

IRISH OPINION

THE VOICE OF LABOUR

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. Vol. I, No. 20!

APRIL 13, 1918.

ONE PENNY

The Need
of the Hour.

Irish Labour
& Freedom.

Soldiers on
the Quays.

“Connolly's Work is Bearing Fruit.”

M A U D

G O N N E

M A C B R I D E .

DUBLIN IN DARKNESS.

ALARMING POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE AT GAS WORKS.

On March 26th the workers employed by the Alliance and Dublin Consumers Gas Company, acting through a joint-committee representative of all grades, clerks, fitters, mechanics, and labourers, presented a demand for payment of the Askwith award of £1 per week on pre-war wages, to be paid as from the date sanctioned, April 17th, 1917.

The Gas Company has refused this demand, although the directors recently gave themselves a rise of £1,000 a year, and have solved the housing problem by purchasing a Hydropathic for their own occupation when they cross over from England to look after the profit-grinding concern at Dublin. It is a profit-grinder—exploiting the consumer, taxing the industries that use gas for motor power, heating and lighting, and sweating its own workers.

The Ministry of Munitions and the Ministry of Labour have both been apprised of the workers' demands, but up to date the Ministry of Labour—in charge at present of Mr. G. H. Roberts, the best dressed member of the English Labour Party—has not found time even to post the usual acknowledgment of receipt.

Manager Gray, the Boy of the Bull-Dog Breed, who is keeping an Irishman out of a job while the

Empire is in its death throes, has offered a private arbitration, but the men have some experience of Mr. Gray and intend that their gains should be at least as great and as thoroughly secured to them as those given to the employees of Gas Companies in England.

The men's notice expires next Tuesday, and then a serious state of affairs will arise. There will be no gas for lighting or heating. The cooker will be useless. Industries that depend upon gas engines will be stopped.

For this the Company must be held responsible. The clerks have had one small increase of 5 per cent. on pre-war wages, while the purchasing power of the pound sterling has sunk from 20s. in July, 1914, to 9s. 6d. to-day. The skilled men and labourers' wages have been practically unchanged—while since last April men doing the same class of work in Britain have had at least the £1 increase of the Askwith award, and in many cases have added to that by Trade Union action.

The Ministry of Labour has been warned. It has done nothing. The Gas Company may yet give in, but Dublin may have to suffer because of the apathy of its people and the corruption of its corporators, who, since 1866, have permitted this gang of English financial crooks not only to oppress their slaves but to rob the public. If a strike occurs—that should be the end of the private gas trust in Dublin.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Wooing West Belfast.

Mr. Devlin is wise in his generation, and as is his wont on the eve of an election he is fishing for the working class vote in West Belfast. He played the same game in 1905 and twice in 1910 and won. We are much mistaken if he wins the game with his three card trick in 1918. West Belfast is a great industrial community. The overwhelming mass of its voters, men and women, will be workers from the mills and workshops and factories. If there is a constituency anywhere in Ireland entitled to a working class representative drawn directly from the ranks of the workers; that constituency is West Belfast.—West Belfast is a Labour seat if ever there was one. As such we hope it will be fought and won by a Labour man, not by a Home Ruler, Sinn Feiner or Unionist with real or alleged Labour sympathies, but by a Labour man with the direct mandate and approval of the Irish Labour Party. Mr. Devlin is not such a candidate. Mr. Devlin is not and never was a Labour candidate. Mr. Devlin is not and never was a Trade Unionist, even in the far-off days when he worked for his living. There can be no Labour candidates outside the active ranks of Trade Unionism. Mr. Devlin says that he is determined that Labour "shall not wait." Mr. Devlin need not be uneasy; Labour will look after itself; and it will not wait even on Mr. Devlin. Vague generalities about "The brain and brawn and muscle" of the working class and the "full and just share of the product of their toil," will cut no ice with the Irish workers at the next election. Irish Labour will take its full and just share when it is strong enough to do so. Meanwhile we ask the organised workers in West Belfast to get Mr. Devlin and his friends to answer some pertinent queries. What did Mr. Devlin and his friends do to better the lot of the Belfast barmen when Mr. Devlin's supporters, Matthew McCusker and his crew were fighting the barmen's strike last July? What did Mr. Devlin do for Labour in 1913, when a Falls Road mill-girl asked him: "What about the Dublin strike?" Why did Mr. Devlin's "Irish News" cease the publication of its Gaelic League notes because they referred to James Connolly's study of Irish when he was on hunger-strike? What did Mr. Devlin do for Labour when his lieutenant, Mr. J. D. Nugent, organised a sectarian union of scabs to fight the Dublin workers in 1913-14? How many times did Devlin's thugs in West Belfast mob James Connolly, his meetings and his supporters on the Falls Road? Who was the better friend of the Belfast workers, Connolly with his hard work, his uphill fight, his organisation of the workers in trade unions, his raising of wages, his shortening of hours, his gospel of manliness and self-reliance for the workers, or Devlin, with his blather about "brain and brawn and muscle" and "full and just share," his A.O.H., his scab union, his policy of suppression, his gang of sweaters, tricksters and mountebanks. Irish Labour has

