with brothers and cousins in the District and County Councils, hangs on to the job as a direct labourer.

The man of some property gets the first choice of the plums. The labourer with a garden, or with none, is shut out of this kind of work, and the big fellows hog it all for themselves.

Abbeyfeale's chance to change all that will come at the Council elections. Let Abbeyfeale resolve to stop voting for friends and patrons of the workers. Vote for workers only.

THE STUFF (HOT) TO GIVE 'EM.

F. M. (Navan) writes:—The speeches made by Mullen and Co. were read with indignation by the union members in the fighting area here, as also the tale of the revolver display at the Mansica House meeting as written by the gleeful "Independent."

If there is any hanging to be done would Mr. Mullen let the union branches in this county know the date, as the ash plants we are using on the cattle in Meath might come in handy.

The Deadwood Dick gang of the Mansion House might find work to do for the Union around here—that is if they really have the Union's interest at heart—anyway send them down.

Joseph Small, Ulster Farmers' Union, want a union that will organise Ireland and link up with English, Canadian, and Australian farmers.

An international league of profiteers! The Lord Bishop of Meath supports the workers' claim for a living wage.

James Murphy, Alligans, was ordered to pay £18 10s. arrears of wages at Ballymore-Eustace Petty Sessions.

What all the World is Thinking and Doing.

HOW FRENCH LABOUR TACKLES THE RURAL PROBLEMS.

The 'Eight Hours' Day in Operation.

An Example for Ireland.
 In France as in Ireland opponents of Socialism and Labour have tried their best to separate the country workers from the town workers. All the wheezes and farmers work here are worked in France too. These efforts have failed in France as they are failing in Ireland. To meet their opponents the French agricultural workers are uniting their organisations and giving an example of unity which their farm-working brothers in Ireland might copy with advantage. This union of forces is directed by the French General Confederation of Labour, the central trade union organisation of the French industrial workers which correspondingly to the Trade Union Congress in Ireland but with much more authority over its affiliated organisations than the Irish Congress has over the affiliated unions in this country. The Confederation, or as it is popularly called, the C.G.T., is grouping the French land workers in a single, united organisation of agricultural workers. Agriculture will thus become one of the departments of the One Big Union in France as we have advocated that it could become in Ireland. Up till this the French workers on a land had been grouped in six separate federations, or rather unions, the result of division being according to locality and occupation. Four of these were affiliated and two unaffiliated to the C.G.T.

8-Hour Day on French Farms.
 Now, however, all sections see as never before the absolute need for joint action, common propaganda, and central action, especially since the application to agriculture of the French law of the eight-hour day has become the burning question in the farming world. This unity of control and action with social and occupational freedom of management and drafting of demands will be brought about by the grouping of six unions in one common agricultural workers' federation within the C.G.T. in accordance with the Federal Executive's decision. This decision reads: "The National Executive declares that all existing groups of land-workers shall from January 1, 1920, form one single and united organisation which shall take its place under the name of 'L'Union fédérative rurale,' thus permitting the syndical movement to develop, and take deeper root amongst the land workers." To carry out this decision the six organisations were to hold a joint delegate meeting with the C.G.T. in Paris on Wednesday of last week, and it is understood that the feeling amongst the delegates was that the fusion would be carried at the conference. The agricultural organisations, by the way, some time since united their craft organs in a single journal, "The Land Worker," and several of them have the same entrance and contribution fees.

How they United.
 In 1914 the fusion of these organisations was well on its way, and a special union conference was to be held in September, but the war, with its scattering of the workers through conscription, upset the movement at that particular time. The French farm serfs are more than making up for lost time now. Last week's delegate meeting was a preliminary gathering to lay down the solid bases of the new organisation and seek a common ground of agreement upon which all land-workers, irrespective of occupation and locality, could meet and work for a common programme. The question of recruiting and organising the non-union members and the masses to be brought into the new organisation is felt to be of the very first importance and is receiving special attention.

Organising the Small Farmer.
 On this Lapiere said some interesting things in an interview in "L'Humanité." Lapiere is an Assistant Secretary of the C.G.T., that is, chief of one of its departments, and his department is agriculture and the organisation and direction of the land proletariat. He says:—
 "Must we confine recruiting to the non-proprietory day-labourers and domestic and other farm-servants, some 1,517,685 in number? Ought we not rather appeal also to the 506,087 small proprietary day-labourers who work their own little pieces of land with the aid of their own families and are wage-earners for part of the year.
 "Among the landholders and small farmers a good many may be considered as if they were wage-earners living with difficulty, they and their families carrying out the wishes of the proprietary and large general farmers.
 "According to the documents supplied by the Ministry of Labour for 1911, the latest of which we have any information, the active agricultural population of

France was 8,516,330. These are made up of

Employers.	Workers.
Proprietors, farmers, land-holders ...	5,119,325
Gardeners ...	99,639
Agricultural day-labourers...	2,403,711
" domestics ...	748,176
" carters ...	29,693
" gardeners ...	115,388

"The striking thing about these figures is the important number of small and large proprietors as compared with the non-owning wage-earners. "They show better than any comments could the real necessity for the proposed Federation to include in the organisation a certain number of small farmers, small proprietors and land-holders."

Another big question just now is for the delegates to determine the attitude of the producers on the land to the application of the eight-hour day in agriculture.

On Thursday of last week 13 farmer delegates and 13 worker delegates were to meet in conference under the Ministry of Labour to study the method of applying the eight-hour law to French agriculture.

But that's in France, d'ougeann tu? Not in Ireland, where neither the Republican Dail nor Carson's Provisional Government, nor even the Imperial British Parliament, has passed an eight-hour bill, much less taken steps to apply it to the country's most important industry.

"LE POPULAIRE" ON AMERICA AND IRELAND.

(In the International Politics column of "Le Populaire," Paris, Phedon continues to stress the international importance of Ireland. This week again we print another of his articles, entitled "America and Ireland," published on July 19.—Ed.)

Sufficient attention has not been given in the international press to the debate which has just taken place on Irish affairs in the United States senate.

As laid down at Washington a little less than a century ago the Monroe doctrine had two aspects. To the Americans it reserved the direction of American affairs, excluding from the New World all European interference, and it forbade in principle all American interference in the affairs of Europe.

Actually at present only the first aspect is maintained, and without any shadow of doubt to no power on our Continent, no matter how imperialist it might be, would it occur to provoke the government of Washington by aggression against Argentine, Chile or Venezuela.

But the second aspect has been done away with.

The participation of the United States in the world war and the engagement they have undertaken to defend France in case of a German offensive, have reduced by half the effect and the weight of the Monroe doctrine. If, as some people believe, Wilson is accepting a mandate for Constantinople and Armenia America will be entangled in the closest and most constant of the difficulties of the Old World.

