

THE IRISH WORKER

AN T-OIBRIÖE SAÖDLAC

Edited by JIM LARKIN

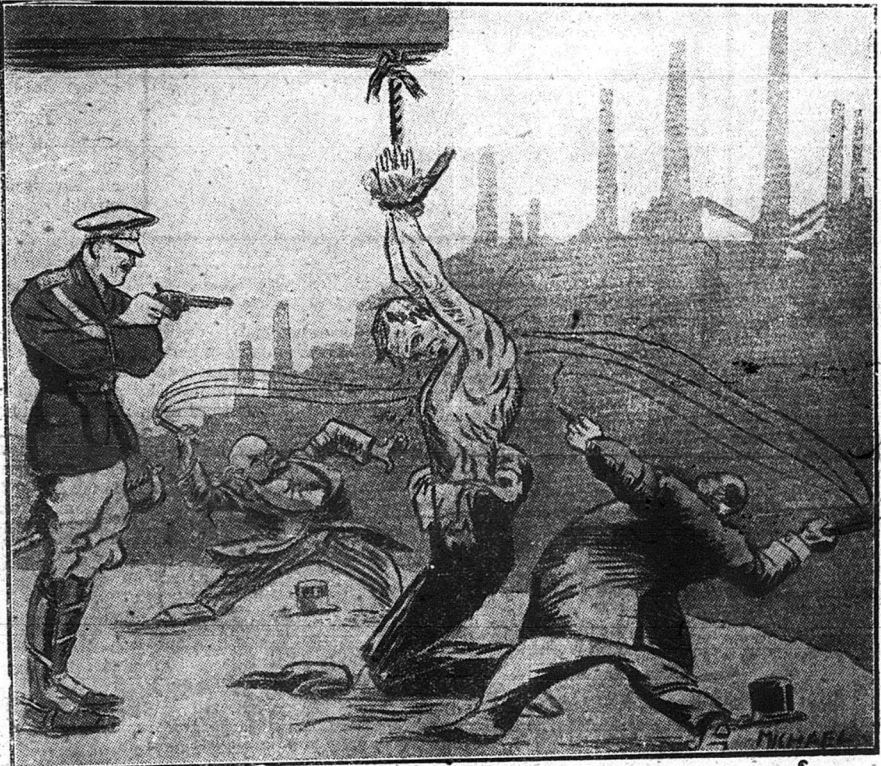
No. 18. NEW SERIES.
(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1923

ONE PENNY

THOMAS McPARTLIN.

Thomas McPartlin, member of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers Senator — Free State — £360 a year. Worked at his trade during his Senatorship. Died natural death, leaving a widow, four sons, four daughters—four of whom are working. The Free State Government, employers and certain Union Officials organise a fund for his widow and children at his grave.



SEAN McENTEE.

Sean McEntee, member of Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, who according to Inspector Moynihan of the Criminal Investigation Department, Free State Government, was brutally murdered — leaving a widow and three young helpless children. Neither the Government of the Free State, the employers or the Mutual Admiration Society of Union Officials ever expressed a word of sympathy, or subscribed one penny for McEntee's widow and orphans.

KEEPING THE RING!

To OUR READERS.—You who have followed in thought, and we hope with sympathy and understanding, the crisis we are confronted with here in Dublin, will understand and accept the curtailment of this issue. Day and night has been given to the task of keeping an army—betrayed by its self-appointed leaders—intact, strengthened and disciplined. Never in the history of the struggle of the working class has there been such open and unashamed treachery, and more devilish, malignant and unscrupulous foes—associated employers, intriguing, soulless, treacherous Union Officials, and last, but not least, every arm of the Government put in force to coerce and intimidate these men who have fought against such overwhelming odds. We print a cartoon which eloquently depicts the struggle and its concomitants here. The artist shows a victim—a worker—triced to a beam. A Christian in uniform faces the bound victim, covering him with a gun while two typical oppressors lash their bound and intimidated victim with whips. The artist gives title to eloquent satire on the actual conditions we have endured—as "Keeping the Ring"—giving you, the reader, a line drawing, conveying much more than words can convey. The worker struggling though bound by the ropes of Official Union treachery, the bullies the employers armed with whips, lashing his lacerated body—and the Government keeping the Ring! Yes! Keeping the victim cowed with the threat of instant death. The brute personified—armed with a lethal weapon even fearful of the victim bound, fearful of his own conscience though armed with death. Those are the actual living facts. The workers of the quays of Dublin have had to face hired gunmen—farmers and farmers' sons,

according to one christian gentleman who boasts that forty of these gunmen were members of the Roscommon Farmers' Union. The Government permitted these gunmen to carry lethal weapons, and in order to protect them, supplied police (D.M.P.) and Civic Guards, and to protect these protectors the Army of the Free State supplied its quota. Even with these the employers failed to overawe or compel the workers to accept even their amended terms. The employers then called up their last reserve—the Transport Union Officials, who had been working secretly with the employers, had then to unmask. The end is not yet!

We have no space to carry the story of the most significant happening during the past nine purgatorial years. Four thousand dockers, carters, coal workers, sailors and firemen, and comrades from fields, factories, railway shops, and our women members—more than half of these nation builders having been on strike twenty weeks—came out into the streets sacrificing their day's pay which they can so ill afford to lose, to express their love, refresh their memories, and strengthen their determination, by giving honour to Ireland's youngest martyr—Kevin Barry—who's young sister, Eileen, lies at the threshold of death, a participant in the "Liberty or Death" Hunger Strike of the untried prisoners in the Bastilles of this Free State. And these working men and women demonstrated to demand the release of these prisoners, and an insistence upon a condition of peace within this land.

Cosgrave challenged these workers. They have answered him in a way—they will answer him again in another manner and application.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO PORT DISPUTE

October 29th, 1923.

COUNCIL OF ACTION.

Trades' Hall,
Dublin.

October 29th, 1923.

A Chara—There are at present on hunger strike in bastilles throughout Ireland thousands of girls and boys, men and women, our comrades, our countrywomen and our countrymen. The preponderating majority of these prisoners are of the working class, the toilers of the land. If the Labour Movement remains quiescent, these, our brothers and our sisters, will die; they are, in the words of a prominent politician, condemned already to "rot in jail." They have not been charged with any offence; they have not been tried by their countrymen of any class, and they have not been imprisoned under any law recognised by the nations. This country, to be prosperous, must have peace. According to the contending parties on the one side the war is declared at an end, and on the other that staple conditions have been re-established. As these statements have been made by responsible parties on both sides, we must assume that they are binding on both sides, and therefore, the logical outcome of the position must be that at the cessation of hostilities all political prisoners must be released. In the crisis occasioned by the hunger strike it behoves the Labour Movement to take the necessary stand to save human life, and with that object in view we have sent a resolution endorsing the decision of the Clare Workers' Council demanding the National Executive of the Irish Labour Party to take the necessary steps to call a national strike to assist in the release of the prisoners and by so doing lay the foundations for a lasting peace in the country.

In the circumstances we ask for your support. Please forward your demand to the National Executive and so aid in putting an end to strife in the country and saving the lives of so many heroic men and women of our race and of our class, and in view of the urgency of the matter, take immediate action to-day.

Kindly forward reply.

Fraternally yours,

JAMES LARKIN, General Secretary,
Irish Transport & General Workers' Union.

P. T. DALY, Secretary,
Dublin Trades' Council and Labour Party.

35 Parnell Square,
Dublin.
October 30th, 1923.

Mr. W. Cosgrave,
President of Executive Council,
Irish Free State.

Sir,—Your letter of October 29th reached me at noon to-day. I thank you for the reply. I appreciate the spirit and the form in which it was written.

I fail to understand what you desire to convey by the sentence, "the language used in your paper." I do not know what language you refer to, whether the Gaelic language or the English language, but the words therein printed were written to be understood and to convey considered thought to the reader. But what the paper has to do with the subject matter contained in the letter sent you I fail to understand. I set down a definite suggestion. I am not concerned with the amount of credit you will grant me. I asked you to accept in sincerity a suggestion which I believe the majority of the people in this country would agree with and accept. I made no attempt to complicate a dispute about wages with the political issue. What I did suggest was that the wage earners were prepared to consider the human issue, which is above politics and wages, in my humble opinion. I say the workers were prepared to resume work at a lower scale of living than formerly, to prove their sincerity and their belief in peace, their belief in the right of a human being, even though opposed to them politically, to enjoy full liberty.

It was in this hope and for this purpose the suggestion was made; that industrial peace would connote political peace and that civil and human rights would be restored to every man and woman within this country. Who is more concerned with the safety and stability of the country than the worker? Governments are but things of an hour, premiers and cabinet ministers are of an hour, but the worker is the Nation, without whom there can be no Nation.

SAORSTAT EIREANN.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
UP. MERRION ST., DUBLIN.
29th October, 1923.

Sir,

— I am not satisfied either as to your wish or your power to promote industrial or political peace in Ireland. The language used in your paper does not encourage me to credit you with either, or to accept as serious the suggestion in your letter of to-day. Your attempt to complicate a dispute about wages with a large political issue affecting the safety and stability of the whole country, if honest, would be another example of that lack of a sense of proportion which has been so largely responsible for recent troubles. Your suggestion offers no security for a real settlement either of industrial or political questions.

Yours truly,

LIAM T. MACCOSGAIK.

Mr. James Larkin, General Secretary,
Irish Transport and General Workers' Union,
35, Parnell Square,
Dublin.

The President,
Executive Council,
Irish Free State.

Sir—I submit to you for your consideration a suggestion that, in my opinion, will bring political and industrial peace in this country. I write in the first place in my capacity as Secretary of the Irish Transport Union; secondly, as a citizen and one who has given some earnest of his desire that peace should live amongst our people. Briefly, my suggestion is as follows:

That a conference should be held to-day, Monday, to find a basis of understanding and agreement that will ensure a condition of settled peace in this country, and as a basis of agreement I would submit the following for a definite understanding:

That an undertaking be given on the part of the Government that if all industrial disputes be settled on the acceptance by the workers of the proposal for a reduction in wages as set down in your circular letter and that work be resumed

forthwith in all disaffected areas, that you and your responsible Ministers undertake to release all political prisoners.

This suggestion may be worthy of your consideration. If the principle is accepted, the matter of carrying out the agreement would be for the two parties to the agreement to arrange. I, on my part, will undertake the resumption of work in every area throughout this country, with the exception of Waterford area, within twenty-four hours, and I feel sure that you are deeply interested in finding a basis of agreement even with those who differ with you politically. I write this letter in all sincerity and without consulting with any section, sensible of the responsibility, but confident that I, on my part, can carry out the agreement in as much as it affects the organised workers.

This letter is delivered by hand and copies will be given to the Press at 5 o'clock this evening.

Yours truly,

JAMES LARKIN,
General Secretary.

I appreciate your doubt of my honesty. It is worthy of you. That I lack a sense of proportion, judged from your understanding of proportion, is true. That 8,000 to 10,000 citizens should be incarcerated, guarded by 20,000 armed guards, that the workers generally should have to find the means whereby both prisoner and guardian should exist—because a few individuals, fearful of their political position and security, continue to keep these ten thousand body-bound and use measures that are worthy of a Nero—is a sense of proportion alien to the spirit of the people of this country and to this century in which we live. It is you and those associated with you who are responsible under Heaven for the continuance of the inhuman and uncivilised conditions that exist in this country. You may delude and mislead a certain element of our people for a time, and depend upon the support of the bankers and finance capitalists and the alien and privileged section within this country, but time is on the side of those who are oppressed; and greater and more powerful Governments than yours learned a lesson in this and other countries, and, if I may suggest it, even greater Statesmen—if that were possible—than yourself, have learned that force is no remedy, that mind controls matter; and the mind and heart of this nation show signs of functioning again. And I again repeat that the only solution of your difficulties and the Nation's troubles, and one that would bring happiness where there is now sorrow, safety of body in a land where no man, woman, or child is safe; where the mind of the Nation is in constant turmoil; where hatred lives with us every hour; a land where peace is unknown and death walks with leaded feet; is the one which I suggested. Without economic peace there can be no political peace, and without economic and political peace there can be no soul peace within this Nation.

The suggestion was submitted to you, I repeat, in all sincerity. You have tried for the past three months, using every power and ingenuity within the scope of a Government, using all forms of propaganda and holding out all sorts of inducements, to compel the working section of this country to submit to the conditions demanded by the employing class. You have supported that employing class to the uttermost of

your power, and you have failed up to this hour to convince the workers. It may be that within the scope of my suggestion there is a possibility of a settled peace. I leave the suggestion with you. The realisation of its purpose concerns you in a larger sense than some of us who are not charged with the same responsibility.

Yours truly,

JAMES LARKIN,
General Secretary, I.T.W.U.

CONSTERNATION IN HEAVEN: Bonar Law not arrived yet.

Green Paper for Green Irishmen.

The enclosed Manifesto, printed above, has been spread broadcast over Liverpool. With the appeal the writer is quite in agreement. There is no Irish question before the people of England. But there is a human question of most vital importance; a question that must of necessity be settled before we can ever expect the Irish in England to put any trust in the words of Englishmen, even though they sail under the Labour flag. I state this in all sincerity as an Englishman.

It states in the Manifesto: "We hold that the settlement which has been accepted by the people of Ireland has removed the one important question which tended to keep Irishmen away from the bulk of their fellow citizens in this country, and that to-day Irishmen in Liverpool have a wonderful opportunity of pooling their natural gifts of enthusiasm and imagination in the glorious work of assisting Labour in the uplifting of the bottom dog. We feel that the destiny of the Irish Nation can be safely left to the Irish at home."

The above statement only goes to prove that the signers of the Manifesto are a blithering lot of stupid ignoramuses, or a callous, cool, calculating, slimy, lying group of hypocrites whose only object in issuing the Manifesto, like the green paper on which the Manifesto is written, is to catch the votes of green people. I know, and all the intelligent people of England know that the settlement was forced on Ireland by the armed might of England and that the Irish Nation was split by the gold of England. The same gold, perhaps found its way into the pockets of the Labour leaders who split the Triple Alliance in twain and sold the miners on Black Friday. But let us, for the sake of argument, agree that the majority of the Irish did accept the settlement. There is still the minority. 8,000 men and 90 women of that minority, according to your paper, are on hunger strike for liberty or death. In the Six Counties area, under the Craig regime, the same state of affairs exists. Now, we English spend £1,000,000 in keeping the blood pirates supplied with armed assassins, and in the Free State we supply money and all necessities to hold the present Government in office, while millions at the same time of our own blood are simply being starved into premature

Mr. W. Cosgrave,
President of Executive Council,
Irish Free State.

Sir,—Enclosed letter delivered by hand. One is fearful of the delays in transmission through the Post Office.

I received your letter of the 29th at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. The same was opened before I received it. I do not know if the idea was to save me the trouble of cutting the envelope, but I would suggest that if I am to be honoured with further communications, the messenger sent to deliver same is instructed to deliver them unopened.

Yours truly,

JIM LARKIN,
General Secretary.

P.S.—I think I have given proof that I could get men to resume work in twenty-four hours.

LIVERPOOL TRADES COUNCIL AND LABOUR PARTY.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, 1923.

Labour Manifesto to the Irish Public.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

In view of the misrepresentation of the Labour Party's policy of contesting seats in this City, in the working class interest, we feel it incumbent upon us to submit for your considered judgment, this, our Statement of Policy.

The Nationalist Party ask support on two grounds:—
First: To influence and direct opinion in Ireland; Second: The protection of Catholic principles.

In 1916 the infamous resolution of the U.I.L. was carried denouncing the Sinn Féin Movement, both in Ireland and in England. Never on any occasion did the Local Nationalist Party, by word or deed, support the people in Ireland in the struggle for Irish Freedom.

We suggest, therefore, that these people can scarcely be the champions to whom the people in Ireland will look for help or guidance, either now or in the future.

We hold that the settlement which has been accepted by the people of Ireland has removed the one important question which tended to keep Irishmen away from the bulk of their fellow citizens in this Country, and that to-day Irishmen in Liverpool have a wonderful opportunity of pooling their natural gifts of enthusiasm and imagination in the glorious work of assisting Labour in the uplifting of the bottom dog. We feel that the destiny of the Irish Nation can be safely left to the Irish at home.

THE COUNCIL OF THE IRISH SOCIETIES IN LIVERPOOL through its Vice-President, the Rev. Father Gerrard, publicly stated:—

"That the Council is opposed to the idea of the Irish Flag being used as a mantle to cover aspirants for entry to the City Council, and take the view that there is no Irish question before the Liverpool public at the present time."

The Labour Party stands fearlessly for the right of parents to determine what religious beliefs their children shall be taught. No less an authority than Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in the "Daily Post," publicly admitted that it was due in a large measure to the Labour Party in the House of Commons, that the Government is being compelled to consider more favourably the demand for more equitable treatment for the Catholic Schools. The Labour Party, both locally and nationally, include men marked by character and high principle who could not, and would not, exploit religious differences to suit Political ends.

The highest authority of the Church in this Country, Cardinal Bourne, at the Catholic Congress this year, as reported in the "Liverpool Daily Post" of October 6th, opposed the idea of a Catholic Party, and said:—

"The reason Catholics should be represented on Public Bodies was not so much for the furtherance of Catholic interests, but to show the interest Catholics took and should take in public affairs. A Catholic Party would be a great misfortune. Once they had such a Party the Catholic Church would be blamed for the Party's inevitable mistakes."

We feel that the vast majority of Irish people in this City will appreciate this Statesman-like utterance.

We rely upon Irishmen and women to exercise their own individual conscience in deciding who should represent them from a Political point of view. We call upon all lovers of democracy, all believers in progress, all those who feel that the present appalling Industrial conditions are neither human nor Christian, to take their stand with us.

VOTE SOLIDLY FOR THE LABOUR CANDIDATE IN THIS WARD
AND STRIKE A RESOUNDING BLOW AGAINST CORRUPTION
AND DOMINATION.

VOTE LABOUR!

Signed on behalf of the Labour Party:—
ALDERMAN W. A. ROBINSON (President Liverpool Trades Council and Labour Party).

MR. A. DAVIDSON	....	(Vice-President	"	"	"	"
MR. C. H. TAUNTON	....	(Secretary	"	"	"	"
MR. T. J. ROWAN	....	(Political Sec.	"	"	"	"
MR. HARRY GASKIN	....	Chairman, Scotland Divisional Labour Party).				
MR. M. MULVILL	....	(Chairman, Exchange Divisional Labour Party).				
MR. B. V. KIRBY	....	(T.C. & L.P. Executive).				
ALDERMAN F. T. RICHARDSON.						
COUNCILLOR LUKE HOGAN.						
COUNCILLOR DAVID LOGAN.						

graves. Not only are we aiding and abetting the so-called Government of Ireland in their bloodthirsty destruction of human life, but we, by our cowardly, spineless attitude, are killing our own human kind.

Not for a moment do I forget India, nor the open, unashamed, and cowardly silence of us, watching British troops being shipped to Germany to destroy the German workers for the benefit of the German, British and French financiers.

I state as an English workingman, that it is about time that this so-called Labour Party of ours, that talks so much about bottom dogs at election times, cuts out this cant and hypocrisy, proves by deeds that they are the party that stands four-square for the uplifting of humanity, and by showing a little of the milk of human kindness to these nationalities, be they Irish or Jews, that they are serious in the matter.

Let Alderman Robinson and the signers of the Manifesto of the Trades and Labour Council give the first lead by making an effort to stop scabs being organised by the Shipping Federation of London, aided and abetted by the National Seamen's and Firemen's Union at the Sailors' Home, Canning Place. These same scabs are busy taking ships in and out of Dublin, where dockers, seamen, etc., are now on strike for over nineteen weeks. The ships are loaded under armed protection; the cattle are landed at Birkenhead, killed there and at Manchester by members of the Union of which Robinson is General Secretary. Hogan is also an official of the same Union, likewise McClellan in Birkenhead, who, to my knowledge, was notified by the Secretary of the Irish Strike Committee in person a week or two ago regarding these scab cattle. Mrs. Bamber is another official of the same Union.

The National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, including Ellen Wilkinson, who pose as out-and-outers, are calling on the workers to get back to the Unions and "let's have a united front." Sure! But first let us put a stop to this open strike breaking. Let us stop trying to pull the Irish in Ireland down to the same level as the Irish, English, Scotch and Welsh on this side.

Scalers are being paid 7/4 per day in Liverpool and 18/- in Dublin; dockers—Liverpool, 10/- per day; Dublin, 16/-. All other trades and callings in Dublin are fighting to maintain the wages they now possess,

(Continued in col. 1, page 4)

A Pupil of Pearse.

MILITARY WARNING.

Sequel to Strike Declared in Sligo.
The following further official statement was issued from Army Headquarters last night:—

"As a result of the strike declared in Sligo yesterday, with the object of securing the release of the prisoners on hunger-strike, the military authorities issued the following notice:—

"Whereas the duty of securing public safety and restoring order has been placed upon the military authorities by the resolution passed in Dail Eireann on the 27th September, 1922.

"Warning is hereby given that all persons found guilty of offences specified in these resolutions are liable to be brought before a military court of committee, and if found guilty of any of the offences aforesaid are liable to the punishment of death or of penal servitude for any period or of imprisonment for any period or of a fine of any amount, either with or without imprisonment.

"Signed, **Seosamh MacSubhne**, Major-General, General Officer

Commanding Donegal Command. The officer responsible for the above statement was educated at St. Enda's College. We wonder what the dead Patriot thinks of his pupil.

The Irish Free State announces that it hopes to make the Gaelic language compulsory and that in time nothing else will be spoken in that section of Ireland. But the Free Staters should remember that people cannot live by language alone. ("Saturday Night," Toronto, Can.)

(Continued from col. 4 page 3)

I am informed by a Dublin lad who lives here with me, owing to the high cost of living in that city.

Now, Robinson, you claim that your Union is somewhat clean in comparison with the N.S.F.U. gang. Are you going to be one with the other officials of the N.U.D.A.W. in aiding the conspiracy to destroy the Irish in Ireland, and are you and your officials going to prove more cunning, cowardly and spineless than the late U.I.L. which you name in the Manifesto?

I, as an Englishman, am holding a watching brief. If you order a meeting of your Union and advocate action on behalf of the Dublin strikers, then I, for one, will do my best to get the Liverpool Irish into the Labour fold and I will have a concrete case to show of how we English aided the Dublin men to win, because I want to see that Irish enthusiasm and imagination mentioned in the Manifesto, put some life into us English so that there will be a lifting up all round.

Yours in the fight,

JOHN GILPIN,

Liverpool Abattoir Worker.

Evidence.

Irish Live Stock Trade Protection Fund.

The Emergency Committee of the Irish Live Stock Trade who were entrusted with the carrying out of measures in protection of the trade, owing to its precarious position as a result of the protracted dispute at the Port, having carried into effect such measures in defence of their undoubted rights as citizens of the Free State to carry on their business without let or hindrance, confidently appeals to the members of the Live Stock Trade and its allied interests to mark their appreciation of the Committee's action by forwarding without delay their contributions to the above Fund which has been inaugurated to defray the heavy expenditure involved.

Contributions should be forwarded to the undersigned at 31 Manor Street, Dublin.

JOHN P. CUFFE,

JAMES O'CONNOR

(Bergin, O'Connor & Co.)

Hon. Treasurers.

The above bears out our statements in previous issues that Barry & Co. were beaten. Eh! Hopelessly beaten weeks ago. And they haven't won yet!

Internees' Letter.

Sir,—I was arrested by F.S. military in Abbey Street in April and taken to Richmond Barracks where I was detained for three months, then removed to Tintown No. 3 Internment Camp, Curragh, where I was detained without charge or trial until my release on Friday last, October 26th.

Well over 1,000 men, I do not know the exact number, the huts being divided up and at some distance apart, went on hunger strike at Tintown No. 3 Camp, Curragh, on Thursday, October 18th, pledged to continue the strike until release or death. Every man continued the strike up to the time of my release on Friday, Oct. 26th. Many of the men were then quite weak, some having been in poor health and physically run down before the beginning of the hunger strike, but all were unflinching in their determination to carry on to the end—release or death. I was released unconditionally on Friday, 26th, my eighth day on hunger strike. I was then quite weak, only able to walk a few steps and with some difficulty. No man in No. 3 Camp, Tintown, has broken the hunger strike, and some must be in a practically dying condition by this time, judging by their condition when I left there.

As far as I know, the strike in No. 1 and No. 2 Camps, Tintown, continues. I am positive that the hunger strike in No. 3 Camp will be maintained to the very end.

BERNARD KEEGAN.

Workers, don't forget the Football Match, Croke Park, Sunday, Nov. 4th, at 3 p.m. Government, Trade Union Officials and Press have forgotten the shipyard men. Will You?

An Invitation.

October 31st, 1923.

MR. CLANCY, T.D.,
Merrion Street.

MY DEAR CLANCY—May I call your attention to the fact that eight thousand men, of whom over 2,700 are members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, and ninety women and girls, are on hunger strike in the bastilles of this Free State?

If I remember aright, your brother died for a full measure of freedom in this country. Your other brother, Egan, and I were comrades and are comrades. I fail to understand your apathy since your election on this human issue. Even at this, the eleventh hour, are you worthy of your name and class? If so, your duty is clear. Enter your emphatic protest and come out from that charnel chamber and join your comrades in Dublin to-morrow in condemnation of the continued incarceration of these eight thousand men and ninety women and girls, and in the demand for their unconditional release.

Your comrade,

JIM LARKIN.

Letters in the same determined spirit were addressed to Corish and Hogan of the Labour Party. No reply has been received.

Australian News.

WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS ARE THINKING.

Clipping from Australian Seamen's Journal.

Elections in Ireland.

