

"The principle I state and mean to stand upon is—that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and spiritual, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland."

James Fintan Lalor.



Who is it speaks of defeat?
I tell you a cause like ours;
Is greater than defeat can know—
It is the power of powers.
As surely as the earth rolls round
As surely as the glorious sun
Brings the great world moon wave,
Must our Cause be won!

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[ONE PENNY.]

Labour and the Re-Conquest of Ireland.

II.

Before we can talk of or develop a policy for the re-conquest of Ireland it is well that we picture clearly to our mind the essential features of the conquest itself, how far it went, and how far it has already been reversed. Let it be remembered then that the conquest was twofold—social and political. It was the imposition upon Ireland of an alien rule in political matters and of a social system equally as alien and even more abhorrent. In the picturesque phrase of Fintan Lalor it meant the "conquest of our liberties and the conquest of our lands." The lands being the material basis of life, alike of conquerors and conquered whosoever held these lands was master of the lives and liberties of the nation. The full extent of that mastery, that conquest, is best seen by the record of the Cromwellian settlement of 1654. In that settlement the conquest reached its highest and completest point. Never before, and never again, were the lives and liberties of the people of Ireland so completely at the mercy of foreign masters as during the period in question.

Previously the old Gaelic culture and social system still held sway in the greater part of Ireland, and the armed force of the Gael still existed to curb the greed of the alien enemy and restrain by the example of its tyrannical freedom the full exercise of his tyrannical propensities, and subsequently the gradual growth of the ideals of a softer civilisation and the growth of democracy contributed to weaken the iron rule of the conqueror. But that Cromwellian settlement well understood, was indeed the final consummation of the conquest of Ireland. There are then three pictures we must needs conjure up before our mind's eye in our endeavour to understand the point we have reached in the history of the Irish nation. These three pictures are successively—of Ireland as she was before the conquest; as she was at the completion of the conquest; as she will be at the re-conquest by the people of Ireland of their own country. The first is a picture of a country in which the people of the island were owners of the land upon which they lived, masters of their own lives and liberties, freely electing their rulers, and shaping their castes and conventions to permit of the closest approximation to their ideals of justice as between man and man.

It is a picture of a system of society in which all were knit together as in a family, in which all were members having their definite place, and in which the highest could not infringe upon the rights of the lowest, those rights being as firmly fixed and assured as the powers of the highest, and fixed and assured by the same legal code and social convention. It is a system evolved through centuries of development out of the genius of the Irish race, safeguarded by the swords of Irishmen, and treasured in the domestic affections of Irish women.

The second picture is a picture of the destruction by force of all the native system and the dispersion and enslavement of the nation. Let these fine quotations from Pendergast's "Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland" place before our eyes this picture in all its grim and agonising horror. He tells of the proclamation issued by the English Parliament directing that "by beat of drumme and sound of trumpet, on some market day within term days after the same shall come unto them within their respective precincts"; the English governors throughout Ireland shall proclaim that "all the ancient estates and farms of the people of Ireland were to belong to the adventurers and the army of England, and that the parliament had assigned Connaught for the habitation of the Irish nation; whether they must transplant with their wives and daughters and children before the first of May following (1654) under penalty of death if found on this side of the Shannon after that day."

In addition to this transplanting to Connaught gangs of soldiery were despatched throughout Ireland to kidnap young boys and girls of tender years to be sold into slavery in the West Indies. Sir William Petty, ancestor of the Lansdowne family, and a greedy and unscrupulous land thief, declaring that in some Irish accounts the number so sold into slavery was estimated at one hundred thousand.

Here then is the conquest. Fix it clearly before your eyes. National liberty, personal liberty, social security all gone; the country ruled from its highest officer down to its meanest officer by foreigners; the Irish race landless, homeless, bareless living by sufferance upon the mercy of their masters, or trusting alone to the greed of their conquerors to gain that toleration which even a conqueror must give to the slaves whose labour he requires to sate his avarice or minister to his wants.

This, then, is the second picture. Mastery of the lives and liberties of the people of Ireland by forces outside of the irresponsible and unresponsive to the people of Ireland—social and political slavery.

The third picture must be drawn by each as it suits his or her fancy who wishes to visualise to the mind's eye the complete reversal of all that was embodied in the second. As they construed that picture of the future so they will shape their public actions. In the belief that the Labour movement alone has an ideal involving the complete reversal of the social and political consequences of the conquest defined in the second picture these articles are written to help the workers in constructing that mental picture aright.

But how far has that conquest been already reversed? As a cold historical fact the conquest fell far short of the impious wishes of its projectors. The projected removal of the entire people to within the confines of Connaught came into collision with the desires of the land thieves for a tenantry upon whose labours they could grow rich. Land without labour is valueless; and to be an owner of confiscated land, and that land lying idle for want of labourers did not suit the desires of the new Cromwellian squirearchy. So gradually the laws were relaxed or their evasion connived at by the local rulers, and the peasantry began to re-appear at or near their former homes, and eventually to gain permission to be tenants and labourers to the new masters. Into the towns the Catholic also began to find his way as a personal servant, or in some other menial way ministering to the needs of his new rulers.