Not only has England agreed—but she has even begged for this permanent intrusion of the Republic in European affairs. That means that England has no longer any power or right to protest against the raising of the Irish problem in the American Senate.

This body has taken two very significant votes:—

1. It has demanded all but unanimously that the Irish delegates be heard by the Paris Conference. And everybody knows that these delegates, sent as they have been by Sinn Fein, will formulate their complaints against the London Cabinet without any circumlocution whatever, and that they will demand an independent republic.

2. It has expressed its sympathy for the desires of the Irish people, that is to say, for separation.

In short, in regard to the question of Ireland, the Senate takes up the attitude adopted with regard to other oppressed nationalities, Techechs, Poles, Armenians, etc. It reckons that the doctrine of the right of peoples is valid for all, and not merely for some of them. It puts the Irish on the same ground as the groups formerly under subjection by the Central Empires.

Probably this will cause some anger and some humiliation to the governing class of England. That class is being taught a salutary lesson. Possibly, too, the American Senate has given way to political considerations which are not of the highest order. That matters very little: what does emerge is that the problem of Ireland is entering a new phase.

The Soviet and Religion.

The nation which was for centuries the unyielding outpost of Christendom against the invading Turk, and which is, after Ireland, perhaps, the oldest consciously national unit in Europe, Hungary, is to-day blockaded by the British, French and Italian Alliance.

Commerce and trade are being denied them, yet within their own boundary, immune from the bought antagonism of the Tscheko-Slovaks on the west, and steadily wearing down by arms and propaganda the Roumanian invaders, the Hungarians are maintaining a reign of Justice, social peace, and ordered progress.

The decrees published in the New York "Nation" show that the Hungarian Soviet has solved the vexed question of Housing. Houses are now the property of the Republic. A District Housing Committee, elected by the tenants, undertakes repairs and improvements, and collects rents, the amount of which is fixed by itself. Houses owned by workers are not liable for rent, the only charge upon them being a tax on the ground value.

The wholesale and retail trade is controlled by the National Federation of Commercial Employees through shop stewards. Maximum prices are fixed nationally. Articles for which no maximum prices are fixed are sold at cost price plus the net cost of distribution;

All Profit is Prohibited.

Agriculture is carried on by Co-operative Associations. Any person may join who can guarantee to give 120 days every year to the work of the farm.

The produce is shared according to the amount of work given by the individual member. No limit is placed on the size of the farms, except that they shall not be larger than can be worked by the members of the association.

The use of tractors and labour-saving machinery, and the adoption of new methods of cultivation are encouraged by the Republic. Between March 21 (the date of the proclamation of the Soviet) and April 15, co-operative associations had taken over 2,500,000 acres.

For many generations the Austrian rulers of Hungary, themselves Catholics, fomented religious dissension in Hungary, which is overwhelmingly Catholic in population. Taught by experience, the Communist Soviet Republic has decreed entire religious freedom. We publish the decree in full below.

DECREE ON THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION.

(Published in the "Pesti Naplo" for April 11.)

The Soviet Republic regards religion as the private affair of the individual, and safeguards everybody's right to exercise his religion freely.

Any person who hampers, or interferes with any other person in the free exercise of his religion, is regarded by the Soviet Republic as the enemy of revolutionary order.

However, a certain section of the clergy use the right to the free exercise of religion as a pretext for fostering, openly or secretly, counter-revolutionary agitation, and at religious meetings incite against the order, spirit, and institutions of the Soviet Republic. In most places the meetings during Easter week are utilised for this purpose.

The Revolutionary Governing Council will prosecute such abuses with the utmost rigour. At the same time it orders all local Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Councils and all Soviet Officials and delegates under their jurisdiction to safeguard to the utmost of their ability, the freedom of all meetings of a genuinely religious character.

In the future the Soviet Republic will refrain from interference with the exercise of religion, even in this limited sense.

Whereas, however, at present counter-revolutionaries try in many places to incite the masses, not yet duly enlightened, against the rule of workmen, soldiers and peasants, with the allegation that the dictatorship of the proletariat is the enemy of freedom of conscience;

Whereas, furthermore, these deceivers of the people disseminate the charge that the Soviet Republic prepares to abolish religion, and to divert the churches and chapels from their religious uses;

Whereas, finally, there are even such persons as are not ashamed to allege that the Soviet Republic desires to "communist" women;

Now, therefore, I order as follows:—The Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Council shall provide that on Easter Sunday, and the two subsequent Sundays, the clergymen shall make the following announcement from the pulpit, and explain it to their congregations:

1. The Soviet Revolution safeguards everybody's right to exercise his religion freely.

2. No person will be suffered to interfere with clergymen in their religious activities, or in the execution of religious rites.

3. Churches and other buildings used for religious purposes, such as chapels and other places of worship, will also in the future be used for religious purposes exclusively, and nobody plans to transform churches into theatres or cabarets or meeting halls or community centres.

4. The Communist Soviet Republic, also called the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, will not alter the form of marriage and family life as practised hitherto, and has no intention to do so. It will not communise women, and has no intention to do so.

5. All those who, by asserting the contrary, try to mislead the people, will be considered as enemies of the revolutionary order, and treated as such.

(Signed) SIGISMUND KUNFI,
 People's Commissioner on Public Education.

Budapest, April, 17, 1919.

TWELVE YEARS' SCHOOLING FOR HUNGARIAN CHILDREN.

Benefits of the Soviet Revolution.

Immediately after the revolution of 31st October, 1918, the Hungarian teachers' trade union set up a Commission of School Reform. During the then current school year many long delayed changes were made, and special classes in the science of teaching were opened at various centres for the teachers.

The scheme of reform now adopted divides the schools into four grades.

1. The Primary School, comprising eight classes in eight successive years, which every child in the country must pass through.

2. The Secondary School, with five classes in five successive years, following upon the eight classes of the primary school.

3. Pupils who do not choose to enter the Secondary School will enter the Occupational Schools of four class.

Agriculture, various crafts, and the business of distribution will be studied; the school day being divided to allow two lessons in theory, and four practical and experimental lessons.

4. Special High Grade Schools of Medicine, Science, Technical Subjects and Education.

The old verbal repetitions of set lessons are abolished, and practical methods of tuition by work and experiment adopted.

Secondary pupils will study Marxian social economy as one of the courses, and the history of the development of human society will be another subject of instruction. Definite moral instruction will be given in all grades. The bodily comfort and well-being of the children will be seen to by special staffs; baths and kindergartens being set up.

This programme of reform, which Irish teachers should note, is inaugurated by the teachers themselves as a constituent part of the Soviet regime, will come into force when the schools re-open in September.

Don't we need the Soviet in our Irish schools—beg pardon! the Managers' Schools.

A GLEAM OF HOPE FOR HUMANITY

Irish-American's View.

From the great Jesuit weekly "America" we take the following extract from an article by J. C. Walsh, U.S. staff correspondent at the Peace Conference and author of the article "Ireland at the Peace Conference," which appears in the current number of "Studies."—Ed.)