It should be interesting to know what the thousands of political prisoners now in Free State gaols think of the Cosgrave Administration, and it would be just as interesting to us to know whether these prisoners are allowed to vote or not. We have often said in these columns that as far as the wage plugs are concerned, it does not matter whether the Irish Administration is carried on from College Green or from Westminster. The proof of this is the fact that the Cosgrave gang are now being backed up by papers like the London "Daily Telegraph," and we don't think that a government favorable to the working class can ever get the backing of the London "Daily Telegraph." What do our readers think of it?

The Dead President.

The late President Harding has taken into himself wings and flown to where the politician is at rest and the Capitalist troubleth not. Harding was a faithful servant of the Capitalism clique who rules the Yan Nited States. The Press the world over is in tears over the death of Harding, but not a line is given to the outrageous treatment of the political victims of Harding. Harding was one of the cruellest creatures that ever lived. This scribe has no tears nor sorrows for Harding or for such as he was; in fact, the world would be much better off if he had never lived.

GREAT

CHALLENGE MATCH

In aid of Shipyard Workers

ST. MARY'S (Selected)

v.

ST. BRENDAN'S (Selected)

Will take place on

NOVEMBER 4th, 1923

At 3 o'clock

AT CROKE PARK

TICKET - SIXPENCE

'GUILTY'

will be the YOU do not verdict if attend

Grand Concert

Sunday, 4th November

8 o'clock, in

THEATRE ROYAL

In aid of Republican Prisoners' Dependents

The following Distinguished Artistes will appear:—

- Florence Howley
- Lily Kinsella
- Joseph O'Neill
- Gerard Crofts
- Michael Malone
- James Rawle
- Denis Cox
- Madam Cogley
- Patrick Delaney (Violin)
- Dick Smyth (Dance)
- James O'Dea (Humorist)
- Mollie Ryan (Dance)
- Aileen O'Donoghue (Harpist)
- Valentine Vouden (Entertainer)

BAND SELECTIONS
(Connolly Pipers)

At the Piano - Miss Julia Gray

POPULAR PRICES

Berd Páiste Roinn Sac Doimne

O'CONNOR'S

7 Lower Marlborough Street

THE HOUSE FOR
IRISH ROLL, PLUGS, FLAKES, Etc.

Everything a Smoker Requires

Bicycles Stove Enamelled and Lined.
New Guards Fitted, only 20/-

Secondhand Cycles and all accessories
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PROMPT REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES

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F. NORTON

14 ANGLESEA ST., DAME ST.
DUBLIN

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AN T-OIBRÍOÉ SAOULAC

Edited by JIM LARKIN

No. 19. NEW SERIES.

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1923

ONE PENNY

A RETROSPECT OF THE DISPUTE.

We draw our readers' attention to an article under the caption "Facts about the Strike" which appeared in the "Irish Times" of Tuesday, November 6th. We want you to read the synopsis compiled by the intelligent Editorial Board of that paper and compare the misleading statement with the real facts of the struggle.

The first paragraph, while correct in some measures, is not a full and true statement. The dispute—which was a lock-out and not a strike—did not arise on the question of a notice from the employer to reduce wages. The dispute had its birth in a settlement arranged between the employers and certain Executive Officers of the Transport Union, which arrangement had never been approved of by the members of the Union. The agreement, according to one of the employers, was to the effect that a reduction in wages, in three instalments, was to be accepted by the members of the Transport Union. When the time came to put the third reduction in force, the members of the Union had awakened to the job that was being put over on them and at a public meeting they expressed their opinion and a determination not to submit to a further reduction except the same was approved of by themselves after a full discussion. Pending the enforcement of the third reduction a dispute arose which affected the Sailors' and Firemen's Section of the Union, consequent upon the enforcement of a cut of 6/6 per week, made without their knowledge or consent. This was in April, 1923. The Sailors and Firemen resented this reduction and came out on strike. By the intervention of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce an arrangement was made with them to return to their several ships pending a conference upon the enforced reduction. They did so return. Two different conferences were held in the Government offices and no settlement was arrived at, and in the first week in July the Sailors' and Firemen's Section of the Transport Union had to face a situation which was a direct breach of an understanding or agreement alleged to have been approved of by Mr. Barry, the Manager of the British and Irish Steam Packet Company, and Mr. Foran and another official of the Transport Union. A number of the Sailors' and Firemen's Section of the Transport Union were of the opinion that they were denied work because of their membership in the Transport Union and they, holding that they were victimized, and their colleagues in their ships refused to go to sea. The Executive of the Transport Union endorsed their action, paid them strike pay, and accepted the position of the men officially. A fortnight afterwards, on July 16th, 1923, the Dublin Employers' Federation, acting at the instigation of Mr. Barry, locked out all the cross channel dock labourers, and that action was followed by the Employers' Federation of Cork making a demand for 25% reduction in wages on some sections; upon their refusal to accept this reduction they too were locked out and their fellow unionists throughout the whole Cork area. The lock-out then developed. Waterford, Wexford, Limerick and Sligo became affected. On July 28th a conference was called by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. At that conference the men's position in the several ports was submitted to the employers, the representatives of the men suggesting that the lock-out notice should be withdrawn, that the reduction should be postponed until January, 1924, and in the meantime a conference should meet and go into the question of the need for a reduction on the part of the employers, the cost of living to the workers, and that a general agreement should be arrived at on all questions at issue. That offer was repeated to the employers at an adjourned conference. The employers, through their spokesman, refused to accept the suggestions made by those representing the workers and would not submit any alternate offer; in fact, on the last day of the adjourned conference, August 4th, they did not even have the courtesy to meet with the other two parties to the conference, namely, the workers' and the Ministry's officers, but broke up the conference without giving any intimation as to their attitude upon the question at issue and without submitting proposals for settlement. The Executive of the Transport Union endorsed the men's position. That fact is proven inasmuch as they paid strike pay for thirteen weeks after the abandonment of the conference.

There were no two sections in the Union. There were just the workers, members of the Union, solid and determined, and opposed to them were the Employers' Federation in Ireland, the Shipping Federation in England, the Government itself, two British Unions who were actively scabbing on the men locked out, the majority of the Executive of the Union who, though officially and in the open supporting the men, secretly were intriguing with the employers and government to compel the men to accept the reduction. Then came a new phase. At the close of the conference on August 4th, Mr. Gordon Campbell, the son of Lord Glenavy, before the workers' representatives departed from Merrion Square, submitted a proposal to them which in words was the same proposal submitted in writing through the Ministry of Industry and Commerce by Mr. William Cosgrave, President of the Free State Government; namely, that the men should accept a shilling a day reduction and upon resumption of work a court of inquiry should be set up. This proposal of President Cosgrave's was not brought before the men officially, but at a meeting in the Mansion House, summoned for another purpose, Mr. Foran tried to introduce the matter and was called to order. At a later stage of the meeting he was permitted to introduce the subject, and when the letter was read from President Cosgrave and the covering letter from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the proposal was left over to another meeting for discussion and action thereon. During the ensuing period the dockers in other ports were induced to ballot on President Cosgrave's proposal, a shilling a day reduction. It was stated, although no official figures have been given, that the dockers in Cork did accept the proposal by a majority vote. The same applies to the port of Limerick; but it has also been officially stated by the local officials in Wexford and in Sligo that no ballot was taken and the unanimous opinion was held in these two different ports that they would not accept the proposal of President Cosgrave. In Dublin the postponed meeting was never summoned, but instead handbills were issued by Foran and the other members of the Executive announcing that a ballot would be taken on the proposal to accept the reduction. The men affected immediately called an emergency meeting, and at that meeting they decided that, as the finding of the previous Sunday's meeting had not been carried out, they would not vote on the following day, Monday, but that they would take a ballot vote on Tuesday under the following conditions: That scrutineers should be appointed by the men, that a ballot should be taken of each section of workers affected, and that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce should be invited to send a representative to attend at the taking of the ballot. A further motion was carried that a deputation wait upon Foran and the majority group of the Executive with the request that the ballot be postponed to the following Friday so that the men might be able to understand the position as to the financial condition of the Union, which would have some effect upon the voting, and as the all-Ireland delegate conference was meeting on Thursday to discuss the financial position within the Union they would be fortified by the knowledge conveyed to them from the delegates to the Finance Conference. Foran and McCarthy refused to give them a definite reply and the deputation withdrew. On Monday night and Tuesday morning a notice appeared in the capitalist press of Dublin notifying all members affected by the dispute who worked in and about the port, coal workers, grain workers, dockers, to attend at Liberty Hall for the purpose of casting their votes on President Cosgrave's proposals. The men, doubly incensed at the refusal to consider their suggestions of taking the ballot on Friday and the denial of their right to have scrutineers appointed to be present at the ballot on their behalf and that the vote be taken by sections, decided that no ballot should be taken on Tuesday, and arranged the ballot should be taken under proper conditions on Friday. They invited the Executive to be present and they sent a special letter of invitation to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The Executive refused to attend; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, whose letter was responsible for the ballot being taken, refused to attend at the taking of the ballot, on the ground that they did not think it came within the province of their Department. His letter

is appended. The ballot was taken; representatives of the press attended, and the press representatives admitted that the ballot was carried out in a proper manner, and the result of the ballot was a rejection of President Cosgrave's proposals; and then this "Injunction Executive" which controls the funds of the Union by an injunction and against the will and wish of the members, was compelled to come out into the open. The secret intrigues were exposed and, taking advantage of their position, published broadcast the fact that no further strike pay would be paid and that the dispute was settled. This position was taken up by them when they realised that they could afford to shelter behind the bayonets and batons of the Free State Government, and this is the position that Mr. David Barry stated one month ago in the offices of the Port and Docks Board would be assumed by the Executive of the Union, namely, that the Executive would refuse to allow the dispute to continue, that they were determined on a compromise, and that the Government would support them. The Government themselves came into the open, and the Government and their armed soldiery, their police, and all other resources of the Government were thrown in on behalf of the employers. Even then the crime was not consummated. On the following Monday the coal porters, who up to that time had not been affected, were notified on resuming work on Monday morning that they would have to work at a reduction of one shilling per day, although they had never been consulted, no meeting had been held, and no demand made. They withdrew their labour, and the same procedure was carried out against the grain porters who also refused to accept Mr. Cosgrave's proposal of a reduction of a shilling per day, and they too came out. On Tuesday night at a meeting of all the sections affected a suggestion was made to these strikers, many of whom had been locked out for a period of twenty weeks, that they should express their condemnation of the continued incarceration of the many thousand men and women on hunger strike and that the whole port should come out to demand the release of these untried prisoners. A desperate condition faced us; one-third of the men still working, no interference as regards wages and work, two-thirds locked out. They were appealed to, those locked out, to return to work under any conditions, even at one shilling per day, and that they would on Thursday, a memorable day in the history of organized labour, come out together and close down the port to express their love and veneration for the memory of Kevin Barry and to demand the release of Kevin Barry's comrades who were then seventeen days on hunger strike. They returned to work on Wednesday and, to a man, came out on strike on Thursday. Never in the history of organized labour, nor of any movement, ethical, religious, political, economic, was there such a manifestation of solidarity. When on Friday they returned to work they were told by their employers that without every section, carters and checkers, resuming they would not be allowed to work. On Friday evening they were informed that no strike pay would be paid to them. A deputation approached the officers of the Executive of the Transport Union, Parnell Square, and found the place closed and barricaded and guarded by armed men, official and unofficial, and then we had the spectacle of the President of this democratic union guarded by Government gunmen speaking out from the window to the members of the Union who pay him and to whom he is responsible. He promised that he would meet a deputation of six of the locked out men. The deputation waited on him at the time appointed, 3 o'clock on Friday, and were told that without resuming work at the direction of the Executive no strike pay would be paid them, but that if they were willing to resume at 11 o'clock the following day, Saturday, they would receive it. They had a legal right to their strike pay. On Saturday when they went up as agreed upon, they found that Mr. Foran, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. McCarthy, and Mr. Kennedy—who are the Executive—had flown the coop, the cuckoos had left and were established in what they think is a safe and secure hiding place, while their hired bravadoes and gunmen deny access to the members of the Union, access to their own property where they have a legal right to enter. The Government brought up armoured cars, ambulance wagons, platoons and companies of police to prevent the members locked out from entering their own premises, and those courageous gentlemen who are doing the work of the employers, directed and protected by the Government, are still in hiding and issuing their manifestos at the orders of the Employers' Federation: no strike pay for locked out workers but an insistence upon the acceptance of "Comrade" Cosgrave's employers' conditions.

That is the reason that, faced with that position, we advised the men to resume work, and they have gone back with one exception, the carriers' section, known as the General Carters Section, who have refused up to now to be bulldozed and driven back to wage slavery by the combined forces of employer, Government and Union Officials. These are the facts, Mr. Editor of the "Irish Times".

We want to give you a few other facts that cannot be disputed. The men did not lose £200,000 in wages. The men locked out may have lost in wages some £80,000, they received in strike pay, according to your own statement, £32,000, which again is not true. They received £1 per week per man. They were out sixteen weeks, and that does not come to the figure set out in your columns. The freights were not higher than those usually charged, except in special cases, and any congestion or any inconvenience to shippers, consignees, etc., was due to the fact that Mr. David Barry and his junta of foreign exporters and shipping combine clerks who control the Port and Docks Board denied to their competitors their legal and statutory rights in this port. There were no increases in the cost of living due to the shortage of material or by the shutting down of the Scotch and English combine steamers. The increases were due to the rapacious, selfish action of the merchants in this city. Let us quote some indisputable facts. One of the reasons why we advised the Coal Section to resume work was because we found that those firms who had agreed to continue working at the old rate of

wages had done so with one intent and purpose, namely, that they might use the lock out of the coal porters for the purpose of robbing the Dublin poor. Three of these firms were discovered the first day of the lock out, charging five and six shillings per ton extra for coal, and so to stop that profiteering and deliberate robbing of the poor, we asked the coal porters to accept the reduction under duress and to return to work pending the setting up of machinery that would prevent this form of extortion. This is a truth that may be appreciated even by the Editor of the "Times." In October, President Cosgrave did not call a conference of employers and the Union Executive. We challenge that statement. He called a conference of the parties to the unholy alliance, at which some employers and some members of the Irish Transport Union Executive met the Government and agreed to co-operate against the workers and in the interests of the employers. The settlement was never accepted by a majority of the men. The settlement was forced on the workers at the point of the bayonet and by the illegal action of the Executive who have assumed the position of protectors of the employers and have become the servants of the employers publicly, which they have been for some years past secretly; tools of the employers; betrayers of their own class, and, what is even more treacherous, agents of the Government. We continue the record in our next issue.

THE NEW UNIONISM.

The (Injunction) Executive still loyally obeying their masters—the Employers' Federation and the Government—have betrayed and deserted the Belfast Sailors and Firemen, have compelled the Drug Packers and Porters, who work for the ring that controls the drug distribution in this area, to return on this agreement. The three alleged victimised employees—including Martin, who is one of the Executive's tools—are to be re-employed, and eighty of the men who went out to reinstate Martin are to be allowed to walk the street until the employers desire their services.

THE HUMAN-STRIKE.

We mention for record the Port of Dublin was closed on Thursday November 1st, 1923, the workers withdrawing their labour to mark their condemnation of the Government's action in keeping in prison and internment camps untried men and women and to demand the release of these men and women.

We will say a few words on this matter next week, when we hope all these prisoners will be free, that is, as free as we are outside.

THE CARTERS.

The Carters were compelled, under a threat, to take a ballot on the Master Carriers' terms, and to the surprise of the "emergency men"—the Injunction Executive—the Carters refused to accept President Cosgrave's proposals. "Rank treason," says Mr. Foran; McCarthy, at the time of going to press, had lost the power of articulation—his opinion withheld; Mr. Kennedy being out at the time, interviewing Nob Connor, perhaps!—had no time to comment.

The James Connolly Literary Society of Boston.

919 Washington Street,
Boston, Mass.

Oct. 22nd 1923.

Dear Comrade,

Enclosed is a cheque for \$100 (£22 1s. 6d.) from the James Connolly Literary Society of Boston, for the Irish Worker Fund. We realize that now in Ireland, as well as in the years spent in America, you are working for the principles on which the organization was founded—the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth. We also realize the difficulties facing you at present—the same that both you and James Connolly were obliged to face in this country. Every organized enemy of the working class, officialdom and imperialism in all their phases are opposing you—but right knows no defeat.

I repeat our wireless message to you which we sent at the time our alleged democratic government deported you. "Depend on us until the glorious ending."

Signed,

JOHN BARRY, Treas.,

James Connolly Lit. Soc

6 Sedan Terrace,
Enniskillen,
30th Oct., 1923.

J. LARKIN, Esq.

Sir/ Yours of 29th inst. to hand. I also wrote you a letter the 1st week in July which you seem not to have got.

Re internment of my husband—he will soon be twelve months away and the N.U.R. have done nothing for me. I am trying to keep card clear, and it seems extraordinary that I am not entitled to some little benefit as my seven children are practically orphans when their breadwinner was taken from them.

I am very thankful to you for interesting yourself on my behalf. Perhaps you will be able to bring pressure to bear on Mr. Thomas or Mr. Cramp and have something done for me.

Faithfully yours,
KATHLEEN BRESLIN.

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Open to give tuitions to Gaelic Students. Day or Evening. Fluency in conversation guaranteed after a few months. Terms moderate. Apply Box 25 "IRISH WORKER."

With English Gentlemen

WHEN YOU FIND THEM AT WORK.

By A. LOZOVSKY.

(Chairman of the Russian Trades Unions.)

What do the former owners of factories and works in Russia think about when they cannot get to sleep at night? They think about how they can manage to have these factories returned to their "rightful" owners. This is the root of all Anglo-Russian conflicts, and this is the explanation of the latest Rakovsky incident. Everything seemed to be quite settled, when that dirtiest of reactionary newspapers, the Morning Post, dutifully reported to the authorities: "Your Excellencies! They are making communes, preaching proletariat, spreading proclamations!" This eloquent declaration gave the English government cause enough to instigate investigations as to whether Rakovsky was really writing pamphlets, making speeches, and "preaching proletariat." The Russian department of the English ministry for foreign affairs is engaged in examining into Rakovsky's career. It is not difficult to guess that these researches will actually result in the discovery that Rakovsky is really "making communes," for the Bolsheviks differ from all European statesmen in not moulting their political feathers.

The English Government would, of course, not have the slightest objection to raise against Rakovsky's distant past, or the past of other Russian diplomats. Was not Briand a socialist of the extreme left at one time, a propagator of the general strike, and did he not begin speaking and acting in exact opposition to his former tactics as soon as he was seated on the ministerial benches? At one time Millerand was also a member of the Socialist Party, but as President of the French Republic he has become more sensible, and is transformed into a raging reactionary and imperialist "Socialists" of this type are naturally acceptable to the honourable and god-fearing English exploiters. But that a minister or ambassador, after holding office in a high state position for six years, should stick to his old socialist convictions—this is an unheard of scandal for the whole diplomatic world. And then, this Rakovsky's calling is perfectly inexplicable.

Here is a man who has occupied himself for thirty years with revolutions, has had power in his hands for several years, and still goes on occupying himself with such matters. How can anybody feel confidence in a man who does not possess any property, an obviously frivolous person who has not managed to scrape something together in the course of fifty years?

Other ministers and ambassadors are so very different. There is for instance the French ambassador in Germany, Laurent, representative of the well-known association of French metal industrialists which is determined to gain possession of the Ruhr basin at any price. Or let us take English diplomats and ministers. For example, there is in England a law prohibiting ministers from being directors of private commercial and financial companies. This law is, of

course, loyally obeyed. Every joint stock company is naturally broad-minded enough to grant its directors sufficient leave of absence to enable them to fulfill their ministerial duties. Thus Sir Robert Horne leaves his post as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Stanley Baldwin succeeds him, and Horne is immediately chosen for the position of chairman of a commercial company controlled by Stanley Baldwin and possessing a capital of over nine million pounds sterling. Sir Eric Geddes, head of a ministry in the coalition cabinet, resigns his post at the same time as Sir Robert Horne gives up his, and is at once converted into a director of the Marconi telegraph company. A safe wire connects this wireless telegraph with certain ministers. McKenna, after giving up his ministerial post, became chairman of directors of one of the great banks. If we subject every English minister and ambassador to a thorough examination under the magnifying glass, and reckon up their various capitals, a very considerable sum would come to light, for they are one and all connected in one form or another with some description of industrial or financial undertaking. For all these gentlemen politics are the continuation of their commercial transactions.

How is it possible to draw any comparison between such important (in millions sterling) ministers and diplomats and the Soviet diplomat Rakovsky, who has not even had enough sense to pilfer a few millions for himself. What kind of minister or diplomat does he think himself, that he does not even know the most elementary rules of civilized diplomacy? Did anybody ever hear of a minister or diplomat who wrote pamphlet and made speeches in favor of revolution? Is it not one of the sacred traditions of international diplomacy that when ministers and ambassadors write anything, it is invariably against revolution and against the emancipation of the masses?

And when the Soviet diplomat possesses another exceedingly disagreeable characteristic—the lark of any court-bestowed title of nobility. In place of the pleasing designation of Lord, Baron, or Marquis, we find the sinister title—Comrade! Can the Bolsheviks, who are their own ancestors, tell us anything about what their grandfathers and grandmothers were doing one or two hundred years ago? No doubt their forefathers were toiling at the work of tilling other people's ground, bending their backs under the yoke of slavery. But if their ancestors had been flunkies or ostlers to the ruling house, if these had evinced at the time of Catherine the First, Elizabeth or Catherine the Second, those characteristics which were regarded at that time as proving their ability to become a "capable guardsman," and had been rewarded for this by offices, orders and estates, then they would have been held in high esteem by their English colleagues for their "services" to their native country, for their origin would also have been "noble," and they could have been acknowledged as worthy to hold a high diplomatic position. But the recognition as ambassador of a person who cannot change his convictions like his gloves who has not accumulated millions by devious stratagems, and who, above all, cannot boast of ancestors

who were flunkies to the ruling parasites of their day—how can a hypocritically pious, pedantically sanctimonious English gentleman, raising his eyes to heaven and feeling in other people's pockets, be expected to put up with such a violation of all human and divine rights? Certainly he cannot be expected to do so. Let but the slightest opportunity occur, and these titled knights of straw utter a fervent prayer to sacred democracy and then whisper threateningly: "Bolsheviki, you give those factories back again!"

We have not the slightest doubt as to the solvency of the firm of "Baldwin, Curzon and Co."—Baldwin alone possesses, as we have seen about ten millions pounds sterling—but we permit ourselves to ask those ministers who are imitating the ink-slingers of the Morning Post, if they really think they can regain the irrevocably lost by these means? We had a better opinion of the good sense of the directors of that joint stock company, with unlimited non-liability, which is called the British Empire.

ELLIS ISLAND.

The immigration authorities in U.S.A. have asked for £300,000 to clean and re-paint the immigrants quarters in Ellis Island. This sudden zeal on the part of the immigration authorities is supposed to have been the result of Sir Auckland Geddes's report upon conditions on that Isle of the Blest.

Perhaps the quarters on Ellis Island require to be repainted, and spring cleaned. But painting the quarters will not settle this question. It is not the quarters on Ellis Island that are at fault, but the so-called immigration officers, commonly called keepers or guards, and the system they so willingly enforce.

We do not object to an examination by a doctor for the purpose of guarding against infectious diseases, nor do we disagree with the quota system which, if worked honestly, would save many emigrants a good deal of trouble and suffering, but we certainly do object to the manner in which the doctor's examination is performed, and the way the quota system is worked. Also we cannot see why it requires as much as three weeks to examine a 3rd class passenger, whilst the 1st and 3rd class may walk off the ship immediately she docks. This cannot be excused on the grounds that the 1st and 2nd class passengers do not require such a stringent examination, because, in the first place, they are human and are liable to human disease to the same degree as 3rd class passengers, and secondly, it is a well known fact that 80% of the world's criminals always book 1st or 2nd class when travelling, and especially when bound for America.

But let it be. It suffices to the U.S.A. Government that there is a difference between 1st and 3rd class passengers, not a difference of intellect, cleanliness or other human qualities, but a difference in the weight of their pockets. Money is all powerful, and it can even decide whether a person is clean or dirty or whether he has a disease or not. Talk about infections, serums, patent medicines and all the other Black Magic, they are no where with this medicine of the gods. It is so effective, it can make an honest man out of a thief, and even God himself cannot do that.

"INEQUALITY."

By A NORTHERNER.

I often wonder brother of the poor
How with your lot in this world
your content
When reason must inform you so
that God
Created not this world with the
intent
That few should roll in luxuries of
wealth
And, holding fast the reins of life's
control,
Enslave and persecute their brother
man
As if he were a brute devoid of soul.

God made the earth that each and
all mankind
Should labour for their bread and
live their day
Extending to the weak a helping
hand
To ease the sick and needy on the
way
Thus by united action to devise
And with increasing knowledge to
attain
A social State where all may live
in peace
And some remove from Man the
curse of Cain.

Our capitalistic system—'tis a curse
The hideous evil root of all our woe
Which moulds the man to be so
vilely mean
So selfish, so deceitful, and so low
For are not all the men who tread
the Earth
Daily warring with each other to
obtain
Security from poverty, and want
Which only gold, and gold alone,
can gain.

Behold, a poorer brother but a slave
Who toils with body, or the feeble
brain
To multiply the wealth of the elite
The perfect mannered, cultured, and
the vain
A victim of the most unequal laws
By low environment demoralised
Existing in his poverty, and want
Uncouth, unlearned, uncultured, and
despised.

The daily wealth production of this
World
Is but produced by man from day to
day
And should this vast production
ever cease
Then all the wealth we cherish
would decay
For lo—the very homes in which
we sit
The gold for livelihood to which we
trust
Our wearables, our ornaments, our
all
Indeed in passing time become but
dust.

Then if the daily labour of all men
Produces all our never ending
wealth
On which the rich, and poor alike
depend
For livelihood, for comfort, and for
health
Why should the few so covet all
the gain
By legalised forms of robbery, and
of fraud
Denying brother man his daily
bread
Whilst calling loud "Our Father"
to their God.