James Connolly's programme for the workers. Where is Joe Devlin's programme? When Mr. Devlin's canvassers have answered these questions we have another lot ready for them. After that we may advise the workers in Belfast to vote for Mr. Devlin.

With Mr. Devlin's criticism of Sinn Fein's policy on labour questions we have nothing to do. Sinn Fein is able enough to answer for itself. But whenever and wherever Mr. Devlin wishes to exploit Labour for his own ends, then we shall raise Connolly's ghost to expose and denounce him.

Show Your Strength.

With the coming of April we are reaching the days when the propaganda of Labour and Trade Unionism can be carried out of doors. We can now bring the gospel of Labour home to practically every working man and woman in Ireland. This we urge strongly upon Trade Unions and the officials of Trade Unions. We have now a movement extending to every county and to practically every important town in Ireland. Let us then arrange for a continuous series of Labour meetings and demonstrations for the whole of the spring and summer months. Several centres have already done this and others are getting ready. Other movements that cover the whole country have already their campaigns arranged, Labour too must have its summer offensive. Where possible let us hold demonstrations on a big scale with speakers of national as well as local note. Where this is not possible let us hold district meetings. In this way we can show the strength in numbers, the solidarity and the spirit of Labour in Ireland. Big displays are heartening to both the rank and file and the regular staffs of the unions and will sweep into the organised movement not only many straggling workers but many a local organisation here and there throughout the country. There may be some difficulty in getting speakers at times, but this difficulty can be overcome on application to the Trades Congress, to Trades Councils, to the Unions and their organisers. From Labour Day onwards the voice of the workers should be heard on a hundred platforms every Sunday. The better the day the better the deed.

We are Anathema in Meath.

We have been favoured with the attentions of Mr. J. P. Kelly, Chairman of the Navan Guardians. Mr. Kelly, it seems, is also chairman of the Meath Labour Union. Last January the Meath Labour Union decided to affiliate with the Irish Trades Union Congress and become part of the Trade Union and Labour movement. So simple was the Chairman of the Navan Guardians that it never occurred to him to read the reports of the Congress to which his Labour Union decided to affiliate. But Mr. Kelly has grown wiser since and now he reads "Irish Opinion," which is something to his credit. From our columns he has learned that a delegation of the

Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party has had the astounding audacity to interview leaders of the Socialist International for the purpose of placing the views and position of Irish Labour and the Irish people before the organised workers of Europe. Mr. Kelly wants no help from the organised workers of Europe. He will be quite content, we suppose, with the help of the Navan Guardians. We agree with Mr. Kelly that Irishmen need not "look for the opinions or ideas of Russian revolutionaries." No, for it happens that the opinions and ideas of Russian revolutionaries have been and are still, we hope, the opinions of Irish revolutionaries from Tone to Connolly. We are surprised if they haven't penetrated to Navan and the Boyne Valley of W. P. Ryan's "Irish Peasant." Now the Meath Labour Union has decided to affiliate to the new A. and G. W. Union we wrote of last week. The Meath Labour Union, we are told, is not a Socialist body. That is not to the discredit of the Meath Labour Union, but that it has deserted Trade Unionism for Mr. J. P. Kelly is to its discredit. We hope Sean Etchingham is satisfied with the diplomacy of Mr. Kelly.