In Paris nobody any longer thinks of dogmatizing about Russia. The word Bolshevik is still to some extent a shibboleth, but it is not so fashionable as it was a few weeks ago for people who disputed about everything else to take shelter under an amicable agreement to denounce the Bolshevik.

The change is due to recognition and admission that Russia is completely out of hand and that if it called itself something else than Bolshevik it would still be outside the circle of influence within which the fate of Europe is being, as is thought, decided.

If those who come back from Russia have different stories to tell it is because they went there for different purposes. The military-minded come back in despair. Those whose philosophy of life rests upon the efficient working of a factory come back in anger. Those who are in a hurry about the conclusion of peace in Europe come back in alarm.

But one must add that those who leave Paris oppressed with a sense of the cynical selfishness of the great Powers return from Russia with a feeling that there, somehow, there is working something which affords a gleam of hope for that mass of humanity whose interest is "above all governments."

It is useful to have this appreciation of first hand competent observers, for none of the other explanations sufficiently explain many things that have happened.

From the "Irish People." (Organ of the Fenian Brotherhood) July 30, 1864.

To permit a small class whether alien or native, to obtain a monopoly of the land is an intolerable injustice; its continued enforcement is neither more nor less than a robbery of the hard and labourious earnings of the poor.

Twenty-Fifth Labour Congress

FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Congress week began at Drogheda with what we believe was Drogheda's first Socialist meeting held on Sunday in the Mall, by the Socialist Party of Ireland. Eamonn Rooney presided over a huge gathering, which listened with close attention to well-argued speeches from Tom Nagle, Tom Kennedy and J. Hughes. The reception accorded their addresses will encourage the S.P.I. to arrange a series of lectures in the town, and the formation of a local branch.

The delegates to Congress attended in large numbers, as if to break themselves in for the four days' speech-making that followed.

On Monday morning the Congress was welcomed to the ancient town, in the Whitworth Hall, by a workingman Mayor, Mr. S. McGowan, an officer of the local branch of the Postmen's Federation, who is carrying on as postman while magnifying his office as Mayor by much activity in promoting local welfare.

Mr. McCabe, Drogheda Trades Council, was appointed Assistant Congress Secretary. The election of Tellers resulted in Miss Norah Connolly, I.T. & G.W.U., topping the poll, once more associating the name of Connolly with the work of the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, in which her father did some of his best, if least showy, work.

Thomas Cassidy's Presidential address was a characteristic, straightforward statement of the present situation of Irish Labour as he saw it. Doubtless, it will evoke criticism, but it expresses a ponderable mass of opinion in Ireland, particularly in Ulster. It belongs to a school less of thought than of action, concerned with the practical and the practicable, rather than with the desirable and the ideal. Its existence cannot be ignored, and criticism of its viewpoint and expression must be such as will meet it with argument and proof and persuasion.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Fellow-delegates—In twelve months which have passed since Congress met in Waterford matters of great moment have taken place. Some of those momentous events we can look back upon and pride ourselves on the part taken by Irish Labour; owing to the conditions surrounding others we cannot view them with that full delight which their greatness warranted.

In August last, while the immediate danger of Conscription being applied to this country was lifted by the establishment of a system of voluntary recruiting, we were warned by the President of Congress (Mr. O'Brien) in his great address that the danger was by no means past. How true that was the events of the months which followed fully proved. From the very first it was recognised that voluntary recruiting was doomed to failure. It was never meant to succeed, but only to be used as an excuse for the imposition of Conscription on the Irish people at a later and perhaps more opportune stage, when the determination of the people to resist had been weakened.

But in spite of threats, in spite of the imprisonment of the recognised leaders of the vast majority of the people of the country without charge being preferred against them—in spite of the great preparations which the military had made for the imposition of conscription, and which they daily flaunted in the face of the people all over the country—in spite of all, the people remained steadfast to their pledge of April, 1918, when they solemnly determined to resist by every means the imposition of compulsory military service.

CONSCRIPTION.

Going through the country I saw for myself how great, how perfect were the preparations of the military, with their armoured trains and armoured cars, with their tanks, and aeroplanes, and all the appurtenances of war: On the other hand, I saw for myself how great, how grand, was the determination of the people.

Never for a moment did they deceive themselves in the thought that danger had passed, never for a moment did they close their eyes to the preparations made for the gathering of the blood-tax. They had made up their minds, and come what might, they were prepared to face rather than submit to being placed under compulsory military service. In looking back on those anxious days, I felt that to-day I must pay my tribute to the magnificent spirit displayed by the people, and in my humble way I would desire to point out the lesson of unity it carries with it.

In their determination to resist this iniquitous measure, the people of Ireland were united as seldom before, and in this unity of purpose success was achieved—the order to apply conscription to this country was never placed on the table of the British House of Commons.

For this success different parties claim credit. No attempt to make party capital out of such a gloriously united movement should be attempted. I prefer that it should be looked upon as a great national victory for a united people against oppression—a victory of Right over Might—a victory to which we are

proud the organised workers of the country contributed their full share.

Would that the people of this country were united always as they were during those months when the shadow of conscription hung over our land; would that the unity of purpose displayed throughout that anxious period were maintained.

PEACE AND THE LEAGUE.