DESMOND CREAN.

"An injury to One is the concern of All."

IRISH WORKER

EDITED BY JIM LARKIN.

THE IRISH WORKER will be published weekly—price One Penny—and may be had of any newsagent or newsboy. Ask for it, and see that you get it.

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We do not publish or waste time on anonymous contributions.

TEACHERS! LEARN YOUR LESSON

The teachers are learning their lesson. Their miserable stipend cut ten per cent. Of course pedagogic slaves would not allow the word wages to be used as applying to them. Is it any wonder we have a nation of slaves, a nation of moral cowards, a nation fearful of saying or doing that which is essential should be said and done at this hour? The reason for cowardly supineness and selfish conduct of this nation is due to the fact that the teachers of the nation are a backboneless set of shoneens and snobs. When the British Educational Commissioners were exploiting them they were always petitioning the then Parliamentary Party for assistance. They were ever sending deputations begging and whining for amelioration of their then slavish conditions, tyrannised over by managers, neglected and despised, they submitted. When Mansfield and other men and women with backbone tried to arouse them they still slept on. Now when they are still slighted and despised even though they have their £800 a year secretary sitting in the Dail, getting his additional £360 a year, they are classed with the old age pensioners—all the gratitude for their unselfish work in the interests of a free nation the sacrifices made in death by their members such as Tom Ashe and other patriots results in a ten per cent. cut in their miserable wages—yes, wages—whether they like it or not. They are wage slaves and the sooner they realise that their interest is one with their scholars and the parents of their scholars the sooner will they receive that appreciation and service they deserve. And until the teachers of the nation assert their dignity and claim their rightful position and demand that respect they are entitled to as builders of the nation, the pupils will be unworthy of citizenship in a Free Nation.

Of course their Executive and their wise, astute secretary with his £1,200 a year will advise them to trust the National Executive of the Labour Party—Falstaff's ragged army, all officers, no rank and file! Teachers! Awaken! Apply yourselves to your task! They who would be free, themselves must strike the blow. We know you are not big enough to fight twenty weeks against a shilling a day reduction, but at least you might have stood on the ditch and cheered the hurlers. You and all other workers were told that this lock out to enforce a reduction of wages was your fight. Your intelligence would

TO OUR READERS :

November 6th, 1923.

There are many Christmas Drawings in progress. The one we suggest should engage your attention and active support is one that should appeal to every man, woman and child in this country, and to our friends without.

The details setting forward the agreement between the organisers of the draw and the buyers of the tickets appears below, and tickets will be on sale this week. It is a Christmas thought and a Christmas greeting to the dependents of those confined in the prisons of the Free State and the Six County area. The idea is that "many can help one." The proceeds of what we hope will be the most successful Christmas draw in this country will be given to these people, many of whom may have been forgotten, but who, we feel, the readers of this paper remember and intend to make their remembrance one that will be beneficial to the women and children of their comrades in prison.

The draw will take place in the Trades' Hall, Capel St., Dublin. The proceeds will be divided, and the number of tickets sold will be checked by a committee of released prisoners; the draw will take place in their presence and under their supervision, and an audited statement of proceeds will appear in "The Irish Worker" of December 28th.

"Irish Worker" and Irish Worker League.

Great Xmas Drawing, 1923.

No.....

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Address

Blocks and remittances to be returned to the Secretary, Irish Workers' League (J. Larkin), 17 Gardiner's Place, Dublin, not later than Tuesday, 18th Dec., 1923.

If there is a more worthy object than the one we call your attention to, then we hasten to advise you to support it, but we feel that no one of our readers will miss the sixpence required to purchase one of the tickets, doing two things thereby: grasping the opportunity of being among the prize winners, and—what we think will appeal to you even above the venture itself—by speculating in one of these tickets you will assist those sadly in need of immediate help and thus show your comradeship.

We want all our readers to take upon themselves the responsibility of selling at least one book of tickets. We leave this thought with you.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE IRISH WORKERS' LEAGUE:

You will receive two books of tickets, ten tickets in each book with complimentary ticket attached, and you will see to it that these are sold. Blocks and remittances must reach this office not later than Tuesday, December 18th. Numbers of unreturned blocks of tickets will be published in the issue of December 28th.

Let us to the task!

not carry you that far. You have learnt your lesson, the other section of labour—skilled and unskilled (so-called) will learn that they too will be reduced, because a government that would limit the food supply for necessitous school children and deprive the aged and decrepit worker of one shilling per week will use the same measures against all other sections of the working class. Teachers! "It will pay you for your pains to educate your brains and do a little thinking on your own." The labourer is worthy of his hire. Then make a stand now! To-morrow is too late! They made you study Irish. Well! make them understand essential Irish is connoted by the verb "to eat."

LOANS AND HUNGER STRIKES.

"The Times," Monday, speaks of the internal loan as an act of faith in Ireland's future.

We suggest they call it "The Infernal Loan." An act of contrition would be more appropriate for those who intend to issue it.

After twenty-two days of the Hunger Strike the gentleman charged with the execution say there are only 550 prisoners on hunger strike. When some few of themselves were pretending to be on a hunger strike some time back, they spoke in more fitting language. Even if one man or woman is kept in prison unjustly, the nation that allows such an injustice to exist is disgraced.

English Dockers Demand More Wages.

Hull dockers at a mass meeting instructed their delegates to the National Wage Conference to demand an increase on the present minimum wage and to resist any interference with the 44 hour week.

The above news is enlightening. Even Government Commissions admit that the cost of living is lower in England than it is in this country, and particularly in this city, yet the kind benevolent employers in Dublin and other ports demand that the men's wages be reduced to the same level as the wages paid to the English worker. Now we find that even with a lower index figure for the cost of living these English workers find it impossible to exist on their present wages, and if they cannot exist on these wages, how on earth is the Irish worker going to live on those wages when the cost of living figure here is the highest in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. By the look of things we'll have to get Lady Aberdeen back here to teach us how to live on 1/6 per week instead of 2/6.

A PRIVATE LETTER.

The following private letter was sent to 35 Parnell Square, where it was opened by Mr. Kennedy (in-junction Assistant General Secretary). Not satisfied with opening it he replied to it. As a result we received the letter below.

* * *

Scottish Transport Workers

DOCKERS' SECTION.

69-71 Stobcross Street, Glasgow. 29th Oct., 1923

Mr. James Larkin, 17 Gardiner's Place, Dublin.

Dear Sir—I am instructed by the committee of the above union to send you the following letter. I addressed it to you at Parnell Square it was acknowledged by a Mr. Kennedy who is presumably acting Secretary. The letter I sent is as follows:—

I am instructed to inform you that a meeting held on the 21st inst. the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting of Scottish Dockers express its admiration for the able and gallant manner in which the Irish Transport Workers are struggling against Capitalism; and pledge ourselves to render assistance wherever possible."

A visit from you, at your convenience, would be much appreciated.

Yours ever,

BERNARD HAVILAN,

Hon. Sec., pro. tem.

* * *

The above is what Mr. Kennedy replied to. I am looking forward to a reply from yourself this time.—B.H.

A number of your friends here would like you to let them know the true position in Dublin.

Our Democratic Government

We note how quick this democratic Government is to reduce the amounts necessary to provide meals for the hungry school children, old age pensioners whose pensions will shortly be reduced by a shilling per week. We also note how quick they are to grant Mr. Healy £10,000 towards his expenses, and also how rapidly they move when it is necessary to aid the finance industrial capitalist, in their nefarious schemes, such as shipping scab cattle under armed escort, said gunmen being paid £5 per man. Evidently the "Axe" is only able to follow a devious and erratic course. But wobbly as it may be, the worker always gets it in the neck.

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin.

1st November, 1923.

Ref. P.H. 44740/23.

Dublin County Borough.

A Chara—With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, submitting an estimate of £10,835 in respect of expenditure during the current year from the rates and the School Meals Grant upon the actual provision of meals for children attending National Schools in Dublin County Borough, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to state that he is not in a position to concur in the continuance for the current year of the substantially increased expenditure on this service disclosed in the recent report of the Auditor for the year 1922-23, and to inform you that in the present conditions of financial stringency, he would not be justified in accepting an estimate of this amount as a basis of recoupment from the Grant.

It is accordingly requested that steps will be immediately taken to revise the arrangements for the provision of free meals to school children in the County Borough with a view to carrying into effect such economies as may be possible and to restricting the grant of such meals to children in whose cases there are no other funds available for the supply of the necessary food. In this connection, I am to inquire whether the family circumstances of each child at present authorised to receive free meals under the scheme have been investigated and reported on in accordance with Article 5 (3) of the Regulations made in pursuance of Section 1 (2) of the Education (Provision of Meals) (Ireland) Act, 1917.

I am, at the same time, to request attention to an examination of the practicability of effecting a saving by substituting payments for the actual food consumed for the present system of a fixed allowance per meal which probably gives an appreciable margin of profit where large numbers of children are catered for at the same time.

It is also noted that no funds appear to have been received from voluntary sources and an effort should be made to obtain assistance from monies allocated or collected for charitable purposes.

As the Departmental estimates for the coming year must shortly be submitted, the Minister would be glad to be furnished by the Corporation at the earliest possible moment and at latest by the 10th instant, with a revised estimate for this service.

Motor Section Committee I.T.W.U.

29/10/23.

The following resolution was unanimously passed at above Committee meeting:—

"That we protest in the strongest possible manner against the action of the 'Streets Committee' of the Dublin Corporation in denying our members their legitimate recognition in the municipal services as competent motor drivers and in selecting non-experienced and incompetent men for the positions, thereby inflicting greater expense on the ratepayers or general public.

J. SMITH, Sec.
R. BURTON,
Chairman.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald (Leader of the Opposition).—"It was with profound regret when I landed at Dover this morning that I learned of the death of Mr. Bonar Law. **When a man has done the work he has done, and passes out, it is always difficult adequately to express all one feels. I can say no more.**"

THE GUNMEN OF MANOR ST.

William Keane, of 32 Lr. Kevin St., was remanded for a week on £20 bail by Mr. Cooper, K.C., in the Northern Police Court. It was alleged by Michael O'Doherty, of 1 Lr. Mayor St., that this Keane, with six other gentlemen (?) paid a social call at the home of Mr. O'Doherty for the purpose of persuading some one inmate of the home that they—the callers—desired to provide a job for some undertaker.

When asked to provide their authority, one of the strike-breaking gang, putting his hand on his hip—this is my authority and "if you don't shut up, I'll put the contents into you"—this was the least objectionable phrase these night-raiders used, their language was worthy of their mentor who will be unmasked. The gentleman who provided the motor car for these capitalist missionaries to proceed with despatch on their Christian Mission may rest assured this thugery will avail him not. Possibly out of this investigation other crimes may be cleared up. Twentieth century Capitalism, summon your thugs to a back room, instruct your black-hearts, arm them, send them on their mission, tell them they will get protection in case of accidents!

which should be framed on the lines of the closest economy. Otherwise the Minister would be unable to recommend for the approval of the Ministry of Finance the allowance of recoupment from the School Meals Grant at the usual rate of 50% in respect of the expenditure incurred on the approved scheme in the County Borough during the current year.

Mise le meas,
(Signed) E. P. McCARRON,
a/s Aire Riaghaltas Aiteamhla.
The Town Clerk,
City Hall, Dublin.

THE BELL SHELLS

A Story of Russia.

By P. LEE.

"The Big Bell in the belfry tolled out, but it gave no pleasure to the throngs of people assembled in the square of the town. The notes were cracked and false and heaven seemed angry. The gold cast into the melting pot had been wrung from the blood and sweat of toiling millions of helpless serfs—and the Great Father did not seem pleased that this false thing should sound peans of praise to Him! It must be taken down and re-cast and the blood of innocent lambs must be mixed through the metal if the true notes of peace and happiness were to sound in the ears of the people. Hunger, pestilence and famine will ravage the land so long as the tongues of those false Bells send forth their notes to heaven."

Rosa Komiska, a young peasant girl of tender years, listened to the droning voice of the old village storyteller, in a small village in old Russia, and a cold shiver ran through her childish frame, but the other children seemed delighted with the story and did not mind.

THE REVOLUTION.

The sullen dawn of an October morn swept the plains of Northern Russia; white-faced, grief-stricken men, women and children struggled on through the falling snow that had wrapt everything in its white mantle, many fell never to rise again covered from view in its gleaming white folds that seemed as pitiless and cruel as the White Terror, which those poor distracted peasants fled from. "The White Guards," who under Litonkoff, this fiend in human form, had descended on that peaceful little village, burning, ravaging and destroying with the rapacity of fiends let loose from Hades. Day followed day, the terror-stricken band of peasants grew smaller and smaller as the cold, biting air of those snow-swept plains claimed victim after victim. In the ranks of this fast dwindling band marched Rosa Komiska, a tall dark-haired daughter of Russian peasants. No cry of fear or anguish passed her lips, but a low crooning song of love caressed the ear of that little infant clasped tightly to her breast; deep down in her heart she still could feel the fearful moments of anguish she had passed through as she saw her loved husband and son writhe in the death agonies at her feet, done to death by Litonkoff's orders. How her thoughts raced—and her mind seemed one living ball of fire, but perhaps her turn to avenge her loved ones might come! Perhaps, who knows.

A fortnight had passed. Those who had lived through that terrible ordeal and reached the big town found many willing friends to help them, Rosa Komiska found a home among the relatives of an old village neighbour who had perished on that fearful night. Her only joy seemed to be watching the big able bodied peasants drilling each day on the squares of the town to meet the White Hordes when they came, as come they must. A couple of batteries of quick-firing guns were in the town but the supply of shells

First Come! First Served!

Those who desire to obtain sets of the "IRISH WORKER," consisting of the first six numbers of the new series, may obtain same by forwarding ninepence in stamps. Sit down NOW and send in your order. To-morrow will be too late!

was not sufficient to last any length of time, and if the attack was prolonged they would soon run out. But what matter! Some more would have to be made and men were there who knew how to make them, and the bells would have to come down from the belfries to be re-cast so that they might sound a note of warning to those that came. The big roaring furnace was in full swing at the end of the town where the iron works were situated. The large crucible swung from the crane to receive the molten metal as Rosa Komiska appeared at the door of the foundry to watch the men working in its glaring heat.

"Is this metal for the gun shells?" asked Rosa of a sweating worker as he passed the door. "Yes," he replied, "for the guns, and from them Litonkoff will hear a note that never was sounded from the belfries." As he spoke the hissing steaming metal passed from the furnace to the big crucible. A wild light gleamed in Rosa's eyes and before a hand could stay her progress she dashed forward screaming: "Loved ones, I go to meet you through the body of your slayers"—and with child clasped tightly to her breast flung herself headlong into the seething crucible. The terror of that fearful night in the village had turned her brain.

Just a week later Litonkoff and his hordes surrounded the town. For days the brave peasant garrison held their own, but weight of numbers was telling on them and all might be over at any moment. The small amount of shells the batteries possessed was used up, seemingly without any effect on the enemy, and help so long expected might come too late; and the gunners did not seem inclined to use the shells cast in the town on account of the terrible occurrence in the foundry.

Quiet had hung sullen over the town all day as the attackers had made no move from early dawn, for Litonkoff was making a big effort to finish the fight that day and was concentrating all his men to hurl them at what he considered the weakest point. Shrilly the bugle rang out on the evening air, calling the worn-out defenders to arms. Far over the plain facing west of the town swept the hordes of "White Guards." Sharply the voice of the officer in charge of the guns rang out: "Prepare for action." Slowly a big gunner who was carefully watching the oncoming hordes turned and roared back: "The shells are finished, except," and his voice quivered, "The Bell Shells."

"Use the Bell Shells," came back the order, but this time the order was not so sharp. The big gunner moved swiftly, the breech block was flung open, the first 'Bell Shell' filled the breech, the block clanged as it went home. "Go, meet your soul mates, it is your wish" muttered the big gunner between his clenched teeth. Crash! The 'Bell Shell' flew on its mission of vengeance with a moan that seemed

(Continued on page 8)

Letters to the Editor.

Portland, Oregon,
October 15th, 1923.

The Editor,
The Irish Worker,
Dublin, Ireland.

Dear Sir,—Being so fortunate as to have an opportunity to attend the recent American Federation of Labor Convention in this city, I am sending on to you my impressions in the hope that they may be of some interest to your readers.

President Gompers opened the Convention with a long speech, which I realized later was an outline of what the convention was to vote for and against. He spoke in favour of a child labor law and a minimum wage law for women and against invasion of industrial life by the government. He said we are "here to make America the best and most productive commonwealth in the onward march of civilization" and urged the delegates to work for greater restriction on immigration.

He recommended a continuation of the non-partisan policy which was declared to have served so successfully in the last campaign and suggested that the convention vote a special fund to finance the campaign headquarters of the American Federation of Labor.

Amid cheers a telegram was read from President Coolidge, who is one of the results of the successful non-partisan policy of the last campaign. Mr. Coolidge was elected Vice-President as a result of his part in the defeat of the Boston's policemen's strike while he was governor of Massachusetts.

Another telegram which brought forth much enthusiasm was from Secretary of Labor Davis, the deponent of undesirable aliens. He congratulated the American Federation of Labor on its attitude against "new political beliefs and nostrums" and expressed a hope that it would continue on the same safe and sane road. He spoke of the European countries where "nations are in chaos and millions of men are walking the streets seeking employment. It is to the eternal credit of the American trade union movement that the false notions of the old world have been unable to obtain a foothold in this country. Here the working man is in demand, jobs are plentiful, and wages are at a peak; here, too, labor has its full share in government." Mr. Davis is an honorary member of some trade union. Some of the delegates seemed to take his telegram seriously, and when the question of amalgamation of trades unions came on the floor, it was voted down, as "a departure from the policy of the American Federation of Labor."

No doubt there was also the feeling that fewer unions would mean fewer officials and would cause an unemployment problem. The three million unemployed at present in the United States must have slipped Mr. Davis' memory. The resolution on trade with and recognition of Soviet Russia met with the same "safe and sane" treatment. It was defeated by an overwhelming vote, and no reason given or used. They adopted, however, a resolution calling for the investigation of the present government of Venezuela and threatening to sever relations.

The Convention was utterly

opposed to the formation of a Labor Party, for, as I said before, we have done so well with our non-partisan policy. The resolution was defeated by over 25,000 votes. The American Federation of Labor is ardently opposed to a third party.

William Dunne of the Electrical Workers of Montana was unseated as a delegate by a vote of 27,838 to 130—and simply because he is a Communist. It is not that they are opposed to Communism as such, but the policy of the American Federation of Labor must be considered.

In the past year the membership has decreased by 260,000, and only one-seventh of the workers of this country were organized in 1922—that in spite of the fact that \$362,900 was spent on organizers, agents' and headquarters' salaries during this time.

I mustn't forget that a resolution was passed pledging to stand by the shopmen in last year's strike. Inasmuch as the American Federation of Labor has been standing by a year now, they will probably continue to do so.

A day was spent and resolutions passed trying to defeat the Volstead Act and bring back wine and beer. President Gompers has taken steps to have workers represented at the world congress for consideration of world super-power.

And now, let me summarize what we are for and what against in order that you may see what progress the official labor movement is making in this land of the free. We are in favor of greater restriction on immigration, an eight hour day, a minimum wage for women, the investigation of the Venezuela government, and having workers represented at world super-power congress; we favor the American Legion, the Red Cross and light wine and beer. We are opposed to trade with Soviet Russia, to amalgamation of trade unions, to an American Labor Party and the I.W.W.; we are opposed to membership in or affiliation with any except the two parties blessed by Wall Street and the unions blessed by Samuel Gompers.

I do not claim this as a full, exact report. I write my impressions, and being a member of the American Federation of Labor, I try to be as lenient as possible.

Fraternally,
A Member of the
Moulders' Union.

Lisnaskea.

To Mr. Jim Larkin,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,—Would you kindly urge on the Release of the Northern Prisoners. My husband, John McCarroll, is in prison for the past nineteen months and now in Peterhead. I have three children, the eldest six years, without support of any kind, and I had to leave our house being unable to pay the rent. Now we are homeless, starving and naked. Would you kindly use your influence to have those men released or a Dependents' Fund raised so as to help us over what appears to be a hard winter.

Thanking you in anticipation.
I remain,
Yours respectfully,
E. MACCARROLL.

ULSTER DEFENCE ALLIANCE.

To the Editor "Irish Worker."
"Above the cry of contending parties we raise the cry of Ireland and Irish Independence—an independence in the gaining of which Catholic and Protestant will march shoulder to shoulder as they did a century ago and in which they shall be equal sharers."

ROGER CASEMENT.

A century ago the political outlook of the Ulster Protestant was very different from what it is to-day. Belfast was then the centre of revolutionary activity, of advanced political thought. The Presbyterians of the North in '98 fought side by side with their Catholic fellow-countrymen and gave their lives for the ideals of human liberty and Irish Independence. The battlefields of Antrim and Ballinahinch, the martyrdom of the United Irish Leaders, whose names are still such an inspiration to Irishmen and women the world over, are memorials to the spirit which animated the Ulstermen a century ago.

To-day unfortunately all this is changed. The present-day Protestants of Ulster, descendants of the Republicans of '98, have to be reckoned amongst those who are out to make Ireland a part and parcel of the British Imperial System, which is the negative of all liberty, social and political. Into this position of mental and physical slavery have the Protestants of Ulster been manoeuvred by British Imperial policy and greed and treachery of their own employing class. They have been induced to exchange the ideals of political and social liberty for the gospel of intolerance and hatred of their fellow-countrymen. The pogroms of recent years in Belfast, in which upwards of 10,000 people were driven from their employment because of their political or religious opinions, the campaign of murder and incendiarism in which so many lives were lost, and so much property belonging to the nationalist minority destroyed, and the wholesale arrests and deportations by the Orange authorities, are proof of the lengths to which Ulstermen have strayed from the spirit of their forefathers.

The civil war in the 26 counties has also added to the complications of the "Northern" situation. While nationalist Ireland has been dissipating its energies in internal strife, the British Government has been carving out an "Orange Free State" in the most important portion of our national territory. And yet the fact that Ireland is partitioned, that the nationalists of the North have been betrayed, and that England and her "Ulster" allies are standing triumphant on the ruins of our greatest national movement, does not seem to be realised by the majority of the Irish people.

It is at this moment, when the nationalists of "Ulster" are faced with political despair, that the Ulster Defence Alliance, founded in America by the Editor of this paper, is brought into being here. It has for its immediate objects the release of the internees and political prisoners at present in the hands of the Six County Government, the relief of those of their dependents who are in want as a result of the imprisonment of their bread-winners and the assistance of the refugees

who have been driven from their homes and are unable to find employment.

As for its political objectives. It will work for the unity of North and South and the complete independence of Ireland. It will strive to restore to the people of Ulster the ideals and principles of the Republican leaders of a century ago. It is not confined to members of any particular class, political party or religious persuasion, but is open to all who are willing to work for the political and social emancipation of the people. Its objects and its attitude to "contending parties" cannot be better explained than in the words, already quoted, of the great Ulsterman, Roger Casement. This, then, is the work to which Ulstermen now address themselves.

The permanent Committee selected at the recent conference, held in the Mansion House, have now made arrangements for the issue of an appeal on behalf of the Six County Prisoners' Dependents and the Refugees driven from their homes. All desirous of assisting in any way should communicate with the Sec., 104 Middle Abbey Street.

JOHN MURRAY.

Dublin—Wednesday.

Mr. JAMES LARKIN.

—Dear Sir—Please let me tell you from inside information that you are riding for a fall. Many years ago you did a kindly turn for my brother Michael, now dead.

You will kindly pardon me for not adding my name and address as it would not suit my position to be drawn into anything like this.

Believe me yours sincerely,
LATE R. I. C. MAN.

Dear Friend—We are tired of this kind of blather. We have been riding for a fall all our life.

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN HEARD FROM.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION
7 and 8 Eden Quay,
Dublin.

3rd Nov., 1923.

Dear Mr. Larkin,

In reply to your letter re the Prisoners' Hunger Strike, the staff of the Irish Women Workers' Union entirely agree with your point of view as to the injustice of holding under detention uncharged and untried prisoners. We also agree with your contentions that at the cessation of hostilities all political prisoners should be released.

In so far as we as individuals can use any influence to secure fair play for the prisoners we are doing so. But we have received no intimations from our members that they would wish us to ask the National Executive to call a national strike. We could only propose such a serious and risky step if we were convinced that there would be a voluntary and united response to the call for a strike.

We understand that the National Executive are giving the whole matter constant attention.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIE BENNETT,
Secretary.

James Larkin, Esq.,
Trades Hall,
Capel Street,
Dublin.

Police Strike in Melbourne

Latest news reports inform us that there is a Police Strike on in Melbourne. 500 policemen are out at present. The Government says that on no account will they be re-instated, because they have broken their oaths. Thousands of scab police have been organised, and 5,000 more are required.

Seemingly when a man joins the police force he is required not only to sell his bodily strength but also his mental and moral powers. He must be theirs in body and soul. They can pay him what wages they think fit, make his conditions of work inhuman, and yet he must not go on strike. He is only a policeman, an outcast.

He has no union to protect him, because his superiors say that for him to join a union would be an act of disloyalty. He must rely on the goodness of heart of the Government, and that particular quality is a rare thing among the governments of to-day.

Yet, even with all these forces arrayed against them, these despised ones often show more fighting spirit than many of our so-called trade unionists. We all remember the police strike in Liverpool some time ago, and now we have one in Melbourne. The best we can do for them is to bid them "Good Luck."

In Dublin our "bobbies" have not learnt sense. They don't know which side their bread is buttered on. They seem to forget that they are as much a part of the working class as the dockers and the carters. Wearing a uniform does not deprive a man of his status as a workingman. Soldiers, sailors, policemen and detectives, they're all workers. So why not realise the fact and take their places in the ranks of the working class. Don't be afraid of the oaths, because nobody seems to mind them in this country these days. They're only a new kind of pastime.