SOLDIERS AT DUBLIN QUAYS.

BREACH OF FAITH WITH TRANSPORT UNION.

During February the I.T.W.U. negotiated successfully with the stevedores and Shipping Association for an advance in wages, which came into operation on March 1st, giving the casual workers 12s. per day.

Twelve shillings a day seems a magnificent wage, but the workers are casual, not regular. They may have only one day's work in a week. It is seldom that a man is fortunate enough to draw 12s. a day for a full week of five and a half days. If the docker is lucky he may secure three days' work and draw 36s., but that is only equal to the miserable pre-war wage of 17s.

The stevedore working for the military authorities was not empowered to pay the increase as the question was under consideration. The men, accustomed to official procrastination, and having no reason to believe that the military would not recognise the established rate of wages in the port, continued at work until the end of March.

A vessel was due to arrive, and the military authorities phoned to make sure of getting the men needed to work the cargo. The I.T.W.U. officials raised once more the question of the advanced wages, and were assured that the harbour rates would be paid.

This promise has not been kept, and therefore the men refused to continue. Soldiers have been sent to do the work.

Whatever the object of the military's action, the Transport Union is content to withhold labour until the authorities pay the standard rate for the port, which is being paid by all private shippers, other government departments and indeed by the same stevedores on other vessels.

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

DRUGGISTS DOWN TOOLS.

On fourth inst., Messrs. Hugh Moore and Alexander, wholesale druggists, by their chairman, Marquis Goodbody and their Belfast imported manager, Mr. Sam Irwin, dismissed several employees, who refused to work overtime in consequence of the firm's refusal to consider the request of the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks for the payment of minimum wage rates, payment of overtime work, and preference to employees when vacancies occur.

The reason for the last demand is that when there is a good job going in this house a man from the North is brought down to draw the salary. The assistants went on strike with practical unanimity, including the ladies. All the skilled men are out and the work is at a standstill, although attempts are being made to have some part of the work carried on by the wife of a Dutch barber and a gentleman familiar with Crumlin Road Jail.

The Friends religious society would be well to look into the doings of some of their members in high commercial circles, like Marquis Goodbody and E. H. Andrews. It is doubtful if they are carrying out the social principles of the English yearly meeting.

SOME LINEN TO BE WASHED.

Leinster Laundries Association is one of the most progressive employers' Associations in Ireland and recognises fully the right of the laundry workers to bargain collectively. An agreement has been concluded with the Irish Women Workers' Union establishing a minimum wage scale ranging from 5s. a week at 14 years of age to 14s. 6d. at 21 years. Piece-workers obtain a bonus of 1s. 6d. a week. The working week has been reduced to 50 hours, with overtime pay at the rate of 5d. per hour for time-workers and 2d. per hour to piece-workers. Some laundries are still running 48 hours per week, and in one case the owner has initiated a profit-sharing system.

One obstacle to improved conditions is the persistent undercutting of rates by institutional laundries, whose managers refuse to confer on the subject with the Laundries' Association. On the last occasion that prices were advanced, one of the leading hotels refused to pay the slight advance that higher wages and costs necessitated. Their order, worth £7 to £8 per week, was given to a religious institution, which employed penitents in the work.

Three girls were paid off by the private laundry which lost the contract.

It requires no great effort of imagination to conceive that girls deprived of employment by subsidised competition might be impelled to seek the aid of the institution which caused them to be dismissed. It is surely folly to save the souls of some girls by ruining others.

The two Archbishops have a special responsibility in this matter, and we respectfully suggest that they should order an investigation of the laundry business as carried on under their patronage.

DUBLIN ROAD MEN'S VICTORY.

Steam Roller Tactics Flatten Council.

The so-called Premier Co. Council did not cover itself with glory at its meeting on 4th inst., when it met a deputation of the roadmen from Rathfarnham and Blanchardstown and the Transport and General Workers' Union Officials. The Councillors accepted with due humility Tom Foran's outspoken rebuke of their petty wrangling over personal matters, while as employers they ignored their duties towards their workers. The men had been striving to live on 24s. a week—pre-war value 11s. 5d.—and the increase of 3s. per week sanctioned two months ago had not been paid owing to want of money. The provision for increased wages had, however, been deliberately cut out of the estimates, doubtless to provide the excuse of "No Money."