In August last the world was in the throes of the greatest war nations ever participated in. How we then longed for Peace—for a Peace which would mean the end of war for all time, and restore to subject peoples their freedom. In this we were encouraged by the high ideals promulgated by President Wilson in his historic Fourteen Points. How we later hailed with thankfulness the signing of an armistice on the basis of those Fourteen points, and how hopefully we looked towards the Peace Conference for the fulfilment in a treaty of the great promises held out to mankind. There never was a gathering which assembled with more hope on the part of the peoples of the world than the Peace Conference in Paris; How have those hopes been realised? So far as the Allied and Central Powers are concerned war indeed has ceased; peace terms have been signed. But while war has ended in France and Flanders, the clash of arms still resound throughout the world; and who believes that the treaty signed at Versailles will bring that Peace which the world desired. Sir Douglas Haig believes it not, for he is already advocating the training of the youth of Britain for the next great war. General Smuts does not believe it; he signed the treaty because it was imperatively necessary to close the war. The German Ministers who attached their signatures do not believe it; they signed under duress, to save their people from starvation, believing that, anxious as they might be to stand by the terms, the conditions imposed are impossible to fulfil. Wilson, Lloyd George, nor Clemenceau do not believe it, for has not another treaty been entered into between France, England and America. Orlando, Italy's representative on the Big Four, does not believe it, for, it is reported that he signed a secret alliance with Roumania against the Jugo-Slavs. Although war is still raging in many parts of the world, and the Peace desired is not yet, I am indeed thankful that the awful carnage on the Western front has ended. The treaty with Germany which has followed is indeed harsh in its conditions, and departs much from the principles which we were told animated the Allied Powers. I hope, however, that the mellowing influence of time will bring about such a change of feeling in the minds and hearts of the victorious nations that many of those harsh conditions will be modified, and the conquered peoples given a fair chance to carve out for themselves a new destiny freed from the curse of militarism. The terms of the treaty are, however, claimed by their framers to be just. But was justice not to be mixed with mercy. Reparation for injuries done, it is claimed, is a just proposition, but it can only be just to the extent to which the conquered nations are able to bear the burden, and fair opportunities must be given those countries for the development of their industries so that the conditions laid down may be complied with. The physical restoration of the invaded areas is claimed to be a just proposition; but very little mercy is shown in the condition that 140,000 milch cows together with a large number of other live stock, must in three months be handed over by a country whose children are dying in thousands for the want of milk. I look upon the end of militarism in Germany with joy, but I want to see militarism abolished the world over; I hail with satisfaction the end of conscription in Germany, but I also wish to see it abolished wherever to-day it exists throughout the world, including England. I rejoice to know that subject peoples have regained their liberty, and if it is just that this should be so in the domain of the defeated Powers, surely it is equally just that the same principles should be applied to the claims for liberty by the subject peoples of the conquering Powers. We are asked by all the great statesmen to look forward with hope to the League of Nations, and while I welcome the principle embodied in the establishment of such a body, with all its great opportunities to make this world better than it has ever been before, its present constitution can not secure the confidence of the workers. A League of Nations to secure that confidence must embrace all nations, and must be representative of the peoples. At present constituted, it seems, in the words of the last resolution on your agenda, "a perpetuation under a new form of an alliance of one group of States and an instrument designed for the more thorough exploitation of the working-class." It is true that provision has been made for the setting up of an International Labour Commission with the object of applying internationally the principle of the 48 hours' week, the preventing or provid-

ing against unemployment, and the regulation of the employment of women and children. This Commission is to be composed of representatives of the countries comprised in the League of Nations. Again, I welcome the principle embodied, but for the same reason as I have before mentioned, it will not secure the confidence of the workers. Our hope is in an International League of the working classes of the world, and for that we will have to continue to work through the Internationals.

ALLIES' WAR ON RUSSIA.

Although opportunity will be given to the delegates through a resolution on the agenda to discuss the Russian situation, I cannot refrain from expressing my condemnation of the interference of the Allied and Associated Powers in Russia, and the organised propaganda of calumny which is in existence to influence the public mind against the Bolshevik leaders. Such condemnation does not necessarily carry with it vindication of Bolshevism or a defence of the methods which are found necessary to support the revolution. Bolshevism (as Ramsay MacDonald points out) can be tested only by the free operation of political opinion and experience in Russia. But it is not, apparently, desired that the experiment should be tried, and this free operation of political opinion is being strangled by the support which the Allies are extending to Koltchak and Denikin, and by the widespread distribution of literature designed to poison the public mind against the leaders of the revolution and their followers, and make them appear as the enemies of mankind. The war against the Bolsheviks is a war of interests; it is a war of Capitalism against Democratic rule, it is a war to again set up in Russia the old regime, so that the wonderful resources of that great country may continue to be exploited in the interests of the Capitalist class. It is of this I protest. And in this capitalistic war the Allied and Associated Powers (particularly England) are supporting the reactionary leaders, and hypocritically stating that this support is extended in the name of humanity. I trust the power of Democracy in Britain will be sufficiently strong to yet save that country from this disgrace, and that interference in Russian affairs will be abandoned. I defend not the atrocities which are being committed in the prosecution of the revolution—war itself is an atrocity which I abhor, and in the carrying on of war it is inevitable that acts will be committed that merit the condemnation of mankind. But these atrocious acts are committed by both parties—if they are to be condemned in the Reds they must equally be condemned in the Whites. What I do protest against, however, is the exaggeration indulged in by the agents of the Capitalist class—the manufacture of horrifying tales which have little or no foundation, the circulation of stories such as the now discredited nationalisation of woman-kind—all for the purpose of alienating sympathy with the champions of an oppressed people. Are the alleged atrocities which are now being so strongly condemned in the case of the Bolsheviks greater than those of the armies of Koltchak or Denikin, are they greater than those which were daily committed under the rule of the Czar and his dictators? Is it imagined that the story of how the Revolution of 1905 was stamped out in blood is forgotten. There was then no interference in the name of humanity. No. The interests of the Capitalist class were then not in danger. The success of the present economic revolution would dethrone Capitalism, hence the interference of our Capitalist Governments. But even now it looks as if the Allies have recognised that they have backed the wrong horse, and the sooner that they withdraw their support the safer it will be for themselves.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

The most important event, in my opinion, to Irish Labour which has occurred in the past twelve months has been the admission of the Irish Labour Party to the International as a separate unit, and the participation of our delegates (Johnson and O'Shannon) in the Berne Conference, and subsequently at Amsterdam. The very full reports which your delegates have supplied of the proceedings of these conferences make it unnecessary for me to dwell at any length on this subject. Suffice it to say that I trust the International connection thus formed will be continued and strengthened, and that in all efforts to improve the conditions of the workers of the world and to secure for them their rightful position in the control of the world's affairs that Irish Labour will ever take its part.

THE ELECTIONS.

The decision of your National Executive to participate as a party in the late General Election and the subsequent withdrawal of its candidates was an event which gave rise to many comments and an opportunity to those who are ever ready to malign the Labour Party

and accuse it of connection with party politics. In anything which was then done, the advancement and strengthening of Labour's cause was the paramount consideration.

THE NEW ELECTORAL ACT.

had given to the workers of the country a greater power than they ever possessed before, and the time was considered favourable to give them the opportunity to declare their allegiance to the policy which the Irish Labour Party had set forth. We recognised that "for the worker living year in and year out, even in so-called prosperous times, with the barest margin between his daily work and starvation, it is not enough to know that his elected representatives stand for the freedom of Ireland as a political State." We had no doubt at the time that the workers of the country of all political parties were anxious for the opportunity to return as their representatives men of their own class pledged to the Labour Party policy; we were fully satisfied that the workers throughout the land were as much convinced as we that it would be indeed unwise to leave the control of the political machine in the hands of either Labour's enemies or professing friends. I am fully convinced that that is still so. But, owing to the acute political differences which existed at the time and the strong desire on the part of the people that the great principle of self-determination, which was to be made the issue at the election in Ireland, should not be clouded, it was soon clearly demonstrated that last December was not the opportune time for Labour to enter the fight for Parliamentary representation. If it had done so it would, in my opinion, have been the

greatest error ever made.