THE BELL SHELLS

(Continued from page 5)

different from the other shells. With uncanny precision it exploded beneath the charger of Litonkoff, hurling horse and rider back on the top of his oncoming followers. Crash! The second "Bell Shell" exploded in the midst of a close-packed body of horsemen, hurling many of them to their doom. The awe-struck gunners of the other guns suddenly realised they had guns to work and shells to feed them. Faster and faster flew the "Bell Shells" none seemed to miss their billet. The oncoming horsemen wavered, turned and fled when within a few hundred yards of their object. Shell after shell burst among them, sweeping horse and man over the border of the Great Beyond. "Saved," muttered the big gunner, "the 'Bell Shells' souls have joined their mates."

Somewhere in Russia that big gunner at evening's close tells the story of that desperate struggle and how the faithful souls enclosed in the 'Bell Shells' struck terror into the hearts of those fiends and saved the town when all hope of stopping them seemed gone.

Efficiency!

The bearer, A. Fitzharris, has been signing up at the Employment Exchange since the 14th May of this year. Up to the time of writing he has not received any benefit. The letters we publish are the letters which passed between the officials of the Transport Union and the Labour Exchange. We draw our readers attention to the difference in the dates of each succeeding letter, also to the different signatures and the different names of the people to whom the letters were sent showing not only overlapping and incapacity, but the manner in which the Union looks after its members. Fitzharris, according to his own statement, had sufficient stamps on his card to entitle him to benefit. Yet after all this letter writing he is still without his legal benefit.

We also wish our readers to notice that the last letter is written on the official paper of the Labour Party, and is signed by a clerk, or rather one of Mr. Johnson's secretaries, R. P. Mortished. Why this matter should be placed in the hands of the Labour Party is beyond our comprehension. The man was a member of the Transport Union and it was the business of the officials of that Union to handle his case. Why they shirked their responsibility remains to be seen. These letters also show the sympathetic treatment applicants receive at the Labour Exchange from the well-paid servants of the people.

19 Hanover Street,
Dublin.

June 1st, 1923.

The bearer, A. Fitzharris, has been in our employment up to the 12th of May, 1923, and was only dismissed through slackness.

M. J. FITZPATRICK.

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

Liberty Hall,
Dublin.

G. J. Bonass, Esq.,
Employment Exchange.

Dear Sir,—The bearer, A. Fitzharris, No. 49787 191/RM., Hatch No. 13, has been signing on since 14/5/23, and, so far, has not received any benefit. We were informed last week that his claim was under query at present but would like to mention that this man is badly in need of benefit, and would feel obliged if you will kindly have his case finally settled, and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McCABE.

8/6/23.

Claim under query.

Liberty Hall,
Dublin.

22/6/23.

A. Fitzharris, Book No. 49787.

191RM. Hatch No. 13.

The above-named applicant has been signing the Register since 14/5/23 and has not yet received any benefit.

Kindly investigate this case and oblige.

GEO. SPAIN.

Mr. Ahern,
Employment Exchange.

(Continued at bottom of next column.)

Emigration.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Two or three interesting statements have been made through the Press during the last week. One that rather dismays us as taxpayers and Australians has been made by the member for Claremont, Mr. Thompson, who has just returned with first-hand information from London. He states in the most emphatic terms that the class of emigrants being selected in England is absolutely unsuitable for West Australian conditions.

The next is a cable stating that the Immigration Office in London cannot, or will not try to, get farming emigrants from the South of Ireland, where eminently suitable emigrants for assisted land settlement are obtainable. The reason given is that Ireland is now a Free State and must control her own emigration laws.

This sounds reasonable, but still our need is so great that there is nothing to prevent the emigration office, or our Agent General, from approaching the Cosgrave Government to assist them by helping to find immigrants suitable for farming settlement in West Australia.

If the Agent General's office will not do this, then our own people in Western Australia should take some action. The immigrants we principally require are people who by nature and training are fitted for farming life, and people who have the necessary physique to withstand the hardships and hard work of opening up new country.

The great majority of immigrants from Ireland would fulfil these conditions, as most of them have been reared in connection with farming of some kind. They generally have an instinctive knowledge of stock, and are nearly always people of good physique. Yet, notwithstanding these qualifications, it is a remarkable thing, and not very creditable to us, that it is a rare thing to see an Irishman amongst the new settlers.

The policy of this State for the last twenty years has been to induce people to settle upon the land, and to assist them to do so, but it is a regrettable thing that among the thousands who have been settled but a very small proportion have been drawn from the principal farming country in the British Dominions.

And we stand by and do nothing

Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress.

32 Lt. Abbey St.,
Dublin.

The Manager,

Employment Exchange,
Gardiner Street.

A Chara—I am informed by the bearer of this note, Mr. A. Fitzharris, 49787, that he has been claiming Unemployment Benefit since May 14th and has been refused payment.

I take it that he will almost certainly be entitled to benefit now under the last Unemployment Insurance Act, and I should be obliged if you would have inquiry made into his case and, at least, some explanation given to him of any necessary refusal or delay of payment. His deafness may make explanation difficult, but all the more necessary.

R. P. MORTISHED.

East Lewisham Labour Party

RESOLUTION:

"That this Open Meeting of the East Lewisham Labour Party desires to express its sympathy with those Irish workers who have recently struck work, endeavouring thereby to secure the release of the 10,000 hunger-striking Irish political prisoners, and calls upon the whole Irish working-class to declare a general strike demanding the release, not only of the 16,000 prisoners in the Free State and Northern Irish Dominions but also of the 50 Irish political prisoners incarcerated in Great Britain, some of them since before the so-called Treaty."

Passed unanimously at a meeting on the 31st October, 1923.

W. H. SPIKES,
Secretary.

to alter it. Yet we form about one-fourth of this community, we pay our share of the heavy taxation which this assisted settlement has entailed, we cheerfully support a policy which has spent hundreds of thousands, and is now spending millions in assisting people to settle on the land, in building railways for them, in making roads, in supplying water, in finding money for fencing, clearing, for the purchase of implements, for the purchase of seed, for fertilisers, for building homes, for the purchase of stock, for the maintenance of expensive and efficient Government departments, to pick out and classify the best land, to advise them how to develop it, and in times of difficulty we advance people nine shillings a day to work on their own farms, and we give this land away for a few shillings an acre to anyone and everyone but an Irishman, who is one of the most suitable men in the world to develop it.

And why? Because they do not ask for it, because they do not know in Ireland that in Western Australia there is a State where men can acquire a farm without capital—where there is the most generous and liberal land policy in the world and no chicanery about it. And I submit, Mr. Editor, that if the Immigration Office in London does not put this information before the Cosgrave Government it is the duty of some of our local representative bodies to do so. I think that this is a question that comes within the province of the Celtic Club, and if they move in the matter they will find generous support, and they will render a service to this State and to their fellow countrymen.—Yours, etc.

M. F. CAVANAGH.

O'CONNOR'S

7 Lower Marlborough Street

THE HOUSE FOR

IRISH ROLL, PLUGS, FLAKES, Etc.

Everything a Smoker Requires

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THE IRISH WORKER

AN T-OIBRÍDE TAOULAC

Edited by JIM LARKIN

No. 20. NEW SERIES.
(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 1923

ONE PENNY

The Harvest of the Great War.



Comrades, you see depicted above the crop garnered by militarism, yet we had a commemoration last Sunday of this juggernaut, not as should have been, a decent commemoration of the dead, who died for what they in life considered a high and holy purpose. We had the privileged snobs from Trinity College, who are fed and schooled by the working class, demonstrating in the public streets of this city, holding up the traffic and singing that doggerel "God Save the King." We had General Sir Bryan Mahon laying a wreath, in the name of the Free State Government, at the Cenotaph, London. We had the spectacle of President Cosgrave and his staff attending a military Mass in Cork—all this commemorative stuff, not out of respect for the dead, but for the purpose of perpetuating this disgusting, inhuman thing, militarism. Europe is an armed camp, millions of men, drawn from industry and the civic arts, are facing each other armed for death and destruction, awaiting the dread moment when they will be precipitated against each other, at the orders of the unscrupulous creatures who decide the fate of nations. Millions of men to be cast into the crucible of Hate—Militarism. Millions of women widowed. Millions of children orphaned. All to satisfy this odious juggernaut. When will the worker awaken?

All men and women of Transport Union are urged to attend at the City Hall, Cork Hill, to-morrow, Friday, and sign petition demanding the release of the men and women on Hunger Strike. Every citizen is urged to attend. Every reader of this paper must attend.

HUNGER STRIKE—MEMORIAL.

We, the undersigned, Irish men and women representative of all creeds, classes and political opinions, earnestly urge upon the Government of the Irish Free State the immediate liberation from prisons, internment camps, etc., of all political prisoners. Our request is not based upon any view of political expediency, and is not to be taken as having any bearing on the merits of any contentious political questions, but rests solely upon broad, humanitarian grounds.

We are convinced that a continuance of the present conditions must give rise to the utmost hardship and suffering to large numbers, and we fear if they are not ended will result in death.

We sincerely desire the restoration of peace and brotherhood amongst all Irish people, and feel that Governmental action for the abolition of the conditions to which we draw attention would tend in this direction and ensure the avoidance of greater calamities to the Nation in the event of the present situation continuing to its logical end.

Seven more Parliamentary Secretaries at £1,200 a year to be appointed. Still hope for the Old Age Pensioners or the new ones. Mortified on the qui vivi. Johnson may use his influence, one never knows!

Why should £1,200 a year be paid to Deputy Chairman of "An Seanad"? Martin asks—per Hooper—see reference number. What would you, Martin? But why "An Seanad"?

RETROSPECT OF DISPUTE (Continued.)

Further developments are as follows.—Cork Carters driven back, forced to accept conditions, by order of Executive; Carters in Dublin compelled to take two different ballots on Master Carriers' proposals. Pathetic appeal made by the singing Irishman, Spain, to Carters to accept the employers' terms and save their face. Majority against acceptance. Carters refuse to return except on rate of wages paid previous to lock-out.

Foran, O'Brien, and other cuckoos back in nest, still guarded by police and others. No member admitted in Head Office of Union except on pass.

Sailors and Firemen of Belfast basely betrayed. Ships manned by scabs—worked by members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union by orders of Executive. Strike pay withdrawn.

City of Dublin Union men meet in Liberty Hall, Wednesday night, November 14th. Agree to new conditions of labour on Saturday nights—under the advice of Executive—by demand of David Barry. Nolan, Devils Advocate, other Cross-channel dockers not consulted.

Canalmen, who refused to handle tainted goods conveyed by scabs, resume work as a consequence of settlement of Drug Packers dispute.

The State must be saved even if all the resources of the Nation are wasted on Generals, Colonels, ambassadors, Gaol Governors, Labour Representatives, Senators and T.D's. The fabric of the State must be saved. William O'Brien, Queen's Jubilee pupil, made Senator. The last hope. The fabric must be pretty shoddy.

Charles Proteus Steinmetz

It is such a rare thing in the course of human affairs to find a man, endowed by nature with unusual gifts of mind, devoting himself to the problems of raising his fellow man who has fallen by the wayside, that the appearance of such an one on the human stage instinctively makes us to stop and consider him in his person and in the problems to which he has given the best of his life.

Such a man was Charles Proteus Steinmetz, who has just died. He was born in Breslau, Germany, on April 9th, 1865. His father, who was an employee of the German State Railway, with natural ambitions for his son, gave him a good education; and early youth found Charles a brilliant student at the Universities of Breslau and Berlin.

The natural aptitude of the youth for the mathematical sciences decided his future, and so he specialised in pure mathematics, electrical engineering and chemistry. This would have been enough for the ordinary student, but Charles was spirit as well as mind, and he made time for himself to become acquainted with the best masters in politics and economics, with the end in view that he might do something to make the world a happier place for his fellow humans to live in. So prominent did he become that the German authorities took alarm—they feared a recrudescence of the spirit that made the Paris Commune—and decided to prosecute him. Getting wind of the Government plans Charles escaped to Austria, and later went to Switzerland, in both of which places he continued his studies, supporting himself by political and scientific articles in the Reviews.

His intention was to complete his studies in the latter countries and return to his own land when the trouble which had caused his flight had blown over.

The fates had other things in mind. Happening to meet an American student in Zurich young Steinmetz was prevailed on to try his fortunes in the United States, and thither, his studies completed, he travelled with his new friend. This was in 1889, and Steinmetz had reached the age of 24.

Landing at Ellis Island he found himself in difficulties with the Immigration authorities, and instead of being admitted to the country, as he had expected, found himself an inmate of a detention prison. Eventually he was released, and with his recommendations in hand set out on the search for work. His first job was a two dollars a day one—a very small one for a man of his qualifications, even in those days—but it opened up a field for the young genius which fructified in the years that followed.

It was fortunate that his employer was an outstanding figure in the electrical world of the day, and an inventor and pioneer in that field. Starting in the drafting room it was but a short time till Steinmetz found scope for his energies in the less mechanical but more exhilarating air of the designing office.

He worked hard on inventions for electric motors, street cars and generators, and, besides, did important research work on the, then, problems of alternating currents. His success resulted in his appointment as head of the research laboratory.

Soon there followed the offer of head consulting engineer to the General Electric Co. of America, and he organised for that company a Consulting Department which made history.

But alongside his duties in this department Steinmetz continued his researches and his world famous research laboratory at Schenectady was the result. So famous was it that Edison thought it well worth his while to visit it.

There are men whose objective in life is solely personal—unfortunately they are the majority of the human species—but there is always, and in every country, at least a handful whose concern for the welfare of

"the other fellow" is an ever acting force. With Steinmetz, the "long view" was the correct one. Not, whether the results of his labour would benefit himself, but whether mankind would be the better of it, was the idea that filled him, and the spur that kept his mind at labour.

His thoughts were in the future, as well as the present. His researches in the conservation of coal and the substitution of water power are cases in point. He knew that the present reckless and uneconomical use of coal will mean the exhaustion of a first-rate natural fuel in an apparently short space of time, and the consequent impoverishment of the human race. Hence his war on that "abomination" the steam engine, with its bare efficiency of 7½%. He predicted the downfall of the steam engine and the reign of the electric engine, the power for which would be largely developed from water. To the Irish people this prediction is of interest, as our large supply of water power—and our resources in peat—will lend themselves to the development of electric energy, on a cheap and extended scale.

Other interests of Steinmetz were the possibility of producing "cold light," which would mean more efficiency and less cost to the consumer, and the invention of an electric motor-car of greater efficiency than any previously designed.

So well forward was he with this invention that a year before his death he floated a company to manufacture cars to the new design. When it is remembered that the great Edison has been baffled in his attempts to invent storage batteries small enough for motor cars and capable of use for more than fifteen or twenty miles, the greatness of Steinmetz as an electrical inventor becomes clear. The new car will be able to run 200 miles without recharging, to travel at any speed up to 40 miles per hour; it will weigh less than a ton, and cost about £250. That spells revolution in the motor industry.

Steinmetz's sympathies in the closing years of his life may be gauged from the fact that he offered his services to the Russian-Soviet Republic, and though Lenin was not in a position to accept them at the time they were offered, he was later glad to appoint him on the advisory committee dealing with the electrification of parts of Siberia.

The closing references to this very great man cannot have a more suitable subject than his activities in Schenectady. Since 1912 he has held the position of President of the Board of Education, notwithstanding the many changes in the administration since then. He was also President of the Common Council from 1916 to the date of his death. In 1922 he put himself forward, on the Socialist and Farmer ticket, and though he was defeated he secured 200,000 votes.

He is dead, but his greatness lives in those who knew him and who appreciated his genius. Even capitalist industry feels the loss of the great technician, but only the cause of the worker has suffered immeasurably. When shall we see his like again?

FREEDOM ?

Col. Woods, in the Belfast Parliament (sic) said "nowhere in the civilised world was there the same restrictions upon freedom which existed in Northern Ireland."

You're wrong, brother, there's still the "Free" State.

WORSE AND WORSE.

A Scotchman and an Australian were discussing the conditions in Scotland and the Con monwealth.

The Scot said he understood there were many Scotchmen in Australia.

"Yes," replied the Australian, "but the worst feature is the rabbits."

Irish Worker League Notes

Unfortunately these notes were missing from the last three issues of the paper, this being due to lack of space. However, we have them again in this issue, and hope to have them continuously from this onwards.

Members have plenty of work in front of them from this out. As you saw in last week's issue, the League is running a Xmas Draw for the benefit of those people whose breadwinners are imprisoned; also to help those released prisoners who are in straightened circumstances. As our Editor remarks elsewhere, "it is a draw that should appeal to every man, woman and child in this country, and to our friends without." And not only will it appeal to the League members as a worthy object, but it will also appeal to them as an object which must be made a success of in order that the honour of the League may be upheld. This Draw is the first big thing that the League has undertaken to carry through, so the members must buckle down to the job. Because everyone else in this country has forgotten the prisoners makes it the more imperative that we Leaguers prove by deeds that we appreciate their sacrifices.

This week every member of the League will receive two books of tickets. We want this supply sold out in record time, so that we can send out at least two more packets to each member.

Regarding League affairs, we expect to call a meeting of the League for the end of this week. Arrangements are not complete up to the time of writing.

We will close with this advice—Don't fall down on the Draw.

BAKERY WORKERS BOOST WAGES FROM \$15 TO \$40.

During Last Twelve Years Daily Work Day Been Reduced from 9 and 10 hours to 8.

Chicago, Ill.—During the 9-year period from 1911 to 1920 the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America increased wages for bench and machine hands from \$15 and \$16 to nearly \$40 a week, the percentage of increases ranging as high as 200 per cent, declares a statement made public by the general executive board of the union.

"The wages for the year 1920 constitute the peak and high water mark of wages ever paid to journeymen bakers," says the board. They are frequently referred to as "war wages." It was these wages that the reactionary employing element concentrated all their attacks on in an effort to break them down, and against which militant resistance was maintained by our local unions during the past three years.

"This attack of the reactionary employers utterly failed. One hundred and thirty-one of our local unions have succeeded in maintaining their 1920 wage and 51 of them have succeeded in increasing these minimum wages by an average of 9.65 per cent. Only 43 local unions had to contend with decreases averaging 10 per cent.

"During the last 12 years the daily work day has been reduced from the standard of 9 and 10 hours to that of the uniform 8-hour day.

THANKS.

On behalf of James Tully I beg to heartily thank the many workers who contributed so liberally to the success of the drawing which was held at Liberty Hall, Dublin, on Tuesday, 13th November.

Prize Winning No.—172.
Won by M. Delaney, 148 Up. Abbey St., Dublin.

JAMES MULVANEY,
Organiser of Drawing on behalf of James Tully.

Labour Party's Independence

Mr. Johnson, T.D., and Republicans.

To the Editor "Irish Independent."

Sir—The letters of Miss MacSwiney and Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington and her colleagues seem to indicate an attempt to hide the truth as to the purpose of the deputations from Sinn Fein to the Labour Party. They repudiate the suggestion that the meaning of their representations was that a general strike should be called by us, Miss MacSwiney saying that those in authority in the Republican Party realised that such a course could not be effective.

One may fairly ask why then is their platform allowed to be used so persistently for this advocacy? And was it as a political or as an industrial organisation that the Labour Party and Trade Union Congress Executive was approached? Surely the Republican Party did not want us to appeal to the "Government" of the "Free State," or to use our influence in the Dail? These are institutions which Sinn Fein refuses to acknowledge—they would hardly desire to acknowledge them at second-hand? If it was not as a political, but as an industrial body we were approached, what means are at the disposal of trade unionists to effect a political result other than the strike? A little enlightenment on this subject will be appreciated.

STATING THE FACTS.

It is desirable that the facts regarding these deputations should be placed on record.—Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington says that Mr. Duffy, the Chairman of the National Executive of the Labour Party, refused to accord a deputation from the Ard Fheis, of Sinn Fein even a five minutes' interview. This is a gross misrepresentation. What happened was that the deputation (including Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, Count and Countess Plunkett, Miss Moloney, Mr. D. Ceannt, and several others), invaded this office without giving any notice of their coming, so that it would have been quite impossible even if it had been thought desirable, to arrange for them to be received by members of the National Executive.

Mr. Mortished informed Mr. Duffy by telephone of the arrival of the deputation, and asked if they could see him. Mr. Duffy was engaged throughout that day and for the next morning on matters of the utmost importance to the members of the Distributive Workers' Union, and was, therefore, unable to spare the time—which previous and subsequent experience shows would have amounted to considerably more than five minutes—to receive the deputation.

But Mr. Duffy offered to receive the deputation at 4 o'clock the following day.

This offer the deputation scornfully refused, on the ground that the matter was already of such urgency that it could not brook even 24 hours' delay. The deputation asked for, and were given, the names and addresses of other members of the National Executive, but so far as we are aware no effort was made to see them.

Four members of the deputation from the Ard-Fheis, which professed that it could not wait for 24 hours, did in fact wait for several days, and on the following Monday asked for an interview with the Resident Committee of the National Executive—again without giving any notice. This deputation is also referred to by Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington and her colleagues, but their version of the proceedings is remarkably, and it must be held to be deliberately, incomplete and misleading. The true history is as follows:—

On Sept. 17 a deputation consisting of Count and Countess Plunkett and Dr. Conn Murphy made representations to the Resident Committee of the Labour Party asking them to take action in respect of complaints as to

ill-treatment of prisoners in Mountjoy and Tintown, Curragh.

After impractical suggestions had been made by the deputation—"A Lightning Strike for a week," for example, was suggested—our Committee made the proposal that a Non-Party Committee should be formed which could approach the Government with greater hope of success. The suggestion recommended itself to the deputation, and subsequently Dr. Murphy consulted with Mr. William O'Brien as to the steps to be taken to form the committee.

ABANDONED PROPOSAL.

The deputation appear to have been convinced that the course suggested would be of material benefit to the prisoners; and Dr. Murphy went into the matter with Mr. O'Brien in practical detail, agreeing upon the names of persons who might be asked to act on such a committee. Nevertheless, a few days later Dr. Murphy wrote to Mr. Wm. O'Brien intimating that his committee was of opinion that nothing effective would come of the proposal.

On Oct. 22 a further deputation, consisting of Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, Mrs. Brugha, Dr. Kathleen Lynn, Mr. D. Ceannt, and Mr. McLoughlin, waited on the Resident Committee of the Labour Party and demanded, rather than requested, the assistance of the Labour Party in endeavouring to secure the release of the prisoners on hunger-strike.

During the discussion, members of my Committee endeavoured to ascertain whether the hunger-strike was undertaken by way of protest against ill-treatment, or in furtherance of a demand for unconditional release.

EX-PRISONERS' VIEW.

No clear reply was elicited, but one member of the deputation, Mr. McLoughlin, who had been released from Mountjoy just before the commencement of the strike, said that **he had himself voted against the hunger-strike, believing that such a strike for political reasons was wrong.**

He was of opinion that most of those on hunger-strike had entered on it, not because of political reasons, but because they felt they "might better be dead" than continue to endure the treatment they had been receiving.

Another member of the deputation, Mr. Ceannt, said that the available Republican deputies and the officers of Sinn Fein were not aware of the hunger-strike till they learned that it had been decided on by the prisoners themselves, and if they had been aware of it they would have advised against it. The deputation offered no suggestion as to what action should be taken on behalf of the prisoners.

On consideration of the representations made by the deputation, my Committee decided to repeat its offer to participate in a non-party committee to deal with the whole question. This offer was communicated to Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington on the following morning. It was rejected by letter dated Oct 24 from Mr. S. O Dalaigh, on behalf of the Standing Committee of Sinn Fein, and later also by Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington herself.

The visit of Mrs. Eamonn Ceannt and Mr. D. R. Ceannt, T.D., to me was not, so far as I am aware, an official deputation. My suggestion that Sinn Fein should call off the strike was in response to a statement that a generous gesture from the Government would make peace easier of attainment. I said that Sinn Fein might be looked to for the generous gesture; that the recent pronouncements made in the name of the "Government of the Irish Republic" and the proclamation to "the Army of the Republic" were not calculated to ease the situation. If Sinn Fein made such a gesture indicating a desire for peace and called off the hunger-strike I would support the demand for a general release of the prisoners.

It is not true to say that "this the deputation definitely declined."

These facts show that Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington's "history" is both incomplete and inaccurate. Even if, on other grounds, the Labour Party had thought proper to take action in the matter of the prisoners, it would have been well-nigh impossible to take such action in co-operation with, or on behalf of, a body which has thus shown itself barren of practical suggestion, and unwilling to agree to the only definite course of action suggested in the course of the communications between the two parties.

LABOUR PARTY'S POSITION.

In the circumstances, it might be well to re-state the Labour Party's position. It is clear that the Labour Party is free from responsibility for the fact that so many prisoners are still in custody. Every effort has been made by the Labour Party, ever since the signing of the Treaty, first of all to avoid, and later to terminate as speedily as possible the conflict between the two sections of what was once a united party.

The Labour Party also opposed, as strongly as they could, the passage of the legislation under which the prisoners are now held in custody, and endeavoured to secure the best possible guarantees that prisoners who were detained should receive reasonable and humane treatment. These facts are beyond the possibility of dispute.

On the present question of the hunger-strike there is likewise no room for doubt as to the position of the Labour Party. If the hunger-strike is a new phase of the conflict between the Republican Party and the Government, the responsibility for it and its consequences must be borne on the one hand by the Government, who hold the prisoners in custody untried, and on the other hand by the Republican Party who, believing the strike ill-advised, have yet not advised its cessation.

POLITICAL CAPITAL.

The Labour Party is independent of both the Government and the Republican Party, and it has no mandate to lend its support to either side in continuance of a conflict by which the workers of the country cannot gain, but must inevitably suffer. The Labour Party is not prepared to allow itself to be made use of by any other political party in furtherance of that other party's political activities.