Catholic manners were within the forbidden territory as wives of Protestant officers or soldiers, and rearing up their children in their own faith, whispering old legends into their ears by day or evening of old Gaelic songs to them at night. Helped, consciously or unconsciously, to recreate an Irish atmosphere in the very heart of the ascendancy. Ere long by one of those silent movements of which the superficial historian takes no account the proscribed people were once more back from the province into which they had been hunted, heartbroken and subdued, it is true, but nevertheless back upon their old lands.

In the North the prescription had been more effectual for the reason that in that province there were Protestant settlers to occupy the lands from which the Catholics had been driven. But even there the craving for a return to the old homes and tribal lands destroyed the full effect of the Cromwellian prescription. The hunted Ulstermen and women crept back from Connaught, and unable to act like their Southern brethren and reoccupy their own lands upon any terms, they took refuge in the hills and "mountain" land. At first we can imagine these poor people led a somewhat precarious life, ever dreading the advent of a Government force to dislodge them and drive them back to Connaught; but they persisted, built their huts, tilled with infinite toil the poor soil, from which they scraped the accumulations of stones, and gradually established their families in the position of a tolerated evil. Two things helped in securing this toleration. Let the avarice of the new landowning aristocracy, who easily subdued their religious fanaticism sufficiently to permit Papists settling upon and paying rent for formerly worthless mountain land. 2nd.

The growing acuteness of the difficulties of the Government in England itself; the death of Cromwell; the fear of the owners of confiscated estates that the accession of Charles II. might lead to a resumption of their property by former owners, and, arising from that fear, a disinclination to attract too much attention by further attacks upon the returning Catholics, who might retaliate, and, finally, the unrest and general uncertainty centering round the succession to the throne. Thus in Ulster the Celt returned to his ancient tribal lands, but to its hills and stony fastnesses, from which with tear-dimmed eyes he could look down upon the fertile plains of his fathers, which he might never again hope to occupy, even upon sufferance. On the other hand, the Protestant common soldier or settler, now that the need of his sword was passed, found himself upon the lands of the Catholic it is true, but solely as a tenant and dependant. The ownership of the province was not in his hands, but in the hands of the companies of London merchants who had supplied the sinews of war for the English armies, or in the hands of the greedy aristocrats and legal corporants, who had schemed and intrigued while he had fought. The end of the Cromwellian settlement then found the commonality, to use a good old word, dispossessed and defrauded of all hold upon the soil of Ireland—the Catholic dispossessed by force, the Protestant dispossessed by fraud. Each blaming the other and hating the other, a situation which the dominant aristocracy knew well how, as their descendants know to day, to profit by to their own advantage.

This, then, was the Conquest. Now, sit down and calmly reason out to yourself how far we have gone to the reversal of that Conquest—how far we have still to go. The measure of our progress towards its reversal is the measure of the progress of democracy in this island; is measured by the upward march of the "lower classes." The insurgence of the peasantry against the landlord, the shattering of the power of the landlord, the surrender of the British Government to the demand for the abolition of landlordism, all were so many steps toward replanting securely upon the soil of Ireland of that population which, "with sound of trumpet a d beat of drumme," were ordered 253 years ago, "with their women and daughters and children," to betake themselves across the Shannon into Connaught, and there to remain for ever as the despised and hated helots of foreign masters.

The unsatisfactory nature of the scheme for repatriating may be admitted; the essential fact is the reversal of that part of the Conquest which demanded and enforced the uprooting and expropriation and dispersion of the native Irish. In this as in the political and social world generally, the thing that matters most is not so much the extent of our march, but rather the DIRECTION in which we are marching.

On the political side the Re-Conquest of Ireland by its people has gone on even more exhaustively and rapidly. We remember sitting as delegate to the "98 Centenary Committee" in the Council Room of the City Hall of Dublin in 1898, and looking around upon the pictures of the loyal ascendancy Lord Mayors of the past which cover the walls of that room. At first we thought merely that if the dead do have cognisance of the acts of the living, surely fierce and awful must be the thoughts of these old tyrants at the thought that such a room should be handed over gratuitously to the use of such rebels as were there upon that occasion. Then our thoughts took a wider range, and we went back in imagination back to that period we have spoken of as the culmination of the Conquest, and forward to the following year when we were assured that under the Local Government Act the representatives of the labourers of Ireland might sit and legislate all over Ireland in such halls of local power as the

Council Room of the Municipality of Dublin. What a revolution was here! At the one period banished, proscribed, and a serf even to the serfs of his masters; at the other period quietly invading all the governing boards of the land, pushing out the old aristocracy and installing in their places the sons of toil fresh from field, farm and workshop, having in their power to grasp every position of political power, local administration and responsibility, where at the former period they were hunted animals whose lives were not accounted as valuable as foxes or hares. Truly, this was, and is, a rolling back of the waves of Conquest. But how many had or have the imagination necessary to grasp the grandeur of this slow re-installment of a nation, and how many or how few can realise that we are now on the eve of another such change, chiefly portentous to us as a still further development of the grasp of the Irish democracy upon the things that matter in the life of a people.