Strong trade unionists, adherents of their respective political parties, would, under the then existing circumstances, have felt themselves compelled to vote for the nominees of the political parties as against a Labour candidate, and the result would indeed have been disastrous to the cause of Labour. It was this consideration only which led to the withdrawal of the Labour Party from the last General Election. The time is, however, again approaching when this question will once more have to receive the consideration of Irish Labour: It is generally thought that a General Election can not be long delayed. Will Irish Labour make an effort to secure Parliamentary representation? If elected, will Irish Labour representatives attend Westminster until such time as this country regains her freedom and her right to make the laws to govern the Irish nation? These are questions which, I believe, will have to be faced before we again meet in annual Congress. In the past it was contended that until the Home Rule question was settled it would be impossible to join North and South and form a Parliamentary Labour Party. In 1914 we thought that this settlement was about to be accomplished. It was on this hypothesis that Larkin, in his great address to Congress in Dublin, appealed for the establishment of the "New Party—a Labour Party—an industrial army, a political party whose politics would be the assurance of bread and butter for all." "Now (he said) that the Government of Ireland Bill, which was alleged to be a Home Rule Bill, was on the Statute Book, and would be law in the immediate future, that question was settled once and for all." But once again it was fated that the cup was to be dashed from our lips. The Irish question is not yet settled, and the problem seems more complex than ever. It was then a consideration of

Home Rulers and Anti-Home Rulers; it is now, in addition, a question of Constitutionalism and the policy of Sinn Fein. Will Irish Labour have to wait until all these warring elements are brought together in a National settlement before it can enter the arena in an election for Parliamentary representatives? Is it advisable that it should do so? This is a question which, I think, should be answered by the representatives of the workers in Special Congress when the time arrives. And if it be decided that Labour should enter the contest the question of attendance at Westminster at once arises, and must be considered. Owing to the conditions existing over the country, daily deportations, imprisonment without trial, suppression of public opinion, of free speech, and right of meeting—owing to these conditions it was decided that members of an Irish Labour Party should not attend the House of Commons. For this decision we were accused of playing into the hands of the Sinn Fein Party. Such is not the fact. It seemed to be forgotten that an Irish Labour Party would be composed of men in whose hearts there was love as strong for the Motherland as existed in the hearts of the men composing the other parties; it seemed to be forgotten that as Irishmen we object as strongly as the most ardent or extreme Nationalist in the manner in which this country is misgoverned, and we recognise the utility, from a National political party point of view, under the present constitution of

House of Commons, of the attendance Irish members at Westminster. But representatives of the workers we recognised also that certain circumstances, beside the question of Home Rule or National Independence might arise here the interests of democracy would be at stake, and which would warrant the attendance of Irish Labour members. Personally, I believe, that so far as about is concerned, abstention should only be adopted as a policy—as a protest. I agree that most valuable work for Labour's cause can be done in Ireland by the strengthening of the organisation of the industrial forces, but if we are to elect Parliamentary Labour representatives then we must seriously consider—so long as laws for this country are made at Westminster—whether it would be wise to forego the power which such election would place in our hands to advance the cause in which we are engaged, or the opportunity which it would afford Irish Labour, to assist the representatives of British Labour in their efforts to mould legislation on democratic lines. We have hope in the International idea; why, then, should we deny our support to the champions of Labour's cause in another country when we have an opportunity of assisting them in their struggles. And it may be that the hope for Ireland's freedom will shortly rest in the hands of the democracy of Britain and the British Labour Party.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

But no matter what decisions may be arrived at with respect to Parliamentary elections, there can be no possible difference of opinion on the question of contesting Local Government elections. Great powers are possessed by local public bodies, which, if exercised to their full extent, would tend much to the greater health, comfort, happiness, and education of the people in the cities, towns, and districts of Ireland. It has been stated, in another sense, that the present representatives on these boards are out of sympathy to a great extent, with the feelings of the people. So far as Labour is concerned, they were never much in sympathy with the feelings of the workers. Let them be Nationalist or Unionist, they represented primarily their own class interests, and the best of them gave but little thought to the interests of the workers. How, after all, could it be expected that the landlord or the landowner on county and district councils would give much attention to the interests of the agricultural labourer, or see that the contracts of their respective boards were carried out under fair conditions of labour; how could it be expected that the house-owner, the house-agent, or the employer on borough and urban councils would give much attention to the interests of town workers how could it be expected that such representatives would be anxious to put in force the powers they possess for proper sanitation, for better housing, for the provision of public baths, public libraries and recreation grounds for the workers and their children. No; such representatives did not seek election to look after the interests of the worker—their object was to protect their own interests and the interest of their class.

And yet they were put in position by the votes of the workers! It is time the workers of the country woke up to the fact that they possess the power to return their own representatives to these boards—men of their own class who will look after their interests, or men pledged to the policy of the Labour Party. I hope that preparations will be made in every city, town, and district in Ireland to contest the forthcoming Local Government elections in the interests of Labour. I am not one who is out for the entire control of these boards by the representatives of any one class—the interests of all should be represented—but I am out for such a representation of workers as will make their influence effective. I believe that through the operation of the Proportional Representation Act such a fair representation can be secured. And might I here remark that, included in the preparations by Trades Councils and Trades Societies for the forthcoming elections, provision should be made for the instruction of the voters in the Proportional system.

May I here take the opportunity of briefly referring to the coming into operation of the

HOUSING OF THE WORKERS' ACT.

For years this question has engaged the attention of Congress, and I welcome the attempt made by the Government to provide the workers of the towns with decent housing accommodation. The financial provisions of the Act are not all that might be desired, nor does it seem equitable that Dublin and Belfast should be asked to raise in the open market the necessary money required for their schemes. The heavy burden of interest will unduly raise the economic rent of the houses to be erected and add to the already heavy burdens of the working class. It is stated that the subsidy of 25s. (and in exceptional circumstances 27s. 6d.) for every 20s. collected is a better financial provision than the limit of the 1d. rate embodied in the English and Scotch measures. I am not a financial expert to contest the accuracy of this statement, but it is really difficult to believe that the British Treasury would grant to Ireland better provisions than those granted to English authorities. If they were really sincere in their professions, I see no reason why the Government should not have given Irish local authorities the option of adopting the English terms. The Act, however, is to be welcomed, and while protesting against its financial provisions and using our strength to have them in the future amended, we should take full advantage of it to secure for the workers in our cities and towns decent housing accommodation. Your resolution on this question calls for the establishment of a National Housing Council, but failing this we should

endeavour at the first opportunity to return our own representatives on the public boards in whose hands the working of the scheme is placed.

I also welcome the decision of the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the Labourers' Act, and provide the much-needed housing accommodation for our workers in rural areas.