If, on the other hand, the present hunger-strike is a protest against ill-treatment, the Labour Party is prepared now, as it has always been, to co-operate with any other body in an effort to put the facts beyond all possibility of dispute, and to endeavour to ensure humane treatment of prisoners.

The repeated rejection of this offer seems to indicate that the Republican organisation is not concerned for the welfare of the prisoners themselves so much as it is to make political capital out of their sufferings. Clearly the Labour Party can give no countenance to such an attitude.

THOMAS JOHNSON,
Sec., Irish Labour Party and
Trade Union Congress.

32 Lr. Abbey St., Dublin,
12/11/23.

We print above the letter from Johnson for record. We wonder how many days it took Mortished and Johnson to pen this fearful struggle with the truth. Well, the 640 Republicans who returned this Champion of Truth and Justice ("Johnson, the Northern Irishman, so honourable, so sensible," as Brother Nevinson says) to the Dail are getting it in the neck.

Now, if Messrs. Guinness's and the Employers' Federation had invaded the office of the Honourable, Truthful, Sensible

(Continued on col. 3, page 8)

"AN Injury to one is the concern of All."

IRISH WORKER

EDITED BY JIM LARKIN.

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SOVIET RUSSIA

In the month of November, 1917, a call went ringing round this earth to the workers of the world. It carried a message of hope, of deliverance, of progress, of peace—peace from the eternal fighting at the orders of autocracy, deliverance from the cruelty and rapacity of their so-called Czar and his minions. The Call! Peace and Bread. All Power to the Workers.

From Russia of the Black Hundreds this call came. Out of the vastness of Siberia, rolling out upon the steppes of Central Russia and spreading to the fringes of the Empire, it awakened the working class of that great country, inspired them with energy and brought them up from their knees, stiffened their backbone and gave them a new outlook upon life. Those peasantry, noted the world over for their stupidity, lowness of mind and utter degeneracy of their lives, responded to that call with such a burst of enthusiasm that the whole of the civilised world was first astounded and then dismayed. In one day the most backward nation of the world had become the most advanced, had assumed the leadership of the human race in its onward march to Social Deliverance, and had taken the fight into the enemy's camp. In one glorious moment Russia had changed from Czarism to Republicanism, not the Republicanism that we know in Ireland, but that Republicanism which is the real Republicanism, the dream of Tone, of Pearse, of Lator and of Connolly—the Republicanism of the People; a Workers' Republic.

In answer to that call there arose the Soviet Republic, and embodied in it was the new nation built on the ruins of the old. A new nation built on the foundation of Brotherhood, braced with the girders of Service, and crowned with the glory of Liberty. The Slogan—All Power to the Workers!

The Russian people may well be proud of their achievement, they paid no small price for their belief. Through four long and wearisome years they were assailed on all sides by the armies of the self-named "Advanced Nations" with a hatred surpassing that of any previous war.

They won through at a cost which only they themselves know. With a transport system worn out by war-time usage, a disillusioned army and a starving people, they defeated the combined powers of the Allies, an achievement that even the German Alliance in the hey-day of their strength failed to do. How they did it can only be explained by recalling the spirit and determination that inspired the whole of the people of Russia during those momentous

years. The working class of Russia realised that in overthrowing the Czarism they accomplished a great deed of deliverance for themselves and the unborn generations to come; so keeping that thought ever in front of them they were imbued with a determination to conquer that no earthly force could have withstood. They conquered and to-day, enjoy the fruits of victory in a society organised for production, for use, and not for profit, an equal sharing of the necessities of life, whilse we who still persist in upholding the old system of society are faced with the thoughts of hunger, cold and misery, if not for us at least for our fellow beings.

This month there is also another anniversary, the anniversary of the end of the Great War. In another part of the paper we refer to the manner in which certain Irishmen (sic) celebrated this anniversary. While the working class of the world were paying honour to the Russian people for the efforts to free this world of industrial slavery, the majority of the Irish working class were not even aware there was such a thing as a Russian Revolution, and some of the more intelligent (?) ones were out on the streets of Dublin and the other cities of Ireland singing "God Save the King" and mouthing fine sentiments about the defence of small nations, defending civilisation and fighting the war to end all wars.

When will we Irish ever learn sense, stop blowing off hot air and froth and get down to the basic facts of life, get down to the bread and butter question, which is the foundation upon which this civilisation rests and upon which all movements for the uplifting of mankind must place their structure of organisation and education. Let us take heart and hope from the example of our Russian brothers, and throwing down the old idols raise up aloft the standard of Revolt, of Charity, and of Peace.

DUBLIN CASTLE STILL ON THE JOB

In the month of October, 1922, Robert Cullen was arrested and interned in Hare Park Camp, without any charge being preferred against him. In October, of this year he was released and reported back to Mr. Hogan, Publican, Dorset Street, with whom he had been employed when arrested and requested to resume duty in his former position. Mr. Hogan informed him that he had a full staff and had no vacancy for him.

Cullen next reported the matter to his Union, the Executive of which immediately took the matter in hand and instructed their Secretary to interview Hogan with a view to Cullen's reinstatement, as the latter still persisted in his refusal, the E.C. of the Union decided that the following demand in writing be forwarded to Hogan:—

The following is the letter sent to MR. P. HOGAN,

68 Upper Dorset Street.

Dear Sir—I am instructed by my Executive Committee to make a demand on you that you shall reinstate Robert Cullen in the same position which he held in your employment at the time of his arrest by Government Forces.

Yours truly,

(Signed) P. HUGHES,
General Secretary.

Following this letter the General Secretary called on Mr. Hogan for an interview, when he (Mr. Hogan) handed him a letter in which it was stated that he (Hogan) was not prepared to reinstate Cullen as he had no vacancy.

In reply to that letter the General Sec. wrote Mr. Hogan, dated 1st November, 1923.

That unless our demand made on him to reinstate Cullen on or before Monday next, 5th November, was not complied with that the staff employed by him who are members of our Union would be withdrawn on that day.

On Monday, November 5th, Mr. Hughes, Sec., acting on instructions of E.C. went to Hogan's to withdraw the staff.

When he entered Hogan's premises and explained the nature of his mission Hogan requested him to wait a moment. He then went to the door and called two policemen who were waiting in the hallway; they came in and immediately placed Mr. Hughes under arrest. He was brought to the Police Court and charged under the "Public Safety Act" with interfering with Mr. Hogan.

On Tuesday, November 6th, the General President of the Union served notice on Hogan's staff to report to Head Office immediately. When the President went to the premises the proprietor was absent, Ryan, the acting foreman, was ordered to await the return of Hogan and to hand him the keys of the premises. The place was then closed and the staff, with the exception of Ryan, reported to Head Office, as did also Ryan when Hogan returned.

Wednesday, November 7th, a picket was placed on Hogan's; after being on a few hours they were ordered off by police on the threat of arrest. We then got into phone communication with the Home Office and Chief Commissioner Murphy, D.M.P. After a lengthy discussion with these departments the threat of arrest was withdrawn by the Chief of the D.M.P. who informed us that in the event of pickets being put on they would be prosecuted. We informed him that we were willing to contest our right of peaceful picketing in any court of law.

At 7 p.m. on the same date picketing was again resumed. On the following morning (Thursday Nov. 8th) a phone message was received from D.M.P. by Mr. Hughes, stating that the question of picketing outside Hogan's premises had been further considered, and that he (the District Inspector) was instructed to inform Mr. Hughes that the pickets who were on duty the previous night were to be prosecuted, but that if they, or others, resumed picketing until the case had been decided in court, they would be immediately placed under arrest.

Court proceedings commenced on Monday last. F. Byrne, B.L., Junior State Prosecutor, had charge of the prosecution against the pickets, who were defended by Mr. M. Maguire, B.L.

The case was tried before Mr. Lupton on Monday last and was adjourned till to-day (Wednesday) when a conviction was entered against us, and a fine of ten shillings each was imposed on the two pickets (Kelly and Hartnett).

The magistrate stated a case to go to the High Court, to decide whether this is a Trade's dispute, within the meaning of the Act.

The magistrate seemed to be very much influenced by the fact that there was no evidence of any dispute between Hogan and the present staff.

PRETTY BAD OUTLOOK.

A bishop who was crossing the Atlantic on a big liner delivered a sermon and took for the subject of his discourse the exhortation, "Trust in Providence." The captain, who was present, was greatly impressed. That night a very bad storm arose, and all the other passengers asked the cleric to find out for them if the danger was great. The bishop asked the captain, who replied, "I've done all I can. You must trust in Providence." "Good heavens!" said the bishop, "is it as bad as that?"

MEETING : SUNDAY, ONE O'CLOCK, OUTSIDE LIBERTY HALL

Dublin Trades Council

At the usual fortnightly meeting of the Dublin Trades Council and Labour Party held on Monday night in the Trades Hall, Mr. Edward Tucker (President) occupying the chair, Councillor John Lawlor referred to the reduction of the Old Age Pensions within the Free State area. He was of the opinion that economies should be effected. He thought that the suggested reduction of the pensions in question was commencing at the wrong end. He moved:—

"That we, the members of the Dublin Trades Council, enter our most emphatic protest against the proposed reduction of the pensions of the Old Age Pensioners; that in our opinion it would be more fitting if the responsible members of the Government would consider the question of the reduction of the Ministerial salaries, the abolition or reduction of the members' salaries who are drawing salaries as members of the Seanad and pensions or allowances from Irish public funds, as well as of members of the Dail who are drawing full salaries in their employment and the 'allowance' as members; by reducing their bloated official pay-roll of military officers; the reduction of their non-established 'civil' employees, and in other directions. And that the Executive take the necessary steps to organise a public demonstration of protest."

Mr. John Moore (I. N. Woodworkers) seconded.

Mr. John J. Farrelly referred to the circular letter published in the "Irish Worker" in connection with the reduction of the moneys allowed for Meals for Necessitous School Children. He suggested that the demonstration should be a joint one to deal with both.

Councillor P. T. Daly supported the resolution and the suggested addendum. He thought the Government could very easily find some other matters to economise than on the two services dealing with the helpless children and old people. He had heard that whilst they were making suggestions of reduction for those two helpless classes of the people they were making arrangements for the provision of well-paid posts for other members of the Oireachtas. Just imagine paying a salary to Jimmy Campbell for acting in the Seanad whilst he was drawing a magnificent pension because of his connection with the privileged classes as Lord Chancellor. And then think of the others!

Mr. R. Meates supported the motion.

Mr. Verdon, in supporting the resolution, pointed out the fallacious statements made by the representatives of the Government in the Dail in connection with the incidence of taxation. The records of trades unionism went to prove in reference to statements of disbursements that funds went to members who had become permanently incapacitated or temporarily injured in such a way as to relieve the charges on the public purse. Compare their attitude with that of the very men who were prepared to reduce the allowance of the children and the aged. Jobs—jobs—and more jobs, was the motto of these people; and well-paid jobs at that.

Mr. R. F. Blackburne pointed out that owing to their action in the evidence they gave at the Commission in connection with the Old Age Pensions the former section which disqualified recipients of Poor Law Relief was deleted. He was sorry to say that notwithstanding that some of the very people who are supporting the reduction refused to delete the section in their dealings with the poor.

Mr. J. Purtell said that these very people who were now threatened with a reduction in their poor pensions were given an opportunity of returning members of their own class quite recently and they preferred the "Half-sirs" who are going to return their preferences by reducing their starvation

allowances. He felt sorry for them but he could not shut his eyes to the fact that they had asked and they were evidently about to receive.

The President in putting the motion said there was truth in what Mr. Purtell had stated. The Working Classes were always called on when there were sacrifices to be made as during the Black and Tan regime. They were the salt of the earth then in the appreciations of the people who now constitute the Government. The same views were expressed during the recent elections. There was no mention made of the policy of reduction of Old Age Pensions or the starving of the poor little hungry school-children. There was no mention of their intention of providing further positions for their clique in the Dail. No, but they are doing it. Mr. James Campbell, as had been referred to, was a peculiar supporter of the present regime—a man who was never known to give a vote for any democratic measure during his whole public career—yet there is no suggestion of his exorbitant pension being reduced after his short service as Lord Chancellor. Instead he is getting another salary as Chairman of the second chamber.

The resolution and the addendum were put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Applications were received for re-affiliation from two of the bodies which had seceded at the time of the formation of that body which was called the Workers' Council. It was decided to re-affiliate the applicants on payment of current fees, viz., one penny per member per quarter.

The question of forming a Debating Club was referred to the Executive for report. Arrangements were considered for the future conduct of the Hall. Assurances of support being given for the expenses and many valuable suggestions offered, the question was referred to a sub-committee.

THE ISLAND OF SNOBS & SNAKES.

At two minutes past twelve on Sunday, Nov. 11th, the students of Trinity College assembled in College Green, blocked the traffic and proceeded to sing "God Save the King."

At two minutes past twelve on Sunday, Nov. 11th, General Sir Bryan Mahon, ex-Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Ireland, on behalf of the Free State Government, laid a wreath on the Cenotaph, London, erected to the memory of the British soldiers who fell in the Great War.

At eight o'clock on Sunday night, Nov. 11th, a Concert was held in the Theatre Royal to commemorate the memory of Kevin Barry—one time comrade in arms of the Ministers of the Free State Government—who fought against the British soldiers in Ireland with the object of overthrowing the power of the King of England in this country.

President Cosgrave was a fellow-soldier of the Republic with Kevin Barry.

Trinity College receives some 30 or 40,000 pounds from President Cosgrave's Government each year. General Sir Bryan Mahon commanded the British Army in Ireland during part of the Terror.

Now we find these three groups joining together to honour England's shilling-a-day soldiers. Kevin Barry's sister, Eileen, is on hunger-strike in a Free State prison, in the service of the same Republic that President Cosgrave fought for, General Sir Bryan Mahon fought against, the Trinity Students sneered at, and Kevin Barry died for.

Truly the Island of Snobs and Snakes!

NATIVE IRISH SPEAKER.

Open to give tuitions to Gaelic Students. Day or Evening. Fluency in conversation guaranteed after a few months. Terms moderate. Apply Box 25 "IRISH WORKER."

Let Us Commemorate

Friends! Let us uncover, and with humble and sorrowing hearts pay tribute to those unknown and nameless heroes who sacrificed their all in The Great War. Let us honour those who unflinchingly and with dauntless eyes lined the trenches in Flanders and hurled back the oncoming hordes of ruthless Huns. Let us commemorate that day of Victory, Nov. 11th, 1918, when Right finally triumphed over godless Might. Especially let us remember those thousands of Irishmen who hearing the age-old call of battle for the Right, left their homes and families and answered England's call, England the ever truthful, the honest one, the defender of the weak and helpless. Proudly they marched forth from the shores of this fair island to protect and guard Belgium of the Golden Heart, Belgium, the child of Leopold, the beloved father of the people of the Congo. These men, nay, heroes, fought for four long years, suffered unknown and inhuman hardships with a clean and bright shining courage that illuminated this dark world in manner like to that light that shone o'er Galilee 2,000 years ago. Not only did these Irishmen guard our Mother England, but they also made atonement for that awful and never-to-be-forgotten thing, the "Rising of '16." Whatever shame that event may have cast on the Irish Nation was fully atoned for by those Irishmen who rallied to the call of England, who preserved the British Empire intact, and who kept Ireland's connection with Mother England unbroken and unsevered for many centuries to come. Again I ask you to join in the universal mourning for those fellow-soldiers of the Auxiliary Cadets who through the terrible years of '18, '19 '20 fought the good fight against the rule of the gun and the torch in Ireland; those men who opposed the I.R.A. with their own weapons and even went beyond them; the men who were responsible for the punishing of Kevin Barry, Traynor, Whelan and the other gunmen of the I.R.A. Let us honour the memory of the comrades of those soldiers of England who dealt out death and punishment to the rebels of '16; who dealt with Cork and Balbriggan in a manner fitted to their offences. To-day let us think of these men as descendants of the yeomanry who captured Vinegar Hill, who broke the backbone of Wolfe Tone's Rebellion, and who hanged and quartered Robert Emmett. Their deeds make them worthy of being descendants of such men. They are shining links in the chain that has bound the British Empire together for five centuries. They are worthy sons of the great Mother England. Let us commemorate, I say!

(Signed)

"A REPENTANT REBEL OF '16."

N. S. W. LABOR COUNCIL OBJECT TO JURY SYSTEM.

Persons to be Eligible for Jury Duty Must Have Personal Estate Valued at £300.

Under the New South Wales Juries Act persons are not eligible to serve on juries unless they have an annual income of at least £30 from real estate, or partly real and partly personal estate, or personal estate valued at £300. Recently a deputation from the Labour Council of New South Wales waited upon the Minister for Justice and asked that the qualifications be broadened to permit of all property holders and payers of rent becoming eligible for empanelment. Mr. Garden speaking for the Labour Council held to the principle that a man should be tried by his peers. Owing to economic conditions it was mostly the working class who appeared before the Courts. The Minister said he would give the matter consideration, but did not hold out any hope that the present system would be changed.

Why Irish Labor Failed

By HENRY W. NEVINSON.

Dublin, September 23.

You ask me to tell you something about the state of Ireland, and specifically about the failure of the Labor Party at the recent election in the Free State. I have followed Irish questions very closely for forty years. I have lived much in Ireland. As often happens with Englishmen, I have loved the country better than my own. I have lately been staying in a "Republican" district far out in the west. I have conversed with leaders and followers of every party. And I have attended the meetings of the newly elected Dail. So I know a good deal about the subject. But does knowledge make the answer to a question easier? Never believe it! Ignorance answers easily. Any clever correspondent after two days in a Dublin hotel will slam you off a solution of Ireland in half a dozen lines. But every writer knows that the more you know the harder it is to write.

Take even the Labor question about which you inquire. The labor leaders expected 27 or 30 seats in the new Dail (it is called the Fourth Dail, but it is really the first duly elected under the Treaty of December, 1921). Now the labor members sitting on the left of the small semicircle in the old courtroom of Leinster House make a forlorn little group of 14 (nominally 15, but one has already left them). They have lost their orator, O'Shannon, and they have lost their enthusiastic but steady-leading member, William O'Brien. Their real leader and creator, Tom Johnson, still holds his place, though under proportional representation he scraped in with difficulty. That Northern Irishman, so honourable, so sensible and straightforward, so highly respected by all parties, stands as Leader of the Opposition, but what a fragment that opposition is! Next to the little Labor Party sits the Farmers Party, also numbering 14 or 15; and in some questions the two parties may combine. But even when combination is complete (and that will be seldom, for farmers are born opponents of labor and change) the opposition could count only on about 30 as against about 80 of the Government combined with the Independents, who will support the Government at a crisis.

The main cause of labor's failure was simply the condition of the country ever since De Valera repudiated the treaty directly after it had been signed. The real issue at the election was the continuance or destruction of the treaty. That was a question of life or death, and a question of life or death extinguishes all others. In England we have proved it in the "Khaki" or war elections. In Ireland the choice before the people was whether they would maintain the treaty as an immense advance in national liberty—an advance far beyond anything that former leaders had even imagined—or repudiate the treaty and bring the British Government, army, and police back again to renew the old struggle. I understand the idealists of the so-called Republican cause as well as any foreigner can. With the idealists are mixed up a lot of men and women who enjoy the excitement of fighting and bloodshed for its own sake, together with a lot of land-grabbers who have burned down the big houses, seized the lands or turned in their cattle, and strongly object to a Government which drives them out of the lands, takes the cattle to pay compensation, and actually insists upon rates and taxes. But I cannot go into the Republican question now. It appears to inflame your readers, as it inflames some of my friends here. My point is that Treaty versus Civil War was the vital question before the electors, and so the labor candidates had little chance. The Labor Party had strongly opposed many government actions, especially as to the imprisonments

and executions. At the same time they had not denounced the Government violently enough to please the enemies of the treaty. So they occupied a middle position. And a middle position may appeal to philosophers, but it makes no appeal to electors in Ireland. Besides, the labor question is still new to the country. For about seven centuries the burning questions were defence of nationality, defence of religion, and defence of the land. Outside Belfast the labor question has hardly existed, and in Belfast it was surpassed by the religious contest. In the Free State it hardly exists outside Dublin, Cork, and perhaps Limerick, Waterford, and Galway, and it is noticeable that in all those big towns labor failed. In Dublin itself only 6 per cent. of the voters voted Labor.

To be sure the party was torn by internal division, chiefly due to the workings of Jim Larkin, whom you have returned to this country as a gift. Ten years ago, at the time of the great dock strike here and the formation of the Transport Workers' Union, I saw a good deal of Jim Larkin. I always regarded him as an egoist of immense physical and rhetorical energy, highly qualified to detect and expose suffering and wrong, but far less qualified to discover remedies. Now, though he does not announce himself as a leader, he is said to inspire the dockers' rank-and-file committee, which dictates to the executive of the union. His only power lies in Dublin, where he occasionally addresses open-air meetings. In the election he always opposed the candidates of the regular Labor Party, and though his own supporters always failed, he probably reduced the labor representatives in the Dail. He has no followers in the Dail himself. As to the charges of Bolshevik aims and Moscow influence, I disregard them. They are made against everyone whom other parties dislike. In one movement we are freely charged with receiving "Tory Gold"; in another, with receiving "Moscow Diamonds"!

The Irish Labor Party refuses labels. It will not even call itself "socialist," for who knows what socialist means? For the moment the vital labor question here, as in England, is unemployment. The causes are much the same in both countries, the main cause being the callow brutality of French politicians in carrying on the starvation and destruction of the German people. Actual unemployment is perhaps relieved here by keeping some 10,000 to 15,000 (the number is still uncertain) men and women in prison as actual or possible violent rebels against the state; also by enrolling some 40,000 young men in the new Free State army. But neither prisoners nor soldiers are lucrative, and both are being reduced. Meantime strikes rage throughout nearly all the cities, worst in Dublin and Cork. Strikes are at present labor's only weapon, but the weapon is suicidal. As Bernard Shaw says in a characteristic article in the first number of the new "Irish Statesman" (On Throwing Out Dirty Water, and in "dirty water" he includes all manner of obsolete Irish conceptions and ideals): "The strike means starving on your enemy's doorstep . . . The modern capitalist simply calls the police to remove your body to the mortuary." But I suppose the striker may hope that his body on the doorstep may first infect the owner's household. It is not a pleasing process for either side to contemplate.

The article, "Why 'Irish Labour failed'" by that peripatetic missionary of the Anglo Saxon Empire, Nevinson, who for thirty years, has "lied on all fronts for the Empire," is reprinted from an alleged Liberal magazine, printed and published in New York, U.S.A.

"The Nation" is owned and controlled by one Villard, a Quaker. This Villard refused to publish a day to day chronicle of the pogrom against the unarmed Catholic men and their women and children, and those

Protestant-Union men who protested against the pogrom during the years 1920 and 1921 in the Christian city of Belfast.

"The Nation" refused to print the compiled record of organised murder and arson in Belfast, on the grounds that it was too partizan. This "Nation" was the first paper in America to support the unholy pact arrived at in London. This paper has always supported and explained ex-Senator Sir Horace Plunkett, private messenger for England during the World War. Snuff said!

So our readers will understand the un-biased attitude of this Anglo Saxon missionary and the reason for the publication in the "Nation." Our readers, having a first-hand knowledge of the events of the immediate past, can sense the kind of propaganda and the type of propagandist the Empire uses to control the mindology of the world's people.

You note Nevinson opens "You ask me." Who asked him, Villard or Geddes, which? He, Nevinson, has followed the Irish question closely for forty years—followed is good. He is still following, but never catches up. Nevinson thinks in terms of the Empire. Nevinson asks "Does knowledge make the question easier?" Never believe it. Ignorance answers easily." Too true, brother Nevinson, and you are the case in point.

We wonder what Republican district you stopped in and who were the leaders of every party you spoke with, not to speak of the followers. See how meticulous the gent is. He tells us it is not really the fourth Dail. ("My dear feller" this is awfully good of you.) The article is "Why Irish Labour Failed." Note how the learned Doctor of Literature commences the second paragraph, "Take even the Labour Question." Well, who would be bothered about the labour question in an article on labour; and then the fun commences. The Labour Leaders—who?—expected 27 or 30 seats. Then they nominated 42 for a joke. £100 a laugh. "Make a forlorn little group of 14, they were 15 but . . . ? They have lost their orator O'Shannon." Oh! Wise Young Judge? And Nevinson sorrows over the loss of (Senator) William O'Brien. Their real leader and creator, Tom Johnson; (poor Bill, this is the hardest blow yet). That Northern Irishman, so honourable . . . we can go no further. Every sentence and paragraph in this foolish partizan review "Why Irish Labour Failed" is as truthful as "Tom Johnson, that Northern Irishman, so honourable, so sensible, so respected by all parties."

We are too tired to laugh further.

We conclude with this gem. "Ten years ago at the time of the great Dock Strike and the formation of the Transport Workers' Union." "I saw a good deal of Jim Larkin." I have only to say this: I never saw Nevinson in the flesh. I have read him in print. He tries to convey by the sentence "I saw a good deal of Jim Larkin" that he had spoken with me, which is a terminological inexactitude. This is the English euphemism to save telling the truth. The I.T.W.U. was established in 1909, 14 years ago. Larkin did not in the election "always oppose the regular Labour Party." Larkin did expose the government place hunters, the government party masquerading as a Labour Party

Yes, brother, let us take Shaw's advice. "Throw out the dirty water" and all the dirt that has poisoned the stream of Irish life for seven hundred years; that has within the past ten years contaminated the Irish Labour Movement, dirty, foul, intriguing, job-seeking place-hunters. Let us give the words—honourable—sensible—labour—truth—their true definition and application and then we will understand why Irish labour did not realise its opportunity in the immediate past. The future is ours.

Ireland and the Outside World

Therefore when I consider and weigh in my mind all these commonwealths which nowadays anywhere do flourish, so God help me, I can see nothing but a certain conspiracy of rich men procuring their own commodities under the name and title of the Commonwealth. —Blessed Thomas More in "Utopia."