If the money had been wanted to pay the account of a contractor, a county councillor's cousin or nearer relative there would have been no delay in securing, at the usual rate of interest, an overdraft from the banks. Under pressure of the strike the Council woke to realities and decided to raise the rate of pay to 30s. (let us remind the workers only 14s. 3d. pre-war value) and to pay as from the date sanctioned, the 3s. previously agreed upon.

It is unfortunate that the good impulses of the Council could not carry them the length of abolishing the fortnightly system of paying, which puts the workers into dependance on the local tradesmen for credit and runs them into debt. We suggest to the men that they canvass the districts and try to secure sufficient support to justify the Co-op. opening branches for their convenience and thus emancipate themselves from the profiteers.

M. L. Hearn, M.E.P., of the Labour Cannot Wait Party, asked if any of the Councillors paid 32s. 6d. to their men? If they don't—if you don't, Mr. Hearn—the methods and the organisation that made the County Council pay will soon alter that.

The roadmen have returned to work, but their work for the future should include the organisation of the county to secure that direct labour representation on the Council.

DRAPERS' ADVANCE.

The Irish Drapers annual meeting at Easter revealed progress in the right direction when the decision to open the ranks to all shop workers was adopted by a narrow majority. A Dublin delegate hinted at secession if this policy was adopted but if he spoke for the Dublin branch in this matter the trade unionism of Dublin Drapers is open to question. The exclusion policy of the Drapers has been a barrier to effective organisation for years past, and we are glad to see it is ended.

WATERFORD NOTES.

In the height of the calm after the election storm, labour is exercising some introspection. A study of comparative values should stimulate a propensity to self-realisation. Meantime, the trade unions have their eye on the new register, and nothing is being left undone to see that the exercise of the franchise, which was denied a large number of workers in the recent election for a reason that can be traced to no other cause than administrative jugglery, will be within the grasp of every eligible democrat in the city when the time comes to upset the municipal and Parliamentary apple-cart.

The Dole.

Last week the Corporation, with unctuous magnanimity, decided to grant the labourers in their employment (all members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union) a 2s. a week increase so that they may be enabled to indulge in some riotous living on the magnificent pay of from 25s. to 27s. a week. Mr. O'Donovan, organiser, attended, but was severely snubbed for his audacity in attempting to urge the men's claim for a bigger increase, by the invincible Alderman Dr. J. J. O'Sullivan, the great friend of democracy (!) and a valued member of the Convention. Early in December last, Mr. Houston made representations to the Corporation for a minimum weekly wage of 30s. for those employees, the outcome being a proposal, which was agreed to, that a committee representing local bodies and employers be appointed to try and fix a minimum wage for all workers in the city. A painful effort was made on one or two occasions in that direction, but to all appearances the committee and the proposal have been relegated to desuetude. The men now consider the 2s. dole inadequate and are about to make further representations for fair treatment.

Food Question.

What has become of the scheme placed before the Trades Council and Corporation by delegates from the Sinn Fein Club, for providing food for the workers in the critical months preceding the coming harvest? The trade unions are taking it very indifferently and the Corporation—but what would you!

Railway Workers.

The most virile body of organised workers in the city are the railway men, whose co-operative stores, started early in the present year, are flourishing, and who are in every sense alive to the realities of the present situation—social, economic, political. They are out for a further increase. They deserve it.

Citizen Army?

Rumour hath it that a branch of above is about to be started here. Now, Cathal O'Shannon, hurry up—the time is opportune.

Coming Trades Congress.

Waterford Trades Council is taking steps to raise funds to welcome the Irish Trade Union Congress and Labour Party to that city on August Bank Holiday. We commend their effort to hearty support. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. T. Dunne, secretary, Trades Council, Waterford.

Nation Wide Activities of Transport Workers' Union.

Ballina.—As the result of Councillor Reilly's visit a branch will be formed here. We hope it will waken up the West.

Trillick.—A little dispute at Revington's Mills has been settled, and the town standard is now 29s. a week. Remember your 29s. will only buy what 13s. 9d. could purchase in July, 1914.