Other events of interests to the Irish Labour movement have occurred during the year, such as the response of Labour to the call that May 1st should be held as Labour's festival, the great struggle in which the Belfast workers engaged for the recognition of the 44 hours week, and which, while not fully successful, has undoubtedly brought the realisation of that ideal appreciably nearer; the protest strike of

THE WORKERS OF LIMERICK

against applying for military permits to allow them to go and return from work. These matters are, however, referred to in your Executive's report, and, as they may be the subject of discussion, I refrain from comment. Let us, however, learn from the lessons we have gained in all things in which Labour has taken part in the past twelve months the wisdom which will guide our future actions on those straight lines which will ultimately lead us to the accomplishment of our ends. We cannot afford to make many mistakes. The workers of Ireland have shown they are responsive to the call, and this responsiveness on the part of the rank and file makes the responsibility of their leaders the greater.

On all sides at the moment we see industrial unrest. And can we wonder at this. We have for the past four years been warning our people that as sure as morning the industrial war would follow the cessation of hostilities on the Continent. Our forecast has proved but too true. Looking into the future and referring to what would follow the disbandment of the armies, Mr. Johnson, at Sligo Congress, with that clear vision with which he is endowed, used these words: "Many cool-headed students look with fear and trembling on the future of Europe after the peace is proclaimed. They seem to see the

GAUNT SPECTRE OF STARVATION fronting the peoples and a universal revolt against the rulers who, having led the nations into the war, have failed to save them from the consequences of war. It is a possibility that must be met, and unless courage, wide vision, and strong—even revolutionary—methods are taken by the Governments there may be no avoidance of the uprising of despair." How true the forecast; the prophecy has come to pass. So far as the Government of these countries is concerned that courage to deal with the changed conditions has not been evident. As England was unprepared for war, so it seems she also was unprepared for peace. But the courage and the energy displayed in tackling the problems arising out of her entrance into war have not been shown in dealing with the social problems arising out of the cessation of hostilities and the demobilisation of the forces. The great reconstruction problem seems yet unsolved, and even when methods have been suggested by their own commission—revolutionary methods, I agree—for the better working of the greatest industry in Britain, the Government, although pledged to embody these findings in an Act of Parliament, seem to be, as of old, considering the interests of the capitalist mine-owner more than the interests of the nation. Let the result of Bothwell be a warning. The same it is throughout all the other industries. The productive activities of the nation are being allowed to fall back into the

HANDS OF THE PROFITEERS, and profiteering is greater now than ever before. Is it any wonder, then, that grave unrest prevails, and this unrest will prevail until such time as the workers are satisfied that the Government of the country is carried on for the benefit of the people of the country and not for a class. This is the remedy, and the only remedy. Industrial councils may succeed in bringing about the smoother working of an industry, and give to the workers a certain voice in the management; conciliation boards may succeed in settling differences between the workers and their employers, but until profiteering in all things is abolished there can be no industrial peace. Under the present system of Government what applies in this sense to England and Scotland applies equally to Ireland. The Irish profiteer is as avaricious as his cross-Channel brother.

Of the future of the workers of this country few there are who can forecast.

One thing, however, is certain, that until the government of Ireland is placed in the hands of the Irish people real development cannot take place.

In the meantime, nevertheless, we in the Labour movement can go steadily on in the work in which we are engaged, preparing in the different stages for the realisation of our hopes and the fulfilment of our objects as set forth in the constitution of the Labour Party. The organisation of the workers of the country has made great progress in the twelve months just past. Let the same activity prevail in the months and years to come. Whether the workers should be organised in one big union or no is a matter I will not now discuss, the memorandum prepared on this subject by Mr. Johnson will give an opportunity for the consideration of this question. Of one thing, however, I am certain; there must in the future be a clearer understanding existing between the Unions engaged in this work, and there must be greater cohesion on the part of the organised workers of the country. I believe this can be brought about by organisation on industrial lines, and the amalgamation of existing Unions. Let us use our organised strength through the various boards and take advantage of the powers already possessed, and others which we may obtain to improve the existing conditions of our people until that time arrives when victory complete will crown our efforts and the co-operative Commonwealth, which is our aim, is established. Let us strengthen the National Executive. If the work of the Labour Party is to be satisfactorily carried on—and it is increasing day by day—I am of the opinion that the question of appointing full-time chief officers must soon be considered, central offices must be secured, properly equipped and staffed. It is unfair to the movement that the work has to be carried on by men

and women whose time is well filled up by attention to their respective callings or official duties.

UNITY.

To accomplish our aims unity is essential. Differences there have been in the past, differences, unfortunately there are at present. Those differences are giving joy to our enemies, who are looking forward to Congress for such a display of bitterness by the delegates towards each other as will materially weaken the movement in the country. Criticism no one can object to—straight, honest criticism, having for its object the strengthening of the cause in which we are engaged. For such criticism full opportunity will be afforded. Meeting to-day on Boyne's historic banks, I wish to make an appeal. My official connection with the Congress terminates with this Conference, I have always endeavoured to work in harmony with all sections for the advancement of the movement; to the extent I think I have succeeded. I recognise that while differences exist on some matters between the workers of the North and South, that while differences exist between sections in other parts of the country, as trade unionists one is as anxious as the other to advance the cause of Labour. To-day, then, this Congress for such a display of bitterness may be on other matters, we should cross hands in friendship and resolve that shoulder to shoulder we will in the future fight in that movement which has room for all sections, of political thought—but none for personal animosity—and whose object is the uplifting, the emancipation, and the freedom of the class to which we all belong.

In preparing something to say to you this morning in an opening address I recognised most fully how unworthy I am to occupy the position of president at such an important gathering at such a momentous time. In attempting to deal with the important events which have taken place since last we met I felt how incompetent I am. To Dublin in 1914 my thoughts went back, and I longed for the fiery eloquence and determination of Larkin; to Sligo, in 1916, my thoughts wandered, and I longed for the great power of reasoning and foresight shown by Tom Johnson in his address to that Congress; to Waterford last year did my thoughts also stray, and I thought of the great ability displayed by O'Brien, and I wished that it had been the lot of some of those men to preside on this occasion and deal with the great questions affecting the workers at the moment. But while not possessed of any of the great gifts of these my predecessors, whose addresses are recognised as the text-books of Irish Labour, yet what I have spoken is what I believe. It may not be in harmony with the feelings of the delegates in some respects, but I ask you to accept it as the offering of one who is desirous that unity should prevail, that good should be done, and that all means which lie at our hands to accomplish this end should be availed of. In carrying out the duties imposed upon me for the next three days, I ask you to bear with me if at any time transgress the authority of the chair, and by the display of a spirit of tolerance for each other's opinions assist me in the carrying out of my task.

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RESOLUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH DUBLIN TRADES COUNCIL,

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JOTTINGS FROM ULSTER.

Peace Celebrations. We commend Alfred Noyes' lines to the flag-bearers. The laugh is Death's: Court up, count up the stricken homes that wail the first-born son, Count by your starved and fatherless the tale of what hath perished, Then gather with your foes and ask, if you—or I—have won.