In an article headed "Ireland and the Next War" in this paper of issue 27/10/23, an attempt was made to show that there can be no real peace, prosperity, freedom or security of living within this community as long as society is organised on the basis of the exploitation of the needs of the many by a minority who, between them, claim the right of ownership of, i.e. of controlling the use of, land and the means of production and distribution.

It follows that wherever society is constructed on the same, or more or less closely similar lines, more or less similar results and conditions must ensue and prevail and that amongst those that are most important to mankind are:—

(a) The contest between various sections of the wealthy interests in the competition to obtain possession of the riches and peoples of the earth; (b) the monotonous strife between the exploited and the exploiter; (c) the consequent degradation, impoverishment and suffering of the greatest part of humanity.

It was agreed that the root of all this lay in what we may term for short "the private property" system. Now, since ownership knows no natural boundaries, so that a capitalist resident in London may control the livelihood of the ship-builders of Belfast, and because, in any and every case, the owning class in each country are instinctively opposed to any organic alteration in the state of the body politic which might lessen the power of any section of their class in any country, therefore the governing classes of every nation in the world are actually inclined, in varying degree according to the circumstances, to repress the upward movement of the masses no matter in whatever land the motion may take place. Hence we must deduce that the exploiting class in every region is the natural foe of the subject class universally, not merely in their respective localities, and that the struggle of the workers for better and juster conditions is not a national but an international fight.

We could epitomize our conclusions by asserting that at length the war on the class system has assumed mighty proportions, that the issue is not local but world-wide, and that progress made in the revolt in any part is of assistance to the cause of the Revolution everywhere, even to us in Ireland.

There are some who dub these conclusions "Internationalism," and by focussing attention on the appetitive and ignoring the inspiring prospect beyond, declare that their real import is that Irishmen are asked to cease endeavouring to regain their own traditions and common possessions, and to await the tardy sympathy of their cross-channel neighbours. Such is an unfair assumption, although it is often made by honest believers in the efficacy of self-reliance as a means to victory. In actual fact, the Internationalist enthusiastically champions the attitude of mind embodied in the phrase "Simh Fein." He bids the Irish Worker to think of himself, to organise with his class and those who stand for the liberation of that class. The Internationalist, Connolly, sponsored the first open Republican association of this generation—the Irish Socialist Republican Party, and although an advocate of international solidarity, nevertheless found himself, in 1895, almost the only Irishman prepared to agitate in favour of entire separation from the British Empire. It is contended that revolutionary success abroad will aid us, but it is also held that our own

attitude at home is the chief factor in shaping our destiny. If one visualizes the struggle as international, then we must logically desire to see the Irish people doing its share.

So that there is nothing enervating to the revolutionary ardour of our people in the propagation of the truth that in their attempts to win freedom **the wage earners of all nationalities are interdependent.**

Now, as to our essential needs and duties. It should be agreed that our need is the end of exploitation, and our duty to seek the satisfaction of the need. We must participate in the Homeric struggle and support every effort in the right direction, and that is only possible, even here in Ireland, if we understand the real basis of the unrest, as "The Irish Worker" attempts to explain it. There can come nothing but broken-hearted disappointment to those who stubbornly refuse to abandon the attitude that Ireland is served through hatred of things English, and a lofty contempt of the English people. The reason for Ireland's woes is the reason for Poland's woes, for Mexico's dissensions, for Tripoli's gore-soaked plains and Korea's sullen misery. Have we no remembrance of the sordid fact that it was the Irish Brigade in the service of King Louis XIV. of France that conquered the brave Savoyards and forced Savoy to submit to the empire of that ambitious monarch, his dissolute lords and his minister, the financier Colbert? And must we not confess that even were Downing Street to offer Ireland, an independent status, the bulk of our Irish manufacturers, newspapers proprietors and bankers would favour some form of connection with England because of their realization that with the British Empire at their back they could the easier resist the turbulent masses? Is it not obvious that Irishmen as well as Englishmen, Russians, Americans, Italians, Japs and "Carsonians" think in terms of their vested interests, when they possess such, and behave alike?

The root of the evil lies in money and the "private ownership" system, and not in defects of national character.

Let us not, however, decry the legitimate, natural and uplifting cult of Gaelicism. In repeating the Conquest, let us endeavour to re-win all that we lost and that is worth regaining. Since our language embodies a true knowledge of our history, of traditions and customs current once in a free and communistically organized people, let that language be conserved. The art, music, language, folk-lore and history of Ireland are natural to our minds, useful to us in our evolution, a weapon against Anglicizing Imperialism, and instructive inasmuch as they show us what lives our ancestors led and how independent was their spirit. Besides, Celtic art and literature is a valuable contribution to the common stock of mankind and would aid the synthesis of the International culture of the future. Is all the intellectual heritage of our ancient race of no value to mankind?

We rather come to believe that whoever regrets the Gaelic revival for fear of the virus of national prejudices is forgetting that national prejudices themselves proceed, not from pride in the worthiness of one's national characteristics or attainments, but rather in an exploitation of that pride by the monied classes. It might be hoped with reason that Irishmen of the future will converse in Gaelic and also in an International tongue taught in every school of the world and designed to cement human society.

Now, the alternative to Anglophobia or exclusive nationalism lies in the acknowledgment of the actual cause of discontent as outlined above, and the attitude which this paper adopts towards the money system. But that is only the preliminary, for we should try to form our ideal of the future and to organize for its achievement in such a manner as to be consistent and not to be side-tracked. For example, it would be puerile to admit the

evil nature of capitalism and that the evil proceeds from the heart of capitalism itself, i.e., usury, and then to form associations whose motto might be the gaining of some reforms of capitalism, such as a 44 hour week, or taxation of landlords. It were folly to advocate ownership and administration of factories by the people for the people, and then merely to band together in a union formed to secure better conditions for the toilers in those factories whilst declaiming any intention of taking them over from the employers for the nation's use!

Our first act, said Connolly, ought to harmonize with our final step. We cannot even commence properly unless we know whither we travel. Doubtless as we progress we shall find minor alterations necessary in our course, but our main direction will remain constant, provided that we have taken our general bearing rightly at the start.

On the other hand, a series of blundering, temporizing inconsistencies will take us nowhere, save to perdition.

* * *

Now in illustration of the views of this and the article of 27/10/23, there will follow a survey of conditions the world over, given impartially, if such is possible, telling how men are living and thinking abroad, how the structure of society stands or falls or changes, and how the subject classes are moving. We shall try to find the motives and methods of parties and groups, their strength and their progress.

Finally we shall try to eliminate the wrong from the right principles and methods, both in general and in detail. Irishmen can teach the world in some respects, but they should not decline to learn an occasional lesson from the minds and experiences of others. Further, the truth about the outside world can no more be found in the "Freeman" or "Independent" than can the truth about our own country.

Commencing nearest to home, we may examine first of all England, Scotland and Wales, and to that let us proceed in the next issue, filing this and that of 27th October for reference.—EXILE.

TOM MOONEY.

At the 26th Convention of the International Union of Moulders held in Cleveland, Ohio, last month, support of the Mooney-Billings Defense was voted unanimously. Tom Mooney had been elected as a delegate to this Convention by his Local, San Francisco, by a vote of 555 out of a total of 601. The Convention, reversing the former reactionary stand of the Union, voted Mooney full confidence and \$1,000 donation to the Mooney Defense. Then, to put their final seal of approval upon Mooney, they elected him their delegate to the A. F. of L. Convention. It was a great demonstration of solidarity and revolutionary spirit, and will be a help in the fight for Mooney's release from San Quentin Prison.

Our readers will be rejoiced at this news. Though we this side of the pond cannot directly aid Tom, we watch with sympathetic eyes every effort made for his release. We were the first to render aid, and we hope our race in the working-class movement of the U.S.A. will do their duty to the Irish Rebel. Every reader of this paper in America, U.S.A. and Canada must get on the job. Mooney Free by 1924!

NO EXPERT.

Judge—What had the defendant been drinking when you arrested him?

Bobby—Whisky, I think, your Honor.

Judge—You think? You think? Aren't you a judge?

Bobby—No, your Honor, only a policeman.

Ulster Defence Alliance

104 MIDDLE ABBEY ST.,
DUBLIN.

14th November, 1923.

This organisation is the outcome of a public meeting and a subsequent conference held recently in the Mansion House, Dublin.

Its immediate object is to collect funds for the relief of the dependents of those who are held as prisoners by the Belfast Government, and for the relief of refugees, and the dependents of refugee breadwinners who have been driven across the "Border" and forbidden to return under penalty of death or imprisonment.

The Executive Committee includes Catholic, Protestant, Free State and Republican. It is composed of men and women who listen daily to tales of misery and suffering of which the world outside the Six Counties hears very little. A father is on the "Argenta" (the prison ship), the mother and a houseful of helpless children are left behind to starve. A son is in prison or a refugee in the Twenty-six Counties, and his old parents may make what shift they can. Multiply these instances by the hundred, add to the total the victims of the authorised pogroms and house-burnings which have made Belfast a byword, and one gets some idea of the volume of human suffering which Partition has entailed on our unfortunate people. But most especially for the men who were, at any time, connected with the I.R.A. there is no mercy. Hunted like vermin, they are to be found all over the Twenty-six Counties, and hundreds of them have been compelled to leave Ireland altogether. On behalf of these men an offer was made to the Belfast Government that they would abstain from all physical force if allowed to return to their homes without being subjected to an oath against their conscience. This offer the Belfast Government refused to consider.

The London Press is focussing the world's attention on the woes of the "Irish Loyalists" (absentees mainly) whose mansions were destroyed during the War of Independence, but not a word is heard of the sufferings of the thousands of Irish working class women and children deprived of their breadwinners because those breadwinners refused to recognise the right of England to partition their country.

On behalf of these unfortunate people we appeal to you, reader, to give what you can afford towards the relief of this politician-manufactured misery. A little subscription, weekly or monthly, or preferably, the "adoption" or partial adoption of a distressed family would be a more effective protest against the partition of Ireland than the eloquence of a Demosthenes. It would involve sacrifice and self-denial on your part, but, *Je cuidiu De*, it would not be for long, and the blessing of God, and the prayers of women and little children would reward you.

Two things are to be borne in mind. These sufferers in the North are our fellow citizens. If we believe, like them, in the unity of Ireland we have no choice as public spirited people but to come to their rescue. And secondly this:—Speaking in America in 1920, Sir Auckland Geddes stated that the aspirations of Ireland to independence could not be entertained because she was strategically necessary to England. In other words England regards Ireland as a strategic pawn in further possible world wars, arising from the clash of Imperialistic ambitions, whereas we would regard Ireland and the genius of the reconciled Irish people as a pivot of world peace. In support of her Imperial designs, or in protection of her Imperial spoils, the ruling clique in England seeks to buttress, by financial and political support, open and secret, a clique in the

Six Counties of Ulster like unto itself, whose power depends on the continued sectarian and political division of the Irish people. For this unholy purpose the British taxpayer is mulcted to pay the "Ulster Specials" a force which is being drilled and trained with no possible object other than to wage sectarian war.

It is therefore the ruling classes in England and in Ulster, and not the common people of the Six Counties, who are guilty of all the misery, suffering, and sectarian hate existing in the North. It is high time that the British taxpayer realised that the millions spent by his Government in this fashion in Ulster might be more profitably spent at home.

C. U. ULAD, Chairman.

J. MURRAY, Secretary.

November 17th, 1923.

TO OUR READERS :

There are many Christmas Drawings in Progress. The one we suggest should engage your attention and active support is one that should appeal to every man, woman and child in this country, and to our friends without.

The details setting forward the agreement between the organisers of the draw and the buyers of the tickets appears below, and tickets will be on sale this week. It is a Christmas thought and a Christmas greeting to the dependents of those confined in the prisons of the Free State and the Six County area. The idea is that "many can help one." The proceeds of what we hope will be the most successful Christmas draw in this country will be given to these people, many of whom may have been forgotten, but who, we feel, the readers of this paper remember and intend to make their remembrance one that will be beneficial to the women and children of their comrades in prison.

The draw will take place in the Trades' Hall, Capel St., Dublin. The proceeds will be divided, and the number of tickets sold will be checked by a committee of released prisoners; the draw will take place in their presence and under their supervision, and an audited statement of proceeds will appear in "The Irish Worker" of December 28th.

"Irish Worker" And Irish Worker League No..... GREAT CHRISTMAS DRAWING 1923

Proceeds will be devoted to the Dependents of Prisoners confined in the prisons of the Free State and Six Co. Area.

Drawing will take place in

TRADES' HALL, DUBLIN

On Thursday, 20th Dec. 1923, at 8 p.m.

A Committee of Released Prisoners will supervise the Draw.

2nd PRIZE	1st PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
Christmas Hamper or Value	Christmas Hamper or Value	Christmas Hamper or Value
£10	£50	£5

20 Prizes of £1 & 50 Additional Prizes

£1 to seller of 1st Prize Ticket.

£5 to seller of Largest Number

of Tickets.

TICKETS

6d. each

Winning numbers will be published in "Irish Worker" Special Christmas Number, on sale 21st December, 1923, and names and addresses of winners and the amount of the net proceeds allotted to Dependents in "Irish Worker" of 28th December, 1923.

Blocks and remittances to be returned to the Secretary, Irish Workers' League (J. Larkin), 17 Gardiner's Place, Dublin, not later than Tuesday, 18th Dec., 1923.

If there is a more worthy object than the one we call your attention to, then we hasten to advise you to support it, but we feel that no one of our readers will miss the sixpence required to purchase one of the tickets,

doing two things thereby: grasping the opportunity of being among the prize winners, and—what we think will appeal to you even above the venture itself—by speculating in one of these tickets you will assist those sadly in need of immediate help and thus show your comradeship.

We want all our readers to take upon themselves the responsibility of selling at least one book of tickets. We leave this thought with you.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE IRISH WORKERS' LEAGUE :

You will receive two books of tickets, ten tickets in each book with complimentary ticket attached, and you will see to it that these are sold. Blocks and remittances must reach this office not later than Tuesday, December 18th. Numbers of unreturned blocks of tickets will be published in the issue of December 28th.

Let us to the task!

(Continued from Column 3, page 3)

Imperialist, and requested a "Strike against Militarism" even Lucius O'Duffy would have found the time and the sympathetic word for them. But Johnson had questions of high statesmanship to settle in Geneva, and Mortished maybe had a Lodge meeting of the Brethren to attend.

"Use our influence in the Dail" likes me well. Oh! Tom. You never use influence surely. You are giving the game away. Tha knows! Mr. Mortished, sometime British Government servant, assistant drafter of the Free State constitution, supervisor at a nominal(?) honorarium of the "Irish White Cross Fund" distribution (by the pleasure of Mr. Johnson) informed Mr. Duffy. Why not Mr. Cosgrave or some other "Lord High Executioner." The magnanimous Mr. Duffy offered to receive the deputation at 1 o'clock on the following day, and the men and women on hunger-strike, including 2,700 members of various Unions might endure Mr. Lucius O'Duffy's good will and pleasure.

And the Labour Leader (?) Johnson writes of a Lightning Strike for a week. Greased lightning—like the strike against Militarism. Eh! "Our Committee" suggested a non-party committee go to Hon. Tom. We thought that none of the committee were for the party, that all were for the State.

BOXING

Round Room, Rotunda

WEDNESDAY EVENING

21st November, 1923

Great International 20 Round Contest

MINTO (America)

Versus

GILMORE (Belfast)

10 Rounds

PETER CULLEN v. TOMMY SWORDS

Admission - 2/4, 3/6, 5/9, 7/6 ring side

Doors open 7.15 Commence, 7.45

Printed by THE GAELIC PRESS, 21 Upper Liffey St., Dublin, for the Proprietor and published by him at 17 Gardiner's Place, Dublin.

MEMBERS I.W.L. MEET IN TRADES HALL, SUNDAY, 2 O'CLOCK

THE IRISH WORKER

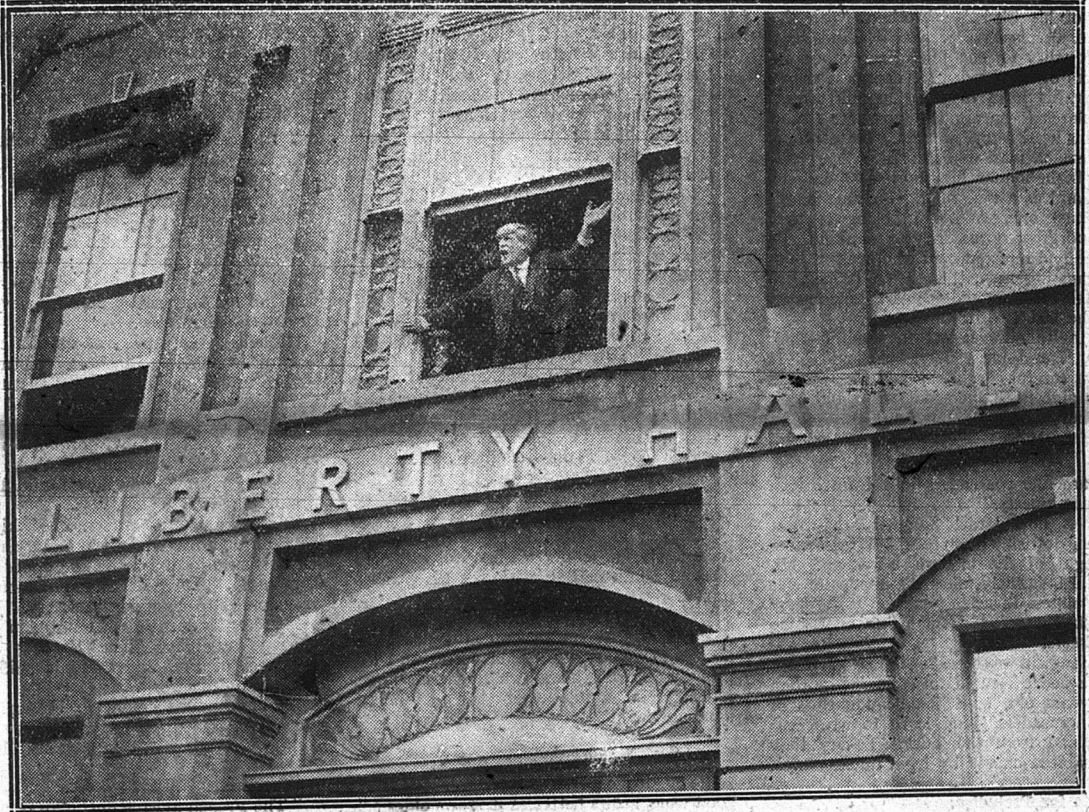
AN T-OIBRÍOĒ SAOĪLAC

Edited by JIM LARKIN

No. 21. NEW SERIES.
(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1923

ONE PENNY



This picture shows Jim Larkin addressing the Meeting on the eve of the "One Day's" Strike. The decision to strike as a protest against the incarceration of our fellow-countrymen and women was arrived at during this meeting. Next week we publish a picture of the audience

"LIBERTY OR DEATH."

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

In this so-called Christian country 300 odd men, built in the image of God and His likeness, are slowly but surely dying, driven to death by a system of Society which compels men, also built in the image of God and His likeness, to use force—implacable, inhuman, unchristian force of might—to hold the bodies of these three hundred christians in slavish thrall. And yet, all this brute force, powerful enough to hold the bodies of these men, is laughed to scorn by the soul spirit of these 300 who have shown more courage in an hour than the famous three hundred who held the pass of Thermopylae. They have proved in the soul determination of the dead martyr, Denis Barry, that the enduring faith in the principles of liberty still lives on in some few of the race. We are not all lost to self-respect yet. Though the spirit of Greenwood and McCready still lives in this country, the soul values of an Ashe and a McSwiney live to counter that

fearful thing that takes joy in suffering, aye, even the death agony of a fellow-creature is the subject matter of a jibe or cheap witticism. To such base uses are words applied in these days.

A system of Society which demands such abuse of power as we have seen manifested in this country during the past thirty-four days calls for its own dissolution. If a nation can only be governed by the application of such means and the denial of the elementary human rights to another fellow mortal, that system of Society, or the Government that resorts to such measures, cannot endure. The disease will produce its own remedy. Not all the bayonets, guns, armed men, or any force ever devised or utilised by a military or political satrap in Christendom, can maintain such a system.

For three centuries the tyrant ruled the millions of Russia by the application of such forces, and in an hour the tyrant and the system was with yesterday. If we in Ireland are to live as humans, we must develop a human system of association, a social code, a social consciousness, and a system that will obviate such a form of oppression and

denial of elementary human rights, such as the common people of this country are existing under at present. A government that dare not do right, of necessity to maintain its power, is compelled to do wrong. The Government that dare not trust its enemy is no longer a government, it is a tyrannical oligarchy. They hold the bodies of their opponents, they cannot imprison the soul. Denis Barry is dead, his comrades still endure. And Christians blaspheme their Creator—and Causists quote Canon Law—and the bookmen argue as to the ethics of the situation—and the money-changers frequent the temples—and others buy and sell and seek gain—and the great unthinking mass go in and out the amusement houses—and one says: they who endure to death are fortifying their bodies and satisfying their hunger pangs with biscuits and pastilles of concentrated food values. And Denis Barry is dead—died in delirium. And doctors outrage their professional oath—and all men and women say "Am I my brother's keeper" and three hundred still endure and Liberty or Death is their determination.

Is the Jew a Menace?

The following is an article on Israel Zangwill, the world famed Jewish author. It is written by one Corners and was published in the "Chicago Examiner," from which we take it.

We reprint it for many reasons. First and foremost for the wisdom contained therein; secondly for the manner in which that wisdom is expressed; and the third reason, being the most important, we leave till last—because it gives us a clear and remarkable insight into the mind and spirit of Israel Zangwill, the recognised apologist for the Jewish race.

Like the majority of that outcast race from Galilee, he is clever, but clever in a far different way from his race brothers. He has risen above the prejudices and interests of his race. He refuses to be classed, at the behest of his Christian brothers, with the so-called despised race. He demands and takes equality for the Jewish people among the races of mankind. He does not cringe or hang his head or deny his birthright. He declares it openly and unashamed and hangs his head before no man. He is a Jew, a Galilean, a man of Palestine. Therefore, let us Irish honour him both as a famous author and as a true man. Our race is still an outcast one. We still belong to that large and growing majority of mankind, the despised and rejected, and whether the Jews have cause to hang their heads or not, we of the Isle of Saints and Scholars should have, after the last two or three years.

We invite our readers to send in their comments and ideas upon this article. It deserves careful consideration. May we ask you to give it that consideration and send us the result of your thought.

By GEORGE F. CORNERS.

"We are like passengers in a train driven by mad engineers."

This is how Israel Zangwill, the most sparkling Jewish writer since Heine, describes the plight of the modern European. Mr. Zangwill invariably takes the unpopular side and is almost invariably right. "Europe," he insists, "has no statesmen, but a succession of gamblers."

Mr. Zangwill was speaking in his apartment in Hare Court Temple, an edifice more than 1,200 years old, once the headquarters of British crusaders going forth to wrest the Holy Land from the Turk. To-day they are inhabited chiefly by legal functionaries.

Antidote for Prejudice.

Mr. Zangwill, who came to the United States to address the American Jewish Congress in New York, has the fine idealism of the crusader. There clings to him at all times, in spite of the youthfulness of his spirit, something of the ancient wisdom and disillusionment of his race.

Zangwill's friends believe that his brilliance and his humanity will act as an antidote against the poison of race prejudice so assiduously instilled of late into the veins of the American people.

"The world's troubles cannot be cured," Mr. Zangwill continued, his swift mind leaping from one topic to another on epigrammatic stilts, "because no nation will face a true diagnosis of its disease.

"The doctors who try to cure us are all liars. Lack of lucidity, lack of charity, lack of ability to envisage the facts, are the root of all evil.

"Look at Poland. Hardly freed from the oppression of three centuries, she in turn persecutes others. Federation would solve her race problem.

"It would also serve the problems of Czecho-Slovakia and other states begotten or misbegotten at Versailles and St. Germaine. But the men in power over the nations, large and small, have forgotten much and learned—nothing.

"The war was fought ostensibly for the principle of nationality. I wrote a book on

nationality. When I had finished the book I tried to find out how others defined the term.

"Who can describe my surprise when I discovered that the Encyclopedia Britannica that quintessence of wisdom, devoted eight lines to the subject.

"Nationality was described as a 'vague concept.' For a vague concept millions of people had to be killed. For a vague concept millions more will be sacrificed!

"Nationality, patriotism, can be made to mean anything that suits the lunatics at large who govern our countries and edit some of our papers. I do not know which is to be feared the more, these journalists or the politicians.

A Whirlpool of Hatred.

"I sometimes feel that the chief object of education is to prepare our children for the sort of journalism they must face when they grow up.

"If the press, with few exceptions, had not aided the politicians, it would not have been possible to engulf the whole world in a whirlpool of hatred and falsehood."

"If you object to nationalism," I remarked, "why do you favour the establishment of a Jewish state?"

"Because," Zangwill quickly replied, "one people cannot stand out alone against a world system. Moreover, I do not object to nationalism. I object to it only, if it is aggressive.

"I do not even object to Imperialism, if instead of demanding the mere extension of territory, it fosters the intensive cultivation of the people's noblest ideals.

"The object of Imperialism should be to create a fine, wholesome people in a splendid environment. Competition in armament was the aim of the old nationalism. Competition in ideals should be the aim of the nationalism of the future!"

"Was not such the professed aim of Woodrow Wilson?"

"Alas, poor Wilson! He was not, unfortunately, a fellow of infinite wit. He did not think clearly. He got his articles mixed.

"He asked for the League of Nations. Sharper wits at the peace conference gave him a League of Nations instead. He proudly carried it home as the genuine thing, refusing to admit that he had been bamboozled."

England's Francophobia.

"You do not think that the league, like good wine, grows better as it grows older?"