Menagh has had a visit from Mr. M. T. O'Connor, the local organiser of the Union, and great things are expected. County Tipperary is gaining a leadership in organising the rural workers.

Limerick.—The Dockers are looking for a shorter day. Their new programme is—start at 7 a.m. and stop at 6 p.m., with two hours interval for meals and a half-day stoppage on Saturdays. The employers will doubtless revise these reasonable requests. If any of them desire information on the problem of fatigue and its effects on production we shall be glad to prescribe a course of reading on the subject. Meanwhile Lord Levenhulme with his six-hour day is far ahead of even the Limerick I.T.W.U.

Killorglin branch deserve congratulation on its progressive raising of the standard of living. Last October the members won an increase of 4s. per week. They have now added another of 5s. per week. Within six months the town standard has been raised from 16s. to 25s. Money, however, is deceptive, but measured in terms of the amount of goods that may be purchased for it, Killorglin has increased its purchasing power by about 4s.

In other words, the sixteen shillings the worker got was only equal to eight shillings of pre-war purchasing power. The twenty-five shillings they receive now only equals twelve pre-war shillings.

Craigie-na-managh.—The old-established Labour Union here has abandoned its isolation, and its two hundred members have come over in a body to the I.T. and G.W.U. With their experience of organisation and an All-Ireland Union behind them they should now make history.

Dungarvan.—The new branch here continues to make progress.

Wexford.—The Union has been honoured by the election of its indefatigable organiser, Alderman R. Corish, to the presidency of the Trades Council. Mr. P. White carries on as secretary.

Kingstown.—The Churchill bonus of 12½ per cent. has not been granted by the Irish Lights Commissioners, and the I.T.W.U. members are on strike with the other workers affected.

Edenderry.—The Union's efforts to raise the town standard of wages have won success at Aylesbury's, the principal firm, whose men have returned to work after a satisfactory settlement. Several disputes continue.

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Tullamore.—Some months ago we directed attention to the Charleville Estate, where it was alleged the legal minimum was not being paid. It has since been paid, but as the Group II. minimum of 22s. 6d. buys only as much as 10s. 8d. did in 1914, the men demand a clear cash wage of 30s. (in pre-war times 14s. 3d.). Not an extravagant wage. Mr. Brown remains adamant and the workers are idle. That is how Brown's boss helps to grow more food.

Roscrea.—The new terms of work at the saw mills are going to be tested by our members for the next fortnight. If results are not satisfactory new arrangements must be made.

Portarlinton.—Russells' remain recalcitrant. The Ministry of Munitions and the R.I.C. are their faithful allies in resisting trade unionism.

Turran Peat Works' management wants to lengthen the working day from eight hours to ten, without an increase on the day's pay. Mr. Griffiths' policy is unbusinesslike and unscientific besides being unjust. The workers refuse to give him two hours' labour for nothing so they have been locked out.

Cove.—The headquarters are trying to arrange amicably a dispute that has arisen here with a branch of a foreign trade union, whose local officials are challenging a fight with the I.T.W.U. The workers must not divide in face of the common enemy.

Mr. Denis Houston has now recovered from his illness but has transferred his services from Cork to his native Donegal, which is pretty much an untilled field for trade unionism, although in some districts the N.A.U.L. has made considerable progress.

Inchicore.—A renegade born at Inchicore has his picture in the American press as a typical loyal trade unionist. He has joined the American Navy, which kindly provides its sailors with special packets for use in foreign ports. For further particulars see George R. Kirkpatrick's book, "War—What For?"

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Liberty Hall sales of "Irish Opinion" have gone up by ten dozen under the skilful pushing of Comrade Joe Metcalfe. He intends to do it again and challenges Byrne of Limerick or any other boomster to beat him.

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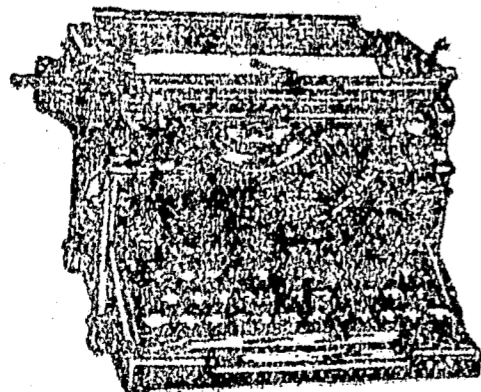
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The Soul of Wit.

