





CORK HILL ECHOES.

We had a special meeting of the City Fathers on Friday of last week to finish the business undisposed of at the monthly meeting the previous Monday.

When this item was reached on the agenda it was most extraordinary to see the number of Councillors that jumped up from their seats to move that the leave be granted, but the modern Napoleon was first in the field, with "Maw Coughlan" a good second; so to Mountjoy Ward belongs the credit for the Town Clerk's leave.

The first thing a reformed Corporation will have to undertake will be the clearing out of the "understrappers" and "vultures" that abound in the Town Clerk's office. It is a positive scandal the number of idle fellows one meets in the precincts of the City Hall, who are well paid for doing nothing.

Now our business takes us by Cork Hill very often, and every time we pass the "Haul" we notice our friend Hand leaning on his "props" on the steps of the Hall.

It is needless to expect reform from the Corporation as at present constituted. With the exception of about a dozen or so, the rest of the members are bound hand and foot to "officialdom."

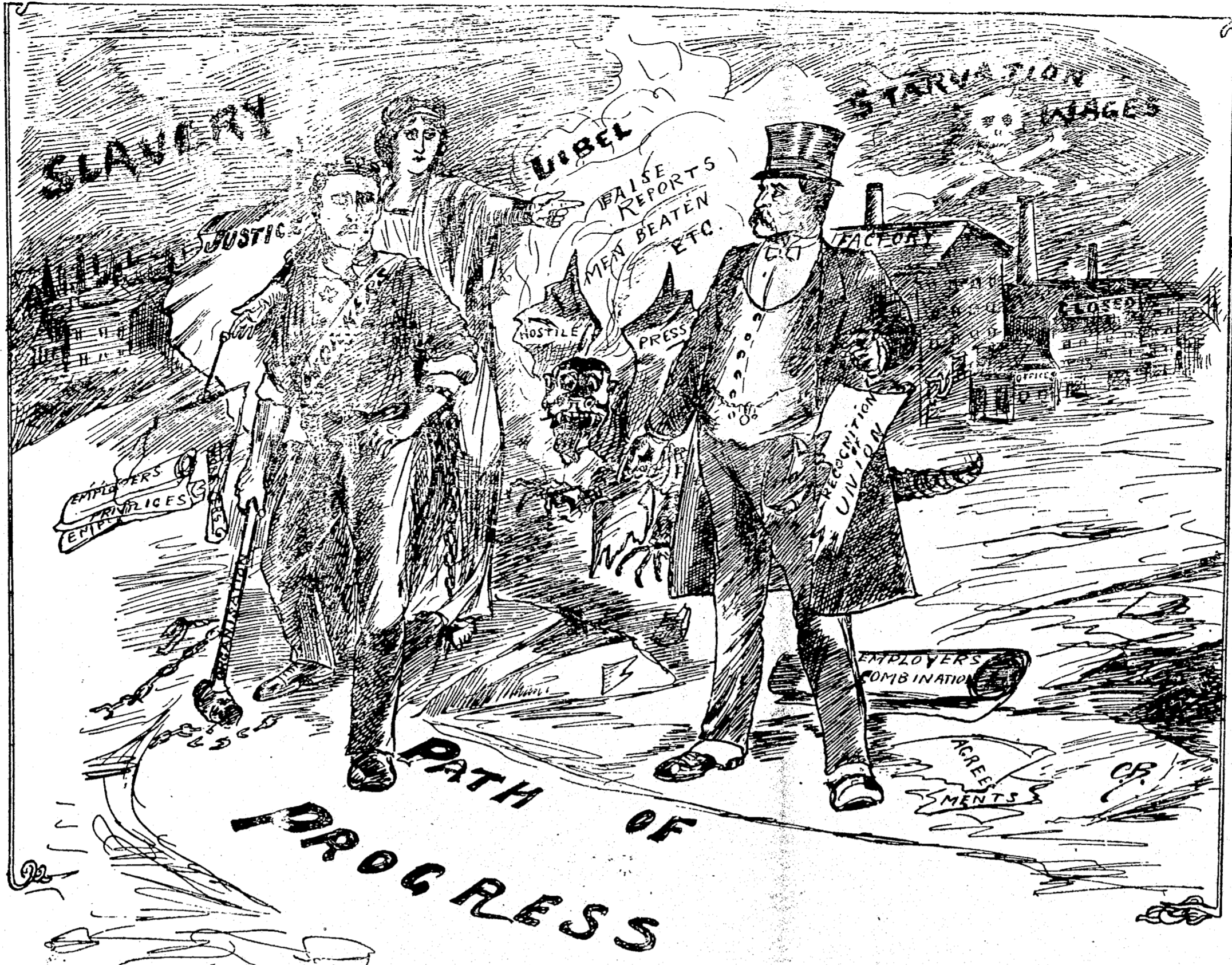
Some time ago a certain speaker at a meeting stated "the Corporation was a Vincent De Paul Society for broken down publicans." A truer statement was never uttered.