"I stand by my original definition. I said it was a league that pulled the leg of the nations. I was right. When Mussolini defied it, it helped him to pull the leg of the world."

"I believe you expressed yourself even more drastically."

"I did. I called it the league of damnations. It is damned. It damns small nations to servitude, great nations to hypocrisy.

"If its covenants were more than a scrap of paper there would be no need of a reparations commission. There would be no need to discuss 'security.'

"The pseudo league debates a lot of little problems. It leaves important questions severely alone. It does not dare to touch disarmament.

"The world is not ready to debate this question honestly. No nation is ready for disarmament.

"Diplomats may sit down and gravely discuss the amount of poison that may be mixed with poison gas. However, everybody knows some one is going to cheat.

"As a matter of fact, all nations cheat in this matter. All are rivaling with each other to produce the most deadly poison gas to be thrown in the most devastating fashion over sleeping cities by the most formidable of air fleets.

"When it comes to big questions the league is not there. It condemns itself by

its silence. Its virtues are few. Its sins, both omission and commission, are many. It never failed more signally than in the Ruhr.

"It always amuses me when I hear that France is seeking 'security' from Germany, that France was 'invaded three times in the course of a century.'

"France is the military nation par excellence. German militarism and French militarism are twins, except that French militarism is, and always was, more aggressive.

"It is not France that was the victim of Germany three times within 100 years. The reverse is true. France cannot live without powder, powder for her nose and for her cannon.

"It pleased us to close our eyes to these facts, because it suited our political expediency to paint France as a suffering angel and Germany as a fiend.

"German militarism was no worse than French militarism. But France cannot forgive that Germany beat her at her own game.

"Clutch and Grab."

"To-day French troops are holding the Rhineland and the Ruhr. And Germans are subjected to barbarous punishments by their French conquerors on German soil!

"As a result of the situation, England is genuinely alarmed. She was alarmed, seriously only once before; that was in March, 1918. French imperialism threatened England for centuries. She was never more threatened than now.

"English literature reflects hatred and fear of France. Thackeray pictured the French much as we recently pictured the Germans. Punch weekly pointed barbed arrows across the channel.

"I was called 'pro-German' when I pointed out the humour of the Entente. I refused to take our new found love for France seriously.

"It is ridiculous to speak of friendship between nations when the next shuffle of cards is sure to find us on the opposite side. Diplomats, like professional dancers, are accustomed to changing partners.

"I recently spent eight months in France, writing my play, 'The Forcing House.' A school of French writers is said to be inspired by my work.

"I have many friends in France. I am jeopardizing my popularity and my friendships. Nevertheless, I must speak the truth.

A Dangerous Nuisance.

"The French always meant to occupy the Ruhr. They were artful enough to make impossible demands and to seize upon their nonfulfilment as an excuse for grabbing that upon which they had set their heart.

"They made haste to clutch and grab all in sight. I met no Frenchman who wasn't convinced that France was going to seize the Rhine provinces for good.

"The gentlemen who pushed us into the conflict told us that we were waging, 'a war to end war.' As a matter of fact, it could be described more truly as 'a war to end peace.'

"Since August, 1914, there was not a day without massacre, not a moment when armed forces were not arrayed against each other somewhere in the world."

"Don't you think that it devolves upon England to restore the balance of power?" I asked.

"England cannot save the situation by writing notes. She is not afraid of France, but, on the other hand, she is afraid of the great effort of going to war.

"We have more than a million people out of work. They want a job. But not the job of killing. There is only one way that may lead to salvation."

"That is?"

"A true league of nations."

"When an Englishman says that," I remarked, "he usually means that he wants Uncle Sam to shoulder Europe's debts and

to play the sheriff whenever bad men refuse to do what England thinks should be done."

"I do not," Mr. Zangwill replied, "urge the United States to join the league at Geneva. No useful purpose would be served if the United States joined this league or any league—alone. That would not establish an ideal balance.

"Let the United States demand a new deal and a new league which she is prepared to enter, leading Germany by one arm and Russia by the other. Without the co-operation of these three great nations there can be no league of nations.

"A league that pretends to represent the world without doing so is worse than no league at all. It is a dangerous nuisance.

"Irreparable harm will come to the world if Germany is destroyed or dismembered. I am not a pro-German. I am saying solely by my sense of justice and my knowledge of civilization.

"I am not," Mr. Zangwill continued, "a monarchist or a Kaiser lover. But I have a sense of the dramatic. I can visualize the tragedy of the German people and of their emperor.

The Universal Scapegoat.

"It is one of the tragedies of the ages, fit for the deathless pen of some Shakespeare to come. Unfortunately, not only soldiers at the front, but the artists at home, seem to suffer from some sort of shell shock."

"Is it not surprising," I asked, "that the great war has inspired so little great literature?"

"Great literature may produce a great war. There is no reason why a great war should produce great literature. Mere size is of no importance.

"The Avon is a little river. Yet Avon gave birth to Shakespeare. The Hudson is a much bigger river. If mere size counted, New York should give birth to twenty Shakespeares.

"The war," the author of 'The Children of the Ghetto' sarcastically continued, "certainly produced great fiction, in the form of propaganda.

"Aside from that it has inspired no work of art, poetry or play of the first rank. The modern drama suffers not only from shell-shock. It suffers most from the theater.

"My ambition is to liberate the drama from the theater, to lead the revolt of the dramatist against the stage. Let the dramatist write without regard to the stage. The stage will follow. In time, drama may be produced even in the theater!"

"Have you noticed an increase in the ranks of anti-Semitism?" I asked.

"Have you?"

"Yes, the aftermath of the war seems to have brought a wave of intolerance to victor and vanquished alike."

"Lessing said: 'Tut nichts, der Jude wird verbrannt.' Whatever happens, the Jew must pay the forfeit. He is the universal scapegoat."

"Anti-Semitism," I observed, "is sometimes explained by the fact the Jews play an important part both in the camp of the revolutionists and in the camp of the profiteers."

"Certainly," Mr. Zangwill admitted, "persecution has scattered the Jews over the face of the earth. They are an intelligent people.

"You will find them everywhere, in every camp and every movement. That is evidence of their versatility. Also of their lack of cohesion.

"Centuries of intolerance have left an indelible mark on the human mind. In times of stress, the old prejudice breaks through the varnish of tolerance and understanding.

"If a Jew misbehaves, his enemies will not say: 'The dishonest scoundrel.' They will say: 'The dishonest Jew.'

If a Christian were guilty of the same offence, they would be content to damn him as a scoundrel. They would not associate his nationality or his race with the crime.

"There are as many different kinds of Jews

Head Offices,
35 Parnell Square,
Dublin.
15/11/23.

McMullen, Belfast.

A Chara—We enclose you herewith cheque for £15 Dispute Benefit as your letter application for Seamen involved in dispute with the Head Line Co.

This is the final payment in respect of these men and the matter is the subject of a separate communication to you from the General President.

Fraternally yours,

FINANCE COMM.

D.O.L./M.W. Per D.O.L.

Executive Offices,
35 Parnell Square,
Dublin.
13/11/23.

Ref. M/Sea.

McMullen, Belfast.

A Chara—The E.C. have under consideration the whole question of Sailors and Firemen, principally the men employed by the Head Line Company. The position has become extremely weak although a very big effort has been made to assist them in Dublin and Cork. In both of these ports, as far as we know, the infamous P.C.5 has not been introduced, and we understand it will not be introduced in the Free State area. This is fairly satisfactory as far as it goes, but unfortunately it does not help the seamen in Belfast, of course the seamen in Belfast cannot expect the men in the other ports to remain idle when we are not in a position to hold up this Company in Belfast. We have realised all along the difficulties under which our members in Belfast labour, and it is the opinion of the Executive that the time has come to advise the Sailormen in Belfast that in view of developments here and elsewhere, no more can be done for them, and they have got to make the best of their position. To advise them otherwise would be unfair to them and the Union. Other people may take advantage of their position to promise them great things which they have no idea of carrying out, and it is better to face the position and let the men know exactly as it exists. If they continue to remain members of the Union we will give them perhaps more support than they will get in any other union, but the E.C. is not prepared to allow them to pursue what is a forlorn hope.

You should advise the men accordingly at the earliest opportunity.

Yours fraternally,

I.T. and G.W.U.

THOMAS FORAN,
General President.

as there are different kinds of all other people. It is a mistake to generalize.

"We Jews were persecuted at first for having crucified Christ.

"Now we are sometimes persecuted for having produced him. Christianity is a great inconvenience to some Christians. It is merely a convenience to others."

"Possibly," I said, "some of us resent the superior cleverness of the Jew. When I was in Germany, people pointed out to me how the Jews dominate everywhere. The Jews, they said, control the newspapers, the banks, and the movies."

"But," Zangwill replied, "there is no such thing as THE Jew. These newspapers,

these movies, these banks, are controlled maybe by Jews.

"They are not controlled by THE Jews. Stinnes is not a Jew. Rockefeller is not a Jew. Morgan is not a Jew. Henry Ford certainly is not a Jew."

No Jewish Conspiracy.

"However, people, especially in Europe, seriously believe in a Jewish conspiracy to control the world."

"If there were such a conspiracy," Zangwill replied, "I would know of it. I know most of the important Jews in the world.

"I know that there is no secret Jewish international, pulling the world's financial and political wires.

"There is very little fraternization or even co-operation among the Jews. How often have I vainly tried to get Jews of different interests, on one committee.

"Hitler and Ford and other extremists of anti-Jewish propaganda make us responsible for the war. Why should we want war?"

"If the whole world suffers, we suffer, too. In fact, we are likely to suffer more than the others.

"If our influence had been strong enough we would have stopped the outbreak of the war. If our influence were strong enough now we would send Degoutte home to Paris, place sane engineers in charge of the train of civilization, and put the world to work again."

IRISH WORKER LEAGUE NOTES.

In the last issue of the paper we called a meeting for 2 o'clock at the Trades' Hall on Sunday, 18th inst. Owing to an unexpected call the Editor could not attend and the meeting was called off at the last moment. However, it will be held at 8 o'clock next Sunday night, November 25th, in the Trades' Hall.

The purpose of last Sunday's meeting was to distribute the tickets for the Xmas Draw which is being held for the benefit of all prisoners in need, whether in prison or released. The Draw has been initiated by the League which has thus assumed the leadership in this particular field of activities. It must be made a brilliant success, first because of its purpose, and second because the honour of the League is bound up in its success or failure. At next Sunday's meeting two books of tickets will be given to each member who has not received any up to date. In the meanwhile, if there is any member who desires to help the good cause along by selling tickets, he can receive all he requires by calling at 17 Gardiner's Place, or if he cannot call he can drop us a postcard and the tickets will be sent to him or her by return post.

The League is expected to sell 1,000 books of tickets, which will mean £200 towards the total sum in aid of the prisoners. Let's buckle down to the task.

Although we find it impossible to give all the attention that we would like to League affairs, the organisation is growing exceedingly fast. In another year we expect it will be a dominant force in Irish life. At the present moment we are greatly handicapped for help. We have more work than hands. Would it be too much to ask the Committee to meet and apportion the week nights out to different members who will attend here and offer their services, and help when needed.

There is another matter we wish to mention. Will all members set to work and enroll new members, both in the League and as subscribers to this paper. The paper is the official organ of the League and every member should be a subscriber to it.

It is not guns, but thoughts which will in the end lead the world. Sooner or later intelligent force gets the better of brute force.—(Anatole France.)

"AN Injury to one is the concern of All."

IRISH WORKER

EDITED BY JIM LARKIN.

THE IRISH WORKER will be published weekly—price One Penny—and may be had of any newsagent or newsboy. Ask for it, and see that you get it.

All communications, whether relating to literary or business matters, to be addressed to the Editor, 17 Gardiner's Place, Dublin.

Tel. No.—Dublin 5439.

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We do not publish or waste time on anonymous contributions.

We are not responsible for views or opinions expressed in Special Articles.

ALLEN, LARKIN AND O'BRIEN.

"This morning at eight o'clock the three condemned men, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien, were executed in front of Salford Jail."

The above notification appeared in all the English papers on Saturday morning, November 23rd, 1867. The British Empire's might and power had been challenged by a few heroic souls. Her system of misgovernment had been exposed. The machinery of government had been flouted within the citadel of power; a few men had dared to call a halt to her nefarious work. These few men, Fenians in name, spirit and determination had dared to stop her Majesty's prison van in the open streets of her industrial capital, Manchester, and demand the release of two men, Kelly and Deasy, who were being taken to a place of internment. Their demand they enforced. They released their imprisoned comrades. In the doing of this act a man, a servant of the British Empire, lost his life. No one regretted the death of this poor agent of British misrule and tyranny more than the men charged to release their comrades. The Empire realised the challenge had to be met, and the Empire knows only one way to answer such a challenge—Revenge; Blood-lust must be satisfied. Some one has said that the Englishman when suffering from ennui sums up the situation in a phrase: "Let's go out and kill something." The creatures who were then charged with the government of the Empire, faced with the issue, said: "Let us kill someone in satisfaction of our hate and as a warning to others not to dare to challenge the might of the Empire. The fools believed, like their prototypes governing this country to-day, that force and terroristic methods would deter real men from determining their future. The Administration of the Empire of that day, wiser in their generation or maybe more keen to understand, carried out the legal forms. Our satraps here in Ireland have not the sense-values to even observe the forms of government. There was a trial in Manchester, a legal mockery, admitted, but a trial nevertheless in spite of a handpicked judge and a suborned jury.

The verdict, arranged beforehand, was duly arrived at. The five men arraigned were found guilty and sentenced to death. Two were subsequently reprieved. Seven witnesses on oath had sworn that they saw Thomas Maguire, private in the Royal Marines, participate in the smashing of the van. Their perjury was so apparent that even the British Government hesitated, and Maguire was reprieved.

Edward O'Meagher Condon, a naturalised American citizen, who was convicted under the name of Shore, was later reprieved; but "three must hang on the scaffold high" for the smashing of the prison van.

William Philip Allen, Michael Larkin and

Michael O'Brien were offered up as a sacrifice on the altar of British Imperialism; a sacrifice to race hatred; a sacrifice to British Blood Lust. That the witnesses were perjured was proved by the release of Thomas Maguire. The evidence given by these suborned witnesses was sufficient to hang three men, whose names will live forever in the hearts and minds of every true Gael.

The witnesses, the jury and Judge Mellor are with the dust; their names forgotten. The Government responsible for this judicial murder are forgotten. Their crime will be remembered, because of their victims.

The sacrifice offered up on the blood-stained altar of British Imperialism will remind us of our duty, our purpose and its fulfilment.

Allen, Larkin and O'Brien died that this nation might live. They died for a nation one and indivisible. They died for their Republican principles. They died for liberty full and complete. They died as a protest against the tyranny and oppression of the British Empire. They died in the same purpose and for the same ideals that the latest victims of the Empire's hate died for—with this difference. The Empire in 1867 observed the legal forms. The servants of the Empire who function in this area do not bother about forms. They believe "the end justifies the means." When Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Joe McKelvey and Dick Barrett were executed the administrators of Justice (?) in this portion of the Empire, wasted no time in judicial proceedings. The Empire's power had been challenged so "four must die for that unforgivable offence."

It was a cold November morning in 1867 when Allen, Larkin and O'Brien were hanged as a warning to all who would challenge the might of the British Empire; and the Empire has paid for that judicial crime, though the end is not yet.

It was a dark December morning in 1922 when four were shot to death in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin, for revenge and as a warning to all who would challenge the might of the British Empire. "They will be remembered forever." Their work in life, their sacrifice in death will be an inspiration in the same manner and to the same purpose as that of their comrades who were hanged in the presence of a howling, frenzied mob of British Imperialists in Manchester on that cold November morning of 1867.

"On the Cause must go, in joy or weal or woe,
Until we make the Isle a Nation Free and Grand."

Allen, Larkin and O'Brien did not die for the Empire.

They died for a Free Ireland, not a Free State. They died for a Nation free and indivisible, not for a Free State and a partitioned Ireland. They died confirmed in their Republican faith, as Republicans. They died for Liberty of Expression, Liberty of Speech, and Liberty of Press. They died with a protest in their hearts and on their lips against the British Empire. So, too, died the four unconquerable souls, Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Joseph McKelvey, and Richard Barrett.

Fenians all. One in purpose. One in life. One in death.

"Sons of our land, let this of you be said,
That you who live are worthy of your dead.

These gave their lives that you who live may reap

A nobler harvest, ere you fall asleep."

HOW MUCH ?

It is stated on official authority that the Shipowners (British and Irish) made a profit of £270,000,000 during the first two years of the War, 1914-1916. How much from 1916 to 1918 ?

IRISH REBELS AND ENGLISH MOBS.

By JAMES CONNOLLY.

Sunday, November 23rd, will be the forty-sixth anniversary of the execution in Manchester of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien.

On the night before these, our brothers were hanged, a howling mob of the scum of that English city held orgy around the prison walls and made night hideous, as well as profaned the last hours of The Three by the singing of indecent songs and the shouting of blasphemous insults at the faith of the Irish rebels who had dared to outrage the majesty of England. To that English mob the words "Irish Rebel" summed up everything hateful and odious. At these words their worst passions were aroused, and in their fury they behaved as only savages can behave when a gallant foe is stricken down. To work their passions up to that point the English Press exhausted every effort, and tapped every reservoir of vitriolic denunciation and callous slander. The English public responded to the call of the prostitutes of the press with but few exceptions; one of these few, Ernest Jones, the great Chartist took up the thankless task of defending the Irishmen, and thus completed a round of devotion to the cause of Ireland begun in the stormy days of the Young Irishmen.

But to the vast multitude—as to that howling mob, desecrating the last hours of brave men by their ribald insults and loud-mouthed indecency—the name of Irish Rebel was like a red flag to a bull, *Forty-six years ago*.

Forty-six years after that outrage a gathering of the democracy of Manchester met together, a few hundred yards away from the spot on which stood Salford Jail. This gathering was at least three times as large as that other mob of historic ill-fame. It was composed, not of the degraded slum population, but of intelligent, educated, self-respecting men and women—the flower of the Manchester working class.

Again, the centre of attraction was the presence of Irish Rebels. But this gathering of Manchester democracy roared out to these Irish rebels of our day a welcome and a promise—a welcome to them because they had dared and suffered for democracy; a promise to do likewise if the word was only given. To this latter day gathering to be an Irish working class rebel—standing for all and more than the immortal three had stood for—was to possess a passport to their admiration and esteem. So much bad education had accomplished so much and so far had the toilers of England progressed towards a realisation of their true position—realising at last that they are not citizens, but helots and slaves of the Empire.

Are we saying too much when we say that this welcome accorded last Sunday to Larkin and to Connolly at these magnificent gatherings of over 25,000 people went far to wipe out the evil memories of the past, and to make it more possible for the two democracies to understand each other—and understanding, to co-operate together in the march of their own class emancipation ?

Of Sunday there will be a procession through the streets of Dublin to commemorate that martyrdom. We trust that every member of the Transport Union and its sister organisation, the Irish Women Workers' Union, will be in their allotted places in that procession. No excuse can be taken for absence. There are bodies allotted places in that procession whose every public act is a negation of what the Fenians stood for, but no murmur should be allowed against the desecration of their presence. At other times and at other places that question must be raised. But upon that day let our protest be that reproach of our silence in their presence.

It is our duty to show the world that neither the friendship of the English nor their hatred can turn the Irish democracy from their resolve to win for their country

her right to be a free and independent Nation enjoying a true Republican freedom. The architects of that freedom will and must be the Irish working class. Ours is the last to prepare them. While that preparation is going forward we must take our place in every good and wise movement for the upholding of the highest ideals born of the age-long struggle of our people.

We reprint the above article from the "Irish Worker" of the year 1913. We wonder what explanation "the Perfect Statesman" and his job-seeking satellites have to offer in regard to the last two paragraphs. This is where Connolly stood, where do these creatures of to-day stand?

ANOTHER TRANSPORT UNION SCANDAL

We print below the report of a case heard in the Chancery Court, Dublin. The man Maher, it is stated, was secretary of the Thomastown, Kells, Branch of the I.T. & G.W.U. According to the statement made by Mr. Maguire, B.L., on behalf of the (Injunctive) Executive, Maher had made no accounting of funds collected by the Thomastown Branch for the period of five years. We appear in the prosecution without our knowledge. Looking through the (audited) Annual Report we find Thomastown Branch paid to H.O. in 1918 £29 8s. 6d.; 1919, £68 12s. 8d., and received from H.O. £9; 1920, remitted £71 5s. 10d. If this man Maher made no accounting for five years how is it these several items appear in the Audited Statement of Accounts.

We are sure Mr. Donald O'Connor, Chartered Accountant, of 13 Westmoreland Street, would not sign his name to an incorrect balance sheet or an annual financial statement of accounts, or annual report submitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, Mr. O'Connor Miley, and printed and published for sale. What we would like to know—How did Mr. Alderman O'Brien, General Treasurer at a salary of £420 a year, allow this man Maher to get away with this kind of trifling? We will appear at the next hearing of this case and put our position clear.

In the Chancery Division before the Master of the Rolls in the case of Foran and others v. Maher.

Mr. M. C. Maguire (instructed by Messrs. James O'Connor & Co.) applied on behalf of the plaintiffs, Thomas Foran, William O'Brien, James Larkin, Daniel Clancy, Michael Duffy, Patrick Gaffney, Michael Hill, Thomas Kennedy, Michael McCarthy, Thomas Ryan, and Patrick Stafford, trustees of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, for an order for judgment against the defendant, Edward Maher, of Low Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Secretary of the Thomastown Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, in the action, which was brought to have an account taken of all monies, the property of the plaintiffs, received by the defendant as Secretary and agent of the plaintiffs and for an Order for Payment of the amount received by the defendant as shown by the accounts when taken.

The defendant, Mr. Maguire stated, was Secretary of the Branch of the Union mentioned for a period of about five years, from 20th August, 1918, till 30th May, 1923. During that period the defendant had given no account whatever of the monies received by him, and never paid any of them to the plaintiffs. There was no appearance entered by defendant. The defendant had the books and documents of the Union in his possession, and the plaintiffs asked for an order directing that they should be handed over to them.

The Master of the Rolls said he would make the order for the account as sought, stating that an application could afterwards be made for an order as to the handing over of the books and documents.

TO OUR READERS.

We are reluctantly compelled to raise the price of your paper to twopence a week. Cost of printing, distribution and other incidental expenses is our only apology. We believe in a penny paper. We hope to see such conditions in the near future that it will be possible to sell this paper for one penny. We find that hundreds of copies of the paper dispatched to our subscribers and to retailers never reach their destination, and the military take such a deep interest in the subject matter appearing in our columns that they feel compelled to take all the copies they can seize to their rest houses, to peruse them at their leisure—and our loss. For instance—in the City of Sligo they took some twelve dozen copies and after many days decided to return them, and in their big generous way did not ask for their expenses. These incidents lend savour to our otherwise monotonous life—but they cost money; and we candidly confess that we prefer that our readers, military and civilian, should pay for their reading. In fact we have the audacity to think we give the real dope. And if our comrades want to find the real solution for their troubles on the strength or after demobilization, we have the goods. Our specific will cure all their economic ills. If a country is worth fighting for it ought to provide a decent living for every man, woman and child within its borders, and that without killing anybody or depriving anybody of their liberty.

Will our comrades in arms take note—we are using intellectual bombs, all others being illegal. We can tell you how to get a job, how to hold a job, how to get wages for the job, and without going to the so-called Labour Exchanges or the scab recruiting exchanges, and a job where you will not need to chloroform your conscience, a man's job, a union man's job. This is the paper that spills that kind of dope. Strange medicine in this wrathful country, but the patients will have to take it—nauseous, but good for the system. The truth and it will cost you twopence a week until further notice.

WORKERS' PEACE DEMONSTRATION.

A LEAD FOR IRELAND.

On Sunday, Nov. 11th, a gigantic peace demonstration was held throughout the whole of France. It was organised by the French General Confederation of Labour. Mass meetings were held all over the country to protest against war and militarism in general. The French workers considered that this was the best way to celebrate Armistice Day, and we also consider it a fitter way than singing God Save the King in College Green, or making speeches at Killester.

BALLYBOUGH HOUSING SCANDAL.

The room is stifling, reeking with the combined smells of humans, oil stove and foul air, in spite of the all too-sufficient draught which whistles through the broken pane in the window. That window must have a rebellious tinge in its make-up. It won't open in spite of the utmost persuasion of a chisel, a hammer and a pair of hefty arms. Oh no, it won't open, but it shakes the panes of glass out quick enough in case the room might get too hot. It is a very considerate window. It believes in plenty of fresh air and rain for the poor shivering humans who exist in the room. It is also a very dilapidated looking window. It doesn't quite fit into the sash, so someone very kindly covered its nakedness and incidentally excluded the draught, by the simple expedient of tacking some dirty canvas over the opening. Also there are a few, only a few, panes of glass broken. A sack has proved its usefulness in this case.

This window isn't the least bit ashamed of its appearance. Oh, no! It has plenty of company quite comparable to itself. The ceiling wouldn't be the least bit insulted if you were to treat it to a new suit of white-wash, or even if you intruded still more on its private feelings by applying some cement to the patch over the window. It's a very dirty looking patch. You'd imagine the ceiling had a black eye. Well! If you were to watch it closely some days, you'd really think it was an eye, because it weeps. Yes, really and truly weeps. Great big baby tears drip down its face and sometime when Mr. Ceiling is very sorrowful, those terrible tears drip on to the meal table whilst the family is taking turns at devouring the appetizing results of juggling with the oil stove. But even if the tears drip on to the food, they do no harm, they only help to smother the taste of the oil which, however useful it may be, has a bad habit of grabbing more space than its legal due, following the example of a certain nation whose name begins with a capital E.