The Bill. My Lord Mayor considers £15,000 is required to pay the bill, which will be submitted by the various patriotic enterers who have been engaged to entertain the returned heroes. It's the soldiers' final appearance before the public—after this obligation—unless these men themselves see to it that Belfast is made a fit place for heroes to live in, and, let us add, get employment in.

Economy? The gentlemen in charge of above celebrations have decided to burn from £300 to £400 worth of timber on the Cavehill to illuminate the heavens and celebrate peace. With mill-workers on half-time and thousands of unemployed on our streets, this atrocity is in keeping with Nero's fiddling.

Pay or Work. The demand of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Federation to be paid on August 9th, or, failing that, work to go on as usual, has caused quite a sensation amongst those people who have had the worldly sense to keep on building up the Empire by waving a flag and robbing the workers, while the other fellow did the fighting. We do not know what reply our engineering friends received—but the reply received from the employers of the Lower Docks to the same demand made by the Belfast Branch of the I.T. and G.W.U. was a polite refusal. Oh, yes! they are all patriotic, providing you don't touch the profits.

How Generous! Lord Londonderry is to receive the freedom of the city—a learned alderman gave as one of the reasons for this honour; that his Lordship had been so generous in giving free coal to the widows of miners killed in the war. How generous! We thought the evidence at the Coal Commission enquiry would have cleared the air of cant of this kind. We think it was proved then that Lord Londonderry nor any of his class did not put the coal in the earth, that while they toiled not they lived in palaces, and they who toiled and the wives of those who fought not only worked hard but were housed in hovels.

Generous, be-dad! I think it's the miners who are generous. 'Tis a case of the high-wayman handing back the purse after pocketing the cash.

Prices. Coal, butter and eggs soaring upwards. Bridging the Boyns. The visits of Messrs. McCabe and O'Reilly have not only returned some straying cattle to Co. Meath, but a strong section has been added to the Belfast branch by the organising of the drovers of Belfast and district.

Fighters All. The men of Parkmore, Glenravel and district are to be congratulated on their great fight against the Antrim Iron Ore Company. These men have now for 19 weeks held out for recognition of the Union and for somewhat better conditions than the piecework rates which allowed them to earn 4 or 5 shillings per day. The Union was of no account some weeks back; to-day the directors invade the office offering terms. Changed times—yes, and Glenravel Branch of the I.T. and G.W.U. have earned the workers' thanks. The spirit of the men is that which Watt Mason writes about in Horse Sense: "I like to think of John Paul Jones, whose ship was split from truck to fender, the British asked in blasted tones if he were willing to surrender. The Yankee mariner replied: 'Our ship is sinking at this moment, but don't begin to put on side.' For we have just begun our fighting."

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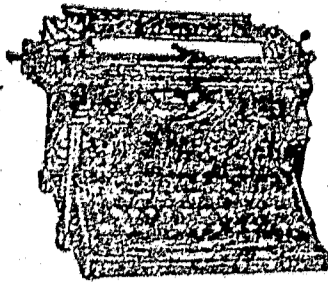
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Transport Union Notes.**DUBLIN DOINGS.**

As the result of a representative meeting of the men engaged by the Dublin stovedores, a revised scale of tonnage rates has been drawn up, and instructions given to the Branch to communicate with the Stevedores' Association, requesting that arrangements be made to meet representatives of the Union in conference this week for the purpose of having a discussion on the draft demand. Printers' Pic.

For some time past our members on the Dublin newspaper staffs have been agitating for annual holidays on precisely the same lines as obtained in the case of the other newspaper employees whose unions are affiliated to the Alliance.

Those in whom we are interested are demanding fourteen days' annual leave, with, of course, payment of wages in full, and payment at the rate of double time for all bank holidays worked.

In the event of the claim not being established, it is understood drastic action will be taken.

The "shoppers," by the bye, made the "Voice" heard "some" last week.

44—And no More.

The employees in Messrs. Barrington's soap works are looking for a 44-hour working week. Anyway, it is quite long enough to work in these days.

What is really wanted is a considerably shortened working week introduced universally, so that a more favourable opportunity can be thus afforded the wealth-producers of studying in their leisure moments the more pressing needs of life.

With greater freedom from grinding toil, a healthier discontent will at once begin to manifest itself amongst the wage-earning class against the present soul-destroying system of society.

Certainly, by all means, let us have 44—and no more. The Merchants' Warehousing Company and the Granaries Company met Union officials last week to discuss the employees' demands for more pay. The terms offered by the employers having been laid before the men, it was agreed to accept them. That Tuber Threat.

What looked like a rupture in their relations has been averted in connection with the claim served on behalf of the employees engaged by the firms represented in the Smithfield Factors' Association.

Following a series of conferences, a settlement has been reached on the basis of an increase equivalent to 10s. per week all round.

Here are the terms of agreement:—A flat wage of 50s. per week for all storemen, and an increase of 5s. per week on the standard rate of pay for porters, together with an additional increase of 3d. on the tonnage rates.

The revised conditions date retrospectively.

The Alderman Again.

The magnanimity of Alderman Corrigan is overwhelming. Would you believe that he actually offered 2s. per week extra to his vanmen of the Blanchardstown Mills, some of whom are at present in receipt of the stupendous sum of 29s. weekly?

For the boys, however, he could not see his way to do anything in their case—presumably because they are sufficiently well off enough on their present exorbitant wages (sic).

No, not at all; we don't blame the other directors so much for prolonging the present strike. It is not their fault, we believe. The worthy Alderman himself is solely responsible for standing in the way of a reasonable settlement, and we are not surprised in the least to hear of the contemplated resignation of some of the directors. Anyway, Corrigan would vex a saint with his antedeluvian methods.

No! So Bad.

In the Junior Army and Navy Stores, by agreement, the vanmen rates have been fixed at 52s. per week; vanboys, a minimum of 20s.; whilst packers have been offered 50s.; but the proffered terms not being deemed satisfactory, the firm has been asked to make a further advance on the original for the men in the packing department. Other amendments have also been requested.

A 45-hour working-week has been established in the firm, and for all work done outside the normal week overtime is to be payable at the rate of 2s. per hour to all employees.

For attendance at stables on Sundays a half-day's pay will be given; and after six months' service every employee will become entitled to sick-pay for 12 days in any one year, Ireland Sober, Etc.

A communication has been dispatched to the Mineral Water Manufacturers Association in respect of the members in the industry for the establishment of annual holidays, and a decision is expected any moment.

Black Diamonds.

The coal-workers' claim is coming up for discussion at the Coal Merchants' Association this week.

Messrs. Dilly and Dally.

We are simply growing sick with the methods employed by the Court of Referees towards the applicants for the Out-of-work donation. Bona-fide claims are deliberately turned down on the slightest pretext by the mandarins in office at Lord Edward Street.

Credence is given to practically everything said or written by the employer, and where agreement exists, that actually becomes a mere "scrap of paper" with the "powers that be" when the donation claimant asks for only bare justice in accordance with the terms of agreement.