Another department which requires the "sweeping broom" is the Rates Department, the comptroller of which is an ex-Lord Mayor, one, Charles Dawson.

Now Mr. Dawson is one of those over-worked officials who are to be found by the dozen round Cork Hill. His chief occupation as far as we can see seems to be walking about the city.

We next pass on to the Public Health Department where Sir Charles Cameron reigns supreme, and where "rat catchers" and "fly catchers" dare not enter.

One would have thought that Sir Charles Cameron would have taken the hint some months ago when he was prevented by the freedom of the city.



Justice to Employer—You as an employer claim the right to combine with others in your own interests, yet you can't understand or don't want to understand your employees doing so in their own interests. They are now on the path of progress and you cannot stop them, thanks to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union.

man. But no, the canny Cameron belongs to the "old school of fossils" known in times gone by as the "ascendancy party," or the "loyal minority." We have no desire to make any personal attack on Sir Charles Cameron, but when an old man like him, who is entitled to a pension, refuses to retire and make room for a younger man, we think the Committee should put in force the compulsory argument, what they are afraid to do at present.

We had intended dealing this week with some officials of the Corporation who occupy "dual positions." When we write of "dual positions" we do not allude to Councillor Sherlock's brother, who occupies two positions, one in the Engineer's Department, and the other in the Waterworks Department—but to certain officials who are engaged in other positions after their Corporation business. We believe in the principle of "one man, one job," especially when the man is well paid for the job, as is the case with Corporation officials.

By the way, a list of the salaries received by the big officials of the Corporation would furnish interesting reading for the readers of THE IRISH WORKER. On a future occasion I may be able to deal with them. It will be interesting to learn that not one of these big officials live within the city boundary, and consequently contribute nothing to the city's upkeep.

Dublin Castle has refused the inquiry into the action of the Police demanded by the Corporation at a recent special meeting, and Lord Mayor Farrell feels glad, we are sure. His Lordship has admitted that it was he who was responsible for bringing the police to the City Hall on the occasion of the special meeting regarding the Address to the King.

Lord Mayor Farrell's action in crawling to Dublin Castle is but "history repeating itself." When the late Mr. Daniel Tallon was elected Lord Mayor of the city he earned the contempt of all nationalists by arranging for the military to be present at his inaugural procession, and so great was the outcry that he was compelled to withdraw the order.

DIRECT ACTION IN BELFAST.

We have just had, and taken, the opportunity in Belfast to put into practice a little of what is known on the Continent of Europe as "Direct Action."

Direct Action consists in ignoring all the legal and parliamentary ways of obtaining redress for the grievances of Labour, and proceeding to rectify these grievances by direct action upon the employer's most susceptible part—his purse.

Direct Action is not liked by lawyers, politicians, or employers. It keeps the two former out of a job, and often leaves the latter out of pocket. But it is useful to Labour, and if not relied upon too exclusively, or used too recklessly, it may yet be made a potent weapon in the armoury of the working class.