Its a hard squeeze sometimes to get to the table, because you've got to manoeuvre between two beds, a wash-stand, a few chairs and the table itself, on a floor which only encloses 100 square feet (if 10 x 10 makes 100). And then all the time you must be very careful not to touch the walls, because they're in a very delicate state of health. The one at the head of the bed has got quite a big crack in its bay-window.

The "Evening Mail," a respectable, useful journal of public opinion, moryah! has been utilised to serve as a plaster for the dilapidated wall structure.

The three other walls are jealous of this one because they've only got small cracks, stuffed with rags, not being sufficiently high in Society to deserve an "Evening Mail."

If some philanthropic person, like Lord Iveagh or Tim Healy, would only supply one of these walls with a fireplace, there would be quite a change in that part of select society. Not only would it raise the proud owner of the fireplace to the peerage (of walls), but the social tone of the whole room would be raised to a place in society equal to, if not above, any other room in Ballybough.

But alas, such cannot be. If the fireplace was installed one of the beds would have to find another home, and these human beings severely object to sleeping on the floor.

Oh, Hell! Let's stop this fool-acting and get down to facts, concrete facts.

Edward Dowling lives in the room described above. The room in question is situated in the house known as No. 2 King Edward Terrace, Ballybough Road. He is married and has three children, the eldest, a girl, being 16, the next 13, and the youngest 12. For the use of this room he pays 10/- weekly, with the use of the kitchen thrown in (sometimes).

FREE STATE TOADYING TO EMPLOYERS

We reprint the following article from the Glasgow "Forward." It is an interesting commentary upon conditions in Ulster incident to the Treaty of 1921, and to the programme of "Divide and Conquer" carried out so faithfully since.

Belfast Municipal Elections.

Mr. Cosgrave and his Ministers have won no laurels in rushing his military and police to the Dublin Docks to break the strike of the workers of Dublin at the command of the Employers and Cattle Salesmen. He and they are now the laugh not only of Dublin, but the laugh of the country. The dockers, as anticipated, were not forced back by intimidation and military fire-play to work at reduced wages. On the contrary, by a course of brilliant tactics they have taught the employers a lesson they are not likely to forget, and have brought it convincingly home to Mr. Cosgrave that the exercise of brute force is not likely to prove a valuable intermediary in strike troubles. The employers made elaborate arrangements following what they considered the strike break by the military for the men's return next day to work. The men did return. The employers, the cattle salesmen, the Government sent up paens of jubilation, as did especially the Capitalist Press. The dockers of Dublin were broken and tamed, and had to submit, etc. Four months of struggle and sacrifice had gone for nothing. The men had to return at a reduced wage. That was the victory. Nothing else mattered.

But it was a pyrrhic victory. The workers did not return next morning. They did not return during the day. They did not return during the week. Some returned by arrangement. Others remained out. Those that returned could not work without those that remained out. Sailings were cancelled. The docks, in the words of the Capitalist Press, presented "a Sunday appearance." Sabbath peace and silent cranes. Not a vessel was loaded or unloaded.

Whatever may be the outcome of this great struggle, if men ever earned victory the Dublin dockers have earned it, and, at the time of writing it is theirs. It is the employers now who are begging the men to return, and Mr. Cosgrave is so very small that he so readily lent the military and the police to do the dirty work expected on the quays from them.

Teachers Victimised.

The National School Teachers of Ireland, some 10,000 men and women, like the dockers, have come under the unfriendly notice of Mr. Cosgrave and his Ministers, and are the next to be sacrificed. In their case, too, it may yet be necessary before the teachers are beaten to call out the military and police. For forty years the teachers of Ireland conducted a battle for a living wage with the authorities. During the occupation of the country by the British, Cosgrave and his party in those days were the most loud-mouthed about the grievances of teachers, who, it was very properly stated, were not paid enough to keep body and soul together. The teachers—not as a body, but as individuals—were among the most active promoters and workers in the movement that made Mr. Cosgrave President of the Free State, and such an outstanding Irishman as Desmond Fitzgerald, Minister for External Affairs and Representative to the League of Nations, a job in which money is no object. Finally the teachers won in their agitation with the British, and succeeded in obtaining an adequate salary arrangement. Now, without as much as by your leave, the Free State comes along and docks 2/- off every pound from the salaries of the teachers, and with the intimation that the "cut" is not even to stop at that. Well, the Free State has not quite done with the teachers yet.

And the Poor Old People.

But the teachers are not the only victims. The aged poor have also excited unsympathetic notice. These most helpless of God's creatures, and most needy of the people, are also to be victimised. The old men and the old women are in future to have 1/- a week docked from their pittance. First the dockers, then the teachers, then the poor old people. Why is it done? To toady to the employers and the other wealthy classes. These have been demanding economies and reduced taxation, and these are the "economies."

Belfast Contests.

The Belfast Labour Party decided, at their last meeting, to contest all the City Wards at the Municipal Elections in January. Despite Craig's jerry-mandering of the constituencies, if the workers stick close as glue to one another they should win a majority of seats on the Municipal Council. Then they will find they have a very filthy Augean stable to clean out. Because the Labour Party had not the strength, unity, and organisation it has now, and because Craig abolished Municipal proportional representation, Labour did not contest the elections last year. The Craigites had, therefore, a walk-over, and the fingering of the city purse. How have they profited by their opportunity. It is not workers who indict them. According to the "Northern Whig" the Capitalist paper owned by Cunningham—the stockbroker, property trafficker, and director of many companies—edited by one Lynn, who does three jobs: one as M.P. in the English Parliament, another as M.P. in the "Northern Parliament, a third as Editor of the "Whig," the Corporation of Belfast is a veritable Lazarus house full of corruption and jobbery and bribery. The Capitalist Whig wants the Corporation disbanded, and the city affairs placed in the hands of two of three paid commissioners—it does not say who it has in the newspaper eye for these lucrative jobs. What has apparently itched the Whig is the filling up of two good jobs in the Tramways and Legal Departments which did not go as the Whig would wish them. There's a lot more underneath which has yet to rise to the surface. The Whig does not shout for the destruction of the Corporation for such a comparatively trifling matter in Belfast Municipal politics as the perpetuation of two jobs.

The Belfast Tenement.

Here is a specimen of the Belfast tenement. "In Carlisle Terrace one house shelters 43 occupants. No family occupied two rooms: each family was confined to a single room. For the whole house there was one lavatory. There was one water-tap to supply all these people. There was no bin or ashpit accommodation. The people had to keep the refuse underneath the bed, which was situated in a room serving as bedroom, sitting-room and kitchen. At night time, when it was dark, they had to steal out like thieves and dispose of that refuse down an adjoining entry, watching that the police or Corporation officials did not catch them." That fever-breeding death-trap is bringing in the owner £270 a year!

Now for a specimen of the working class house. There are 80,000 of them in the city. Families of seven to thirteen were living not in one house but in a parlour. Families of seven to eighteen were living in a kitchen house (two rooms and kitchen).

And listen to this from the report of the Tenants' Protection Association: "They had proved conclusively not only were some of the worst slums in any country in the city of Belfast, but unfortunately they were owned by members of the Corporation."

The Labour Program.

The Labour program for the elections will make the hard-boiled reactionaries of

the Corporation stare. It should afford a splendid rallying purpose to the workers of Belfast, if only they can be rallied and be made to feel there is hope for the burden of their grievances. Labour demands, in the first instance, that the Corporation acquire Parliamentary power to enable them by means of schemes of Direct Labour to organise the production of building materials. This is essential in Dublin as well as Belfast, but is particularly needed in Belfast, where the Building Ring have operated practically without challenge and made it impossible to erect houses owing to the cost of materials at a price that the Belfast workman can afford to pay. The professional builders will also be badly slapped by this useful piece of legislation. They have attempted to hold up the provision of house accommodation in the city for any class, and have very largely succeeded until the Act restricting rents is appealed. With the Corporation turning out building materials, operating the organised trades for building, and providing by compulsory acquisition cheap sites, a little revolution in Belfast housing will be accomplished.

Another strong plank in the Labour program will be Municipal Trading concentrating on the sale of coal, milk, food supplies and the development of the local markets, so that the working man's wife, when she has anything to purchase, will get value for her outlay.

It now depends on Labour in January whether these things will be done for the workers. Nominations for Municipal candidates have been invited from all the affiliated Societies, and the Labour Party, in addition, will run direct candidates.

BUSINESS METHODS! AH, AH!

What would our readers think if, say, a company functioning in Dublin and County as a business concern, experienced the following:—The Branch in Bray, secretary takes the funds; secretary in Dun Laoghaire does likewise; secretary in Swords does ditto, and opens up a business in same town; secretary in Finglas does ditto; shop steward in a Chemical Works takes all the contributions paid him by members and dares the officials of the firm to prosecute him; shop steward in large publishing house does ditto; shop steward in largest Tobacco Factory in City does ditto; shop steward in Building Scheme not only takes contributions but strike levies amounting to 5/6 per week from each member, and one of the Executive of the firm is a close friend of this thief—no prosecution; assistant to the secretary of another branch takes all available cash, joins the Army, is prosecuted, gets suspended sentence, goes back to Army; another clerk in the same branch takes all he can lay his hands on and no prosecution. 22% of all contributions stolen in one year—and still business done by the old gang—at the same old stand!

THE LANE COLLECTION: A FORGOTTEN PHASE.

Nine shipowners and merchants within the port of Cardiff, Wales, in one day subscribed £80,000 for a new School of Science connected with the University of South Wales.

The shipowners and merchants of Dublin would not subscribe 60 pence to any educational work in Dublin. Our readers will remember how William Martin Murphy and his associates killed the proposed Art Gallery and refused Sir Hugh Lane's generous gift, because it would have added one penny in the pound to the rates of the City.

WANTED A HANGMAN.

We see by the papers that Mr. Lorcan Sherlock, Sub-Sheriff, is inundated with applications for the job of Hangman. We know now why William is seeking a Senator's job.

IRELAND AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

II.—ENGLAND.

"Oh England
What might'st thou do that honour would
thee do
Were all thy children kind and natural!"—
Shakespeare's Henry V.

Economic Evolution.—England was one of the first countries in the world wherein the rule of the money controllers or capitalists superseded that of the military leaders, styled the King and his Lords. In the course of time a trading middle class had risen to prosperity in the towns, and whilst, during the 15th century, the barons were engaged in mutually destructive civil wars, the burgesses, by tactful use of their economic power, grew in importance. The Tudor monarchs of the 16th century allied themselves with the middle class in an endeavour to render the Kingship independent of the military chiefs, hitherto the rivals of the Royalty. The King had formerly depended on his over-mighty subjects for (1) soldiers; (2) co-operation in the raising of taxes, and hence was the chief reason for his toleration and need of Parliament, then the preserve of the aristocracy, clerical and lay, with a small opposition of burgesses in the inferior house. The burgesses now advanced him money, provided him with taxable enterprises and in turn were encouraged to enter the Public Service, and to undertake the establishment of Imperial Colonies. The military power of the nobility was correspondingly decreased, and their majesties dictated to Parliament or failed to summon it! This process, coupled with the rise of banking, led to the accumulation of wealth in the hands of master craftsmen and merchant traders. Seeking to augment their power they set out to found the Empire, and in this they were heartily supported by the Monarchy, which, apart from the reasons given, desired the silver of America and crown lands in Ireland.

So Capitalism sought and won economic power. The fascinating story of the struggles between King, Nobility and Bourgeoisie must be omitted solely for lack of space. Suffice it to say that it ends with the Bourgeoisie not only the principal power in the realm of production and distribution, but also in politics, i.e., in the State. Because the process was gradual and because of the noted cleavage between the aristocracy and the king, which permitted the bourgeoisie to rise without subverting the constitution, the form of the State was not radically altered. The king remained, bereft of power, and the House of Lords is permeated with bourgeois peers who act as a check on the aristocracy of the land. In any event, the House of Lords can now be overridden by the Commons. The aristocracy themselves are usually company directors and bankers.

As explained in former articles—vide issues 27/10/23 and 17/11/23—the State Legislature and Administration are dominated by the representatives of the Master Class.

Present state of Economic Life.—An overwhelming majority of the working-class is employed in manufacturing, transport and commercial industry rather than in agriculture. From a wheat exporter at the time of the Baronial Wars described, England has become a great wheat importer. It was calculated in 1914 that but for the importation of food, the English people would be without supplies within six weeks. Manifest causes, all traceable to the decay of feudalism, contributed to the inauguration of the change in the agricultural position, but the great Industrial Revolution of the later 18th and early 19th centuries completed it very rapidly by attracting the rural workers away from their uneconomic holdings, rapacious farm masters and rack-renting landlords to the new towns. To-day private ownership of land with its high rents and lack of co-

operation amongst the farmers, chiefly makes it cheaper to import from progressive, co-operative Denmark, or the huge, scientifically-managed farms of Canada. Moreover, Imperial policy purposely designed Ireland as a food base for England's urban proletariat. Ireland and U.S.A. are England's principal sources of food supply. Before the war raw material and foods, with other commodities, were imported; manufactured articles, coal and finished metal composed the bulk of a proportionately less export trade. The balance was covered by shipping charges, England being then the world's chief carrier.

In 1923 her shipping has taken second place to that of the U.S.A., which State seized the war advantage and was preparing even in 1918 to step into the shoes of Albion. This, despite the fact that a number of former enemy vessels were handed to England in 1919 and thereabouts as compensation for the huge tonnage sunk by the German Navy, and in order to complete the ruin of German commerce.

English industrialists discover that exports have dwindled because many of the old customers are ruined by the war. Germany, Austria and the new states are compelled through currency depreciations to rely on home industries. The desire to break the Soviets has largely removed the market of Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. The National Debt towers gloomily over finance.

On the other hand the English governing class secured **one million** additional square miles for its Empire. Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine, East and West Africa were all occupied during the war itself, to forestall "our gallant Allies." In Mesopotamia, inter alia, there is much oil, and the exploitation of this is divided between the Anglo-Persian, Burmah, Royal, Shell, Dutch and French Coys., in which last English financiers have large holdings. The English capitalists are using Mesopotamia as their trump card in the oil war against the U.S.A., but the U.S.A. has secured a footing in the Turkish State through the recent Lausanne Conference, whereat Kemal Pasha, supported by the Soviet Union and the alliance with American concessionaires, very cleverly and boldly snapped his fingers at Lord Curzon.

The occupation of Mesopotamia to December, 1922, had cost the English taxpayer £138 millions.

Egypt is to be used because of its geographical position in regard to India, and for the cotton-growing potentialities of the Sudan. The "Egyptian" Government is supporting the Sudan Syndicate, of which Brig-Gen. Asquith, son of the Liberal leader, is director, with shareholders including Lord Derby and Mrs. Asquith's brother. In 1922 the Syndicate paid 35%.

Besides possessions of exploitable value, the Empire secured naval bases and positions of strategic importance for the next war.

Whilst trade is slack in England, the bourgeoisie intend to live on the backs of His Majesty's new subjects, lately delivered from the intolerable yoke of Prussianism.

Prices rose in England because of war inflation of currency and of scarcity of some goods. The onslaught on Russia, and economic boycott—carried out to please Messrs. Vickers, Lady Rhonnda, Barclay's Bank, Lloyd's, Sir E. Geddes, Austin Chamberlain and the numerous other financiers and industrialists who lost their power to extract dividends and interest from the Russian people when the masses rose in 1917 and assumed ownership of their country—that diabolical attack on the Soviets prevented Russian grain and timber from reaching England and materially aided the rise in food and housing costs.

Trade with Central Europe is no more because of the power in the Government, Parliament and Press of those who have money lent to the French Government or invested in France, and who resist that other

section which now hopes to end the Reparations farce! Of that, more anon.

The Government has been vainly endeavouring to promote Empire trade in the endeavour to reconstruct industry. Some capitalists are crying for Protection, i.e., taxing of imports and virtual monopoly in home markets for native exploiters, whilst others, seeing perhaps actual loss or at least no advantage to themselves through dearth of accessories or materials, stand for Free Trade. It is all according to the basis of their industries and the relative importance of competition from abroad.

The English Working Class.—Meanwhile the workers pay the price of Empire. Cotton operatives in Lancashire are unemployed because cotton can be spun in Egypt or India by labourers subsisting on rice and loin cloths. Dislocation of industry due to the War is another factor. Finally, the phenomenon of over-production. At the close of the war small wage reductions began, thanks to the surplus army of labour provided by the discharged ex-servicemen seeking employment. At the same time was raised the cry of "More Production," meaning that prices were to fall as more was made. Clynes and other Trade Union Leaders echoed this slogan of the employers and allowed their speeches, accompanied by portraits, to be printed and displayed! Although production recovered, purchasing power was not proportionately distributed and in consequence less was bought, the demand fell and more workers were discharged. The Federation of British Industries organised the attack carefully. First of all, unemployment was allowed to grow, and then the lesser unions were informed of wage reductions.

These are the numbers of unemployed in Britain and Northern Ireland registered at Labour Exchanges:—

December 1919—550,000.	Period of "More
December 1920—748,000.	Production.
December 1921—1,886,000.	Period of
December 1922—1,408,000.	"Bosses
	Attacks"
November 1923—1,244,000.	Beginning
	of Workers' Revolt.

N.B.—At present unemployment in Britain is proportionately 20% greater than in Ireland.

Many Union Leaders had become tools of masters and their supine attitude assisted reaction. Finally the "Triple Alliance" the alliance of the N.U.R., Transport Workers and Miners' Federation, was itself menaced. Ignoring the forward spirit of most of the men, the officials permitted each separate Union to be fought and beaten.

On the other hand the political Labour Party has made headway, thanks to the awakening desires of the masses. Its Parliamentary Representation rose from 40 to 60, and then to 150 between the years 1914, 1918, 1922. Probably it will reach 210 or even 230 next month. Its policy is vacillating and weak and has become increasingly so since 1918. Its leaders to-day are academically Socialists, but in action are inconsistent with their principles. Capitalists are to be compensated when displaced. The King is to remain, and so forth, and veneration of Parliamentary institutions is required from Communists before they can become Allies of Messrs. MacDonald and Hodges. Strikes are discouraged, and Russian Bolshevism denounced. Frequently the misleaders of the Party dine at Buckingham Palace, or with Lady Astor, and recently the leader of H. M. Opposition, Mr. MacDonald—the handsomest man in the House—as the newspapers aver—proclaimed himself as completely overcome at the thought of what the country lost when Mr. Bonar Law went to answer for his conduct as a company director, ironmaster, defender of Irish landlord tyranny, and member of the Cabinet that planned the chaos of Europe whilst the Versailles Treaty was being engineered!

Small wonder then that the Labour

Election Manifesto speaks of "Labour Market," "machinery to regulate agricultural wages," "credit and insurance for farmers," and "League of Nations," whilst refusing to denounce the humbug of "Reparations." It advocates the Capital Levy to reduce War Debt, arguing from the point of view of capitalist finance, and refers vaguely to a Co-operative Commonwealth as the objective. The last declaration takes the form of a pious hope, and care is taken to avoid informing the owning class that their function in production would become superfluous and that they would have to quit! As regards Ireland, we need only know that Mr. J. R. MacDonald invoked God's blessing on the alleged treaty and that every Labour M.P. but one voted for its Ratification!

Within the Labour Party is the Independent Socialist Party, begun as a Socialist propaganda and political body by Keir Hardy and other staunch socialists a generation ago. This party is controlled by the compromising element. At its summer school this year Major Atlee carried a debated land scheme embodying the usual impossible and unsocialistic proposal that industry be acquired by the Government by compensating all the parasite class from royalty-owners to landlords!

However, the rank and file of the Party is active and restive. They are beginning to lose faith in leaders who have hitherto lived on their reputations acquired whilst labour was in the wilderness.

The I.L.P. is affiliated to the newly-revived Socialist and Labour Second International. The prominent personnel of that body includes Arthur Henderson—one of Connolly's murderers—and German pseudo-socialists who all swore before the War that they were going to unite the workers of the world and would lead an international strike if and when the Governments began war. When war came they entered their respective war cabinets at high salaries, incited their working classes to go forth and slaughter each other for the good of their masters' pockets, and finally helped to crush genuine social revolutionaries like Connolly and the German Spartacists! This International has again renewed its pledges to the cause of the workers in the Class War.

Vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas!

We shall proceed to a description of the other and more militant workers organisations, of the rally at present commencing, and of the special conditions prevalent in Wales and Scotland next week. Subsequently we shall travel abroad.

EXILE.

THE FLAG.

A piece of cotton rag—
We christened it the flag,
We raised it up in battle as a sign;
It symbolised our love
As it fluttered out above,
That piece of cotton rag tied up with twine.

It was not for its hue,
Green or white, red or blue,
We raised it up above our battle line.
Our wrongs to expiate,
It symbolised our hate,
That piece of cotton rag tied up with twine.

But all the blood we shed
Has died its colour red
And red it flashes now above our line.
Over dead and dying
We swear to keep it flying,
That piece of cotton rag tied up with twine.

CARL P. COLEMAN.

The patient endurance of the poor is due to ignorance of what is theirs by right. I want them to be patient no longer.—(J. Keir Hardie.

BALLYBOUGH HOUSING SCANDAL.

(Continued from Column 3, Page 5)

The room is aptly if jokingly described above. There is no fireplace, the cooking being done on a Primus oil stove. The window is broken, also the ceiling and likewise the walls. The man in question has a complete set of furniture, sufficient to furnish a four-roomed house. In his present circumstances he can only use two beds, a small (very) table, and a wash-stand. There's no room to get anything else in, and even as it is there only remains four square feet of space to move round in, the measurements of the floor being those given above.

Mrs. Dowling is an invalid, and requires to be carried when she needs to move from place to place: Mr. Dowling is also an invalid, being in attendance at Jervis Street Hospital for his foot, which he burned on the oil stove as he was getting out of bed one morning.

Perhaps you are wondering why we are writing this long screel. Well! It is in the hope that some of our well-known citizens, both clerical and lay, who occupy houses with three and four rooms, will, for the sake of public decency if not for the sake of the man's family, allow this unfortunate man to use two of their superfluous rooms, until such time as he is provided with a house by the benevolent Corporation of the City of Dublin. Because, this man does not object so much to the size and price of the room, as he does to the unavoidable indecency that he and his family are forced to live in—When we interviewed him he informed us that "my wife and I are forced to remain in bed until the children are up and dressed before we can get out of bed."

Mr. Dowling was an applicant for a house in one of the Corporation building schemes four years ago. Unfortunately he was forced to go to England in search of work, and while he was away his claim came up for consideration, and he being absent, his house was given to the next applicant. He returned some months ago, and was forced to live in his present abode for lack of better. He applied four months ago for a house. Superintendent Dillon, of the Housing Department, came and seen him. On his last visit he told Dowling that "he had no courage" (referring to the room). We wonder would Mr. Superintendent Dillon exchange his habitation for Dowling's for just one short week.

Dowling recognises that he lost his claim through his unavoidable absence. But he wants to know why his claim couldn't be considered before that of some people with only two in the family, and at present living in quarters sufficient to their needs, even if not sufficient to their dignity (sic). He bases his claim on public decency, apart altogether from the sanitary viewpoint. We also consider it from the viewpoint of decency, and we would urgently request the Housing Department of the Corporation to view it from the same standpoint and not from the financial side.

DEFINITIONS!

The new Interpretation Bill introduced to define words and expressions used in acts of the Oireachtas clears up a lot of the mist of words and ambiguous phrases that have been so loosely used, and with a purpose, during the past year.

The Government now admit we are a constituted part of the Empire. We are now a Dominion, moryah! governed through a Governor—and what a Governor. We have delegates and other important persons representing us common citizens of the Empire, on all Imperial Conferences, Defence Councils, International Bureaus. What more do we want? All's as right as right can be. Stop talking and get on with the work, as our Masters say.

THE REBEL.

I'd rather be in the cold grave,
Asleep in the silent clay,
Than toiling for bread, like a black slave,
In the man and master way.

I'd rather be in the dull earth,
In the flag of a rebel rolled,
Than be a slave of a man of no worth,
And a crawler to get him gold.

I'd rather be in the front rank,
Shot down by the martial mad,
Than follow the flag of a war crank
And kill with his conscript squad.

I want to be clean in my brave youth,
No sinister skunk am I;
I'd rather die for the white truth
Than live for a sordid lie.
F. K. McDOUGALL.

If the workers take a notion they can stop
all speeding trains,
Every ship upon the ocean they can tie with
mighty chains,
Every wheel in the creation, every mine
and every mill,
Fleets and armies of the nation will at their
command stand still.

(Joe Hill.)

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

SPECIAL MEETING.

All Sections, No. 1 Branch, Mansion House, Round Room, 1 o'clock Sunday, Nov. 25. Jim Larkin on development arising out of dispute. All members requested to attend.

IRISH WORKER LEAGUE.

Allen, Larkin and O'Brien Commemoration Meeting in Trades' Hall, Sunday Night, November 25th, at 8 o'clock.

Jim Larkin and other speakers. Subject—"Life, purpose, and sacrifice of the Manchester Martyrs."

VOLUNTARY LEVY.

		14th November, 1923.						
Book No.	Collector	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
B.1	W. Butler	0	12	0	
B.2	J. Byrne	1	15	0	
B.3	Donnelly & Harris— M. Thornton Small sums	...	2	0	0	
		...	1	15	6	3	15	6
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		...	0	10	0	
		...	1	0	0	
		...	0	4	0	
		...	6	11	6	9	3	6
B.7	P. Tobin— P. Brady M. Darcy Small sums	...	1	0	0	
		...	1	0	0	
		...	2	8	6	4	8	6
B.8	J. O'Neill	2	0	6	
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B.12	J. Cunningham— Flood Small sums	...	2	0	0	
		...	5	4	6	7	4	6
B.13	L. Brady	4	14	0
B.15	J. Maguire— Mr. Cole Small sums	...	0	5	0	
		...	1	0	6	1	5	6
B.18	W. Crofts	1	0	0	
B.19	W. Moore	0	17	0	
B.23	J. Cunningham	2	0	0	

All books must be returned by the end of next week.

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