Something Doin'.

Sean Rogan, however, is now the members' advocate on the Court, and we feel certain that he will render a good account of his stewardship.

Forward the Haberdashery.

A special general meeting of the Drapery Section will be held on next Monday, 11th inst., at 8 p.m. sharp. As the business to be transacted is urgent and important, a full and punctual attendance is earnestly requested.

A 1913 Echo.

Bell, the quondam bobby, has been "fired" by Messrs. Hugh Moore and Alexander, and rumour now has it that Bell has since crossed the Channel in connection with the London Police strike.

Checkers' Case.

A satisfactory settlement has been come to in connection with the claim of the cross-Channel checkers. The agreement arrived at provides for an all-round advance of 6s., excepting in the case of the City of Dublin employees, for whom 4s. per week has been accepted. Other improvements are:—A 48-hour week, and overtime to be payable at the rate of 1s. per hour.

Annual holidays have also been conceded.

The Grave Trouble.

The cause of the ebullition of Sabbatarianism in the Dublin Cemeteries Committee is not that they want to "Remember the Sabbath Day," but because the men want pay for Sunday work.

Shop Stewards' Movement.

When is No. 3 Branch coming into line?

ON THE FOUR WINDS.

Mail Car Drivers.

Wallis & Sons have agreed to arbitration on the demand covering drivers at Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Queens-town and Passage West.

Maltings.

To branch secretaries who have failed to return the form recently issued, asking for details of local conditions. The demands have now been served. Don't clamour at H.O. if your malt-house section gets no advance!

Dungarvan.

M. McCarthy, of No. 1, and Organiser Nagle, with Larry Veale, stepped into the breach in the tussle with Employers' Federation. Results:—Dockers, increases of 66 per cent. to 33 per cent. on wages, more men employed, etc.; offers of 6s. to creamery workers, 4s. to other town employees are still under discussion. Helvic Pier builders offer 1d. per hour advance, 53 hour week, time and a half overtime.

Waterford.

Corporation have discovered their mistake! The reduction of wages has been reconsidered.

A Flow of Soul.

The Transport delegates who travelled to Drogheda via Dublin had a reunion on Saturday last in Liberty Cafe, when they assured themselves at first-hand of the excellence of the cuisine. Chef Bur-

gess and Mr. Wilson excelled themselves. Harmony was entered upon, and Miss Dargan, Alderman Corish (Wexford), George N. Geraghty (Roscommon), Kenealey (Cork), N. Phelan (Kilmacthomas), O'Keefe (Limerick), T. Nagle (Waterford), James Smith (Liberty Hall Players), J. J. Hughes and Redden (Limerick), contributed to the entertainment.

Dingle.

Organiser Neligan scooped in all merchants after a stiff fight. 'Twas a "fishy" business. Terms—All men to be employed through Union, 36s. per week permanent men; 1s. 6d. per hour overtime; 7s. per day casual workers; 8 hour day. Overtime to commence 7 p.m. irrespective of hours worked during the day. Girl workers, 5s. per 8 hour day, etc.

Wexford.

Alderman Dick Corish is joining the Wexford Harbour Board. Labour has important functions on these arteries of commerce, and must control them.

Tipperary.

The dismissal from Cleeves' of an I.T.G. W.U. man for refusing to join the local society is certainly not in accord with O.B.U. ideals. The society has declined to right the wrong, and the firm is now being given a chance of doing it. Cleeves' girl-workers are with the victimised employee to the last girl.

Cora.

Ballykisteen Stud men have stood their 38s. for seven days long enough and mean to get more.

Ballyduff.

A 600 membership is expected when Dunhill and Butlerstown districts, which are organising furiously, have been solidified.

Cork Laundries.

The old sore in regard to the keeping down of rates in ordinary firms owing to the attitude of the institutions is rapidly healing now that the latter are raising prices to the level of the others.

Clonmel.

The hewers of wood at the sawmills are on strike for increases, and the makers of dough, whose demands have been turned down by the Master Bakers, shape that way too.

Cloughduv.

The Castlemore Limeworks men must apparently squeeze to extract some juice in connection with recent demand.

Castlebar.

The Labour members on the U. D. Council will show their strength in pushing the carters' demand for 13s. per day and labourers' for 35s. per week.

Bandon.

Mineral water and bottling store employees are on the move for a 10s. advance on an average of 32s.

Coal Mines.

The Arigna men have renewed their demand for improvements in rates and require retrospective payment from February. Castlecomer Colliery employees seek 50 per cent. increase on present rates.

Lattin.

This Co. Tipperary Branch has had success with recent local wages movement. The members have agreed to pay first week's increases into the Union funds.

Grangemockler.

Creamery settled at 40s. for buttermaker; engineman, 40s.; general, 35s.

Freshford.

Sawmills and creamery, half-day secured, and increase of 2s. 6d. per week; carters, 2s. 6d. extra in lieu of half-day; overtime 1s. per hour; 1s. 6d. for Saturdays.

Loughrea.

Farm settlement: 20s. boarded and lodged; 30s. boarded only; 54-hour week.

Bandon and Clonakilty.

R. D. Councils have recommended a 35s. rate for direct labourers, an increase of 7s. 6d. Now Fermoy. Follow up! A temporary settlement with Clonakilty Wine and Spirit Co. gave great satisfaction to all, pending reconsideration in September. An arbitration with Allman's, Bandon, is being arranged for August.

Inchicore.

Makbar, Ltd., Chapelizod, men got an increase of 6s., bringing them to 51s. for a 47-hour week.

Gas in Dungarvan.

The Gas Co. agree to pay stokers 50s., yardmen 42s. 6d., with 1 cwt. coke per week; local carters 2s. per ton, to date from June 30th. Yardmen work 48-hour week.

Kilmallock.

All the Elfin labourers settled at 27s. to 30s. with diet, constant men; 33s. to 35s. and diet, weekly men.

In Ballinvarra, 25s. to 27s. and diet, and 32s. to 34s. and diet, respectively. Ardpatrick Co-operative Dairy also settled. Firemen, 45s.; general hands, 42s.

Baltinglass.

M. J. Doyle settled with farm hands at 30s. per 54-hour week; Sundays 2s. 6d. extra; time and a half overtime; £2 harvest bonus.

Kilfinane.

England's Creamery yielded full demand. Buttermakers, 53s.; firemen, 50s. and 48s.; general, 45s. to 40s. Increases average 100 per cent. Agricultural settlements: Constant, 25s. and diet; casuals, 30s. and diet, 54-hour week. Without diet, 35s. per week; 10s. per day casuals.

Tralee.

Slattery's dispute settled at 4s. increase, from 4th inst. 10s. increase to coopers.

Patriotic Belfast employers ask the amount of ex-soldiers' pensions before employing them.

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