The circumstances under which we came to put in practice the newest adaptation of it in Belfast were as follows:—A dock labourer named Keenan was killed at the unloading of a ship owing to a bag being released by one of the carriers the chute it struck Keenan, knocking him to the ground and killing him.

What was our surprise to read in the report of the inquest that the solicitor for the merchant, insinuated that the man was killed because he was a non-union man—that in short he was murdered by the union members! As a matter of fact he had promised to join, and being an old dock labourer had been given a few days grace in which to come up to our offices and make good.

All the papers of Belfast gave prominence to this "Extraordinary Allegation," as one journal called it, and the matter was commented upon freely throughout the city.

After due deliberation, thinking over all the possible means of redress for this foul libel we resolved to take the matter into our own hands, and put a little pressure upon the purses of the man who employed this libeller to slander the Union.

Accordingly at dinner time we told the men employed on the ship in question—the Nile—not to resume work until the merchant repudiated the libel or disclaimed all responsibility therefor. The men stood by loyally, and immediately all the forces of capital and law and order were on the alert.

While we were thus waiting and watching the stevedores of the Nile sent for the merchant, and asked me through one of his foremen to wait on the spot for him. I waited, but whilst I waited one very officious Harbour constable ordered me off the Harbour Estate.

men individually on the Harbour Estate we would take the men off where we could talk to them.

So we gave the word and called off every man in the Law Docks. In ten minutes 600 men responded and left the docks empty.

In ten minutes more a District Superintendent, merchants, managers, detectives, and Harbour underlings generally were rushing frantically up to the Union rooms begging for the men to go back and "everything would be arranged."

Well, everything was arranged within an hour. The offending solicitor, after many hoity-toity protests that "he would not be dictated to by the dockers," climbed gracefully down and drew up a letter to the Press disclaiming any intention to impute evil actions to the Union members, and the letter accordingly appeared in all the Belfast papers.

In addition the Harbour Master assured us that he regretted the action of the constable, which would not be allowed to happen again, and that we would be given full liberty to go anywhere in the docks or ships at all times.

It was all a great object lesson, and has its full effect upon the minds of the Belfast workers. It has taught them that there are other ways than by means of expensive law-suits to vindicate the character and rights of the toilers; and as a result it has given dignity and self-respect to the members of the Union.

We have found it necessary, in order to cope with the needs of our increasing membership, to open new offices for the Ballymacarret side of the city. These offices are at 6 Dalton street, and will be in charge of a Union official between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m. during the week, and from 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Our campaign against the sweating conditions in the Rope Works is now in full swing. Breakfast and dinner hour meetings are being held when the gospel of discontent and wise organisation is preached to the sweated employees of this huge capitalist concern.

On Tuesday, September 11th, we held a most successful joint demonstration with the seamen and firemen, with Father Hopkins as our chief speaker. The magnitude of the meeting surprised and delighted our comrade, and his speech surprised and delighted the vast audience.

Mr. D. R. Campbell, President Belfast Trades Council, was in the chair, and the following resolution was moved by James Connolly, seconded by James Flanagan, supported by Father Hopkins, and passed amid great enthusiasm:—

Resolved—"That in the opinion of this meeting of Belfast workers, the action of Wexford employers in discharging men for joining the Irish Transport Workers' Union was an outrageous attack upon the liberty of the workers; and that we call upon our Wexford brothers to stand firm, and also call upon all trade unionists in Ireland to answer this outrage by boycotting all the bicycles and other products manufactured by the firm in question."

The meeting closed with ringing cheers for Father Hopkins; singing of "He's a jolly good fellow," and cheers for the Transport Workers' Union.—Yours, CONNOLLY.

SOUTH DUBLIN UNION.

A Questionable Report.

PROTESTS BY GUARDIANS.