The loss of four pages compels the compression of all news notes sent us. Correspondents are asked to be brief.

BELFAST TRADES COUNCIL.

The usual monthly meeting was held on April 4th, the Vice-President in the chair. An apology was received from the President, Mr. H. T. Whitley, from Dublin, saying he was engaged in putting "the finishing touches" on the Convention report. It did not transpire whether he spoke as an artist or a prize-fighter!

Housing. — Amongst the correspondence read was a circular letter from the local Rent Agents and Property Owners' Association re the housing problem, advocating subsidization out of Government funds of private speculators' housing schemes. — Some discussion followed and a resolution passed demanding that any scheme to be adopted should place upon the local council the responsibility of building houses for the workers and to be let at a rent covering cost and management only—excluding any charge for interest on capital.

Reports from Societies included the following:—

Transport Workers have secured a wage of 11s. per day of eight hours—i.e., the winter day of eight hours continues during the summer; overtime rates to be paid for all hours worked beyond the eight.

Operative Bakers have won a 48 hours' week, time and a quarter for overtime, and abolition of Sunday labour.

Packing-case Makers reported an increase of 1½d. per hour, making 11½d. per hour or 75 per cent. increase since August, 1914.

The annual report of the Council is now in circulation and records nothing heroic, but a steady progress in strength and usefulness. The financial statement shows an increased balance in the treasurer's hands, and the list of secretaries shows that fifty-four Societies are at present affiliated to the Council.

McClintons Soap workers are on strike at Donaghmore. — There are lots of Irish made soaps equally good. Until Messrs. (1) Brown & Sons, Ltd., make peace with their workers, the Irish working class will adopt an attitude of strict neutrality and use Barringtons or Finlays soaps instead of the McClinton brands.

THE BLUE PENCILLERS.

"Rebel" complains that some of our notes on current events read curiously. He is quite correct, for they are seldom printed as written. Lord Decies and his accomplices at the Press Censor's Office are appointed to keep back from the public statements of fact and expressions of opinion which we consider ought to be published.

The penalty of disobedience to their orders might be entire suppression, so our motto is: "Better a live dog than a dead lion."

Congratulations to Jamie O'Connor. Henceforth he will serve the Government on the Bench instead of at the Bar. Well done thou good and faithful servant!

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Stunt Parson R. J. Campbell, the editor of the "Dily Mile" and Surgeon General Keogh of Mesopotamia Report fame, want an English National Memorial to the late John E. Redmond.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

The war in its far-reaching effects, has had a most disturbing effect in this country. The dictum "England's difficulty" being Ireland's opportunity has had a trial—leaving the political forces of Ireland in a state of turmoil. The principal result of the Easter Week Insurrection has been to bring the Sinn Fein movement from political obscurity to prominence; from being the cult of the few to being the faith of the many. A quickening of the civic conscience has taken place, and the people have returned from a path of national cultural annihilation to one of intense enthusiasm for everything Gaelic.

This renaissance national feeling is also felt in the Labour movement, and a desire to make that wholly national also must have a dominating influence in the minds of many trade unionists whose executive headquarters are in England.

To us who look outside of the insular confines of Ireland in our study of the Labour movement and watch the people in their struggle to make democracy internationally "an fait accompli," the charge of being anti-English cannot be imputed; and, writing as a member of a trade union officialled from England, we would suggest to that large section of the organised Irish working class, who are in a similar position as ourselves, that a movement be inaugurated for Irish Trade Union "Separation."

To those who have studied the development of modern industry—with its huge syndications of capital—the present mode of sectional trade union organisation is no longer sufficient. A new method of organisation is required, and the need of the hour can alone be supplied by the organisation of the workers as a class, sectioned off on the basis of industry, having it officered and controlled by men drawn from the indigenous industries.

To-day in Ireland, the utmost industrial disunity prevails due to organisation on trade union lines which is reflected on the political field, where the workers are the backbone and fighters of political parties representative of every vested interest in the country but Labour. Complete industrial organisation will be reflected by complete political unity of Irish Labour.

With this country politically subject to England, Irish trade unionism will be governed by the tardy development of its English parent and re-enact all the stupidities and futilities that seem characteristic of the movement over there. Hence the necessity for our movement to become representative of purely Irish conditions.

A thorough revision of the Irish Trade Union movement is imperatively necessary, and we consider the present moment most opportune. The huge advance made

by the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in its organisation of the rural and general workers of the country—which, shortly, at the present rate of progress, should be complete—would, in our opinion, form the basis for our organisation as a class embracing every worker in the country, disciplined into industrial units.

We of the mechanical unions would be in a much stronger position organised with our national working class, and the secessionary act will afford us an opportunity of getting rid of outworn Trade Unionism.

Our proposals in concrete are: That the Executive of the Irish Trade Union Congress and Labour Party take the matter in hand and see if there is a demand amongst the Irish members of those societies whose headquarters are in England, and if the demand be there to place it before the English E.C.'s and a definite and agreed scheme of secession take place.

We will not hesitate to superimpose the industrial mode of organisation on Ireland for its political subjection by an exotic government which has destroyed the national economic development of the country—a national economic development—which would have resulted in the expression of that natural law—to Irish working class conditions—which leads us as individuals to unite in our craft, as crafts to unite in our industry as industries in our class, the finished express of that development we believe the appearance of our class upon the political battleground armed with all the economic power to enforce its demands.

EAMONN LYNCH.

How to Do It.

Joint action has won a notable victory for the workers in the building industry in Cork. The Easter settlement gives a 50 hour week with 1s. 2d. per hour for carpenters, 1s. 1d. for masons, plasterers, and stone-cutters, 9d. for labourers, 10d. for scaffolding and 3s. per week for carters. The Builders' Labourers' Branch of the Transport Union has thus secured 100 per cent increase over pre-war rates. The tailors have won a 40 per cent. increase.

Land for Transport Workers.

Bandon branch has succeeded in getting the Town Commissioners to co-operate with the branch in securing land for allotments for the workers. All workers in Bandon are members of the branch.

Breaking New Ground.

Organised bodies of workers in Buttevant and Dunmanway are joining up with the Transport Union. New agricultural branches are forming in Ballinbassig, Ballygarvan, Waterloo, etc.

THE WORLD FOR THE WORKERS.

NOTES AND NEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL.

Connolly's Admirer.

"The Call" (London) publishes a summary of Lenin's speech at the recent All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The poorer peasantry, Lenin said, had now become the most faithful friends and allies of the working class. Replying to a criticism of the Bolsheviks' use of force, he exclaimed that it was a mistake to imagine that Socialism would ever be brought them on a platter. The questions at issue between classes had never been solved in any other way than by violent methods. In suppressing the exploiters in the interests of the exploited class he frankly confessed he was all for violence. There would be many difficulties in the way of the new regime, but the Russian Red Republic would be invincible although they might have to fight the bourgeois of foreign countries such as England and France, who had not allowed a single Bolshevik paper to enter their territory during the whole course of the Revolution.

B.S.P. Conference.

The annual conference of the British Socialist Party was held at Leeds at Easter. A strong protest was made against the British Labour Party's efforts to exclude the B.S.P. from the International Socialist Congress. The Conference affirmed its unshaken fidelity to the international working class movement and called for facilities to enable representatives to attend the forthcoming International Congress, and asked all Socialist bodies affiliated to the I.S.B. to refuse supplies to their governments for war. **Ireland, India, Egypt.**

Mrs. D. B. Montefiore, whom Dublin workers will remember since 1913, moved—"That this Conference calls upon the working class to bring pressure to bear upon the Government to prove the sincerity of its desire to liberate oppressed peoples by making immediate preparations for granting self-determination to Ireland, India and Egypt.

Scottish Soldiers are Needed at Home.

Throughout the Highlands and islands of Scotland the Highland Land League is organising land-raids, but as yet we have not heard that the "Competent" Military Authority has proclaimed any district.

At Kyleakin, Skye, Raasay, Tiree, Coll, Barra, Uist, and Helmsdale land has been seized and tilled. Demands for rent have been met by demands for production of title.