At a meeting of the South Dublin Union Guardians on Wednesday, Alderman O'Connor, and subsequently Mr. John Scully, J.P., presiding, a report purporting to be signed by the Works Committee was read in reference to a surprise visit paid to the various departments in the house where work was likely to be carried on, and the report concluded that the present staff of permanent tradesmen and tradeswomen was overloaded, and to add another to the list would be the last straw; and what was described as a manoeuvre to get the permanent staff increased should be apparent to everyone.

Mr. Cahill moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Mullett moved its rejection, and said he would like to know who wrote it. Mr. Crimmins pointed out that probably the particulars in the report were obtained when the men were at dinner, and, therefore, not working at the time the report was signed by certain Guardians who were not there at all.

Mr. Cahill—That is not true. Mr. Crimmins—I ask Mr. Fox was he with this Committee? Mr. Fox—I am in sympathy with the report.

Mr. Crimmins—Were you there? Mr. Fox—Not at the time. Mr. Mullett—The report is an attack on the workmen of Dublin.

The Chairman pointed out that while there was a number of names attached to the report Mr. Cahill was the only one who signed it. Mr. Mullett—Didn't I tell you that? The Chairman—I want to save members from their names being attached to a report that they don't sympathise with.

Mr. Mullett—That is true. Mr. Cahill—Every name on it was there. Mr. Greene—I was not there.

The adoption of the report was carried, and on the proposition of Mr. O'Toole, seconded by Mr. Raymond, it was decided by the large majority of the Board to refer it to the Visiting Committee, Mr. Cahill alone being in the minority.

Mr. P. J. Lea, who attended later, said he attended there last Monday as one of a special Committee to inspect the house, and he now found that there was a report drafted by Mr. Cahill and submitted to the Board from which he desired to entirely disassociate himself.

Mr. Byrne—And I do the same. Mr. Lea—I think, Chairman, you will agree with me that no member of the Board should have drafted or typed a report that was not sent round to the members for their consent or approval.

The Chairman—I called the attention of the Board to the fact that there was only one name signed to the report, and that was Mr. Cahill's.

Mr. Cahill—They were afraid to see it. That was the only objection. Mr. Lea—Allow me; I think courtesy should have prevailed. This report should have been put into the hands of the members of the Committee to see whether they approved of it, and I disassociate myself from it, and I will have no more to say about it.

ELECTION OF DISPENSARY PORTER. There were eighteen candidates for the position of porter for South Earl Street

Dispensary. On the final poll Michael Kearns was elected by 43 votes to 11 for Thomas Raymond.

[We wonder if the above Thomas Raymond is any relation to Mr. Raymond, P.L.G.—Ed.]

POLITICAL HUMBUG.

"Nationalists" and the King (of England).

Were we a daily we could have caused a sensation on Tuesday last, Sept. 12th, by announcing that the political thimble-riggers who label themselves "Nationalists" had arranged that the toast of "The King" should be proposed by Mr. John Redmond, M.P., Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party and leader of the Irish race at home and (very much) abroad, at the banquet to be given to the English Liberal members of the Eighty Club on Saturday evening.

The consistency of those people can be judged by the fact that a few months ago they actually issued a formal explanation of their action in refusing to take part in the Coronation ceremonies. What has taken place since to induce them to break through the settled practice of thirty years and give the toast of a monarch who can only be regarded as an usurper in Ireland so long as she is denied the right to govern herself?

For ourselves we are Republicans and look upon kings and queens as useless lumber.

But were this country governed constitutionally we would concede the right of anyone (who was silly enough) to go on toasting the king to their heart's content.

Twenty years ago Charles Stewart Parnell was sacrificed to those same Liberals, and on moral grounds, forsooth.

Is Ireland's honour to be bartered again to the same time-servers and by the man who in a few weeks' time will be unveiling a memorial to the great leader?

Let the honest (but in many cases deluded) Nationalists of Dublin watch the night's proceedings, and if John Redmond is guilty of this act of recreancy let him know that his presence at the unveiling of the Parnell memorial will be regarded as an insult as great as would be that of the political hermaphrodite known as the Lord Mayor of Dublin and resented accordingly.

In the words of Balfour, "There is a limit to human endurance."

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