It shall be our task in future chapters briefly to portray that development, to picture how far we have gone, to illustrate the truth that the capitalist and land-owning classes in Ireland, irrespective of their political creed, are still saturated with the spirit of the conquest, and that it is only in the working class we may expect to find the true principles of action which, developed into a theory, would furnish a real philosophy of Irish freedom.

But in this, as in many other conflicts, the philosophy of Irish freedom will probably for the great multitude follow the lines of battle rather than precede them. The thinking few may, and should understand the line of battle, and many will fight from day to day, and battle to battle as their class instructs and immediate needs impel them.

For the writer, his inspiration, he confesses, comes largely from the mental contemplation of those two pictures. The dispossessed Irish race dragging itself painfully along through roads, mountains and morasses, footsore and bleeding, at the behest of a merciless conqueror, and the same race in the near future marching confidently and serenely aided by all the political and social machinery they can wrest from the hands of their masters) to the Re-Conquest of Ireland.

JAMES CONNOLLY (Belfast).

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This is the season when the emigration agents work overtime. With wet towels around their throbbing brows, they labour unceasingly day and night to paint for us the glories of far-off lands. How miserably small and prosaic, how insignificant and soul-less appears our own country when compared with the posters that bedeck the walls of the shipping agents' offices. That's what comes of mixing a little moonshine with your colours.

(Australia used to be the first favourite—now Australia holds the place of honour; it is the land of Hearts desire, the workers' paradise—the promised land of the shipping companies. Young men are taught farming and gardening there, not only free of charge, but are supplied with princely pocket money during their apprenticeship. They only work four hours a day or thereabouts; they live on the fat of the land, and save thousands of pounds before they are long enough there to become sunburnt. This is Australia as it is painted to the young men and women of Ireland. Now, let us learn the truth about it from an Australian paper, the Sydney "Worker." This is their own version of the story, and they are more likely to tell the truth than touts who make a living by throwing the youths of their own countries to the dogs of foreign capital.

"The assertion," writes this paper, "that Australia is the workers' Paradise has been dimmed into our ears so persistently that we had really begun to take the thing for granted. Any additional confirmation required, however, came to hand last week in the form of a definite par- rading immigrant, although they knew nothing about farming before their arrival, have passed through a course at the training farm, and are now in good employment, in some cases receiving £1 a week and found." One pound and keep, which, as they probably sleep in the stable and have a steady diet of skim milk, corn, eef, and pumpkin, would pay out, say, another 10s. And there you have it—a whole thirty bob per week. And all they have to do in return for this munificence is to rise about 3 a.m.—being new hands they probably haven't acquired the cow-cultivator's knack of doing without sleep—walk knee-deep through wet grass, and after blundering over logs, yard the cows into the sty—we mean milks—and put the acid on 21 or 30 of them. Then, with a brief intermission for breakfast at which, by the way, butter and unskimmed milk are mostly remarkable by their absence—the cow slave puts in a strenuous hour or two carting cream to the factory, feeding calves and pigs, and delving into the bustiness inseparable from separators. Beyond mending the fences, cutting feed or firewood, or doing a bit of cultivating, there's not much doing after dinner, but at 4 o'clock H. R. Majesty the Cow again meanders into the scheme of things for a few hours. Then comes tea, which differs from the other meals only by the fact that it is followed by dessert in the form of a bit of corn-husking or bed-patching till bedtime. And the remuneration for these few duties is—£1 per week! Of course, all cow operators don't rise to affluent eminence. Fears of an epidemic of aspirin youth to the cow country, impels us to admit that some get only 15s., or less, in which case it is more than probable that scantiness of wages is, as it were, counterbalanced by an abundance of work. Good employment! One pound per week! Workers paradise! In the face of the above, who can doubt it?"

Out this out, fold it neatly, and insert in your hat, so that the truth may speak into your head and prevent you being a cow puncher at "£1 a week and all found."

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National Insurance Act.

The "Advisory" Committees and Other Humbug.

The consideration of the manner in which the National Insurance Act is a fair index of what Irish workers can expect until such time as they wake up and show a determination to look after their own interests. First we were excluded from the medical benefits, as we were from the provisions of the Feeding of Necessitous School Children Act, on the ground that the Poor Law Medical Service was such a magnificent institution, although the exclusion meant the saving to the British Treasury of two-ninths of the State subsidy. After that the deluge! Magnificent Poor Law Medical Service! We wonder had the people who were responsible for our exclusion ever had any experience of this magnificent system? Do they know that a man must be a pauper before they can secure it? Do they know the manner in which the poor are treated by the medical man when he does attend? Do they know the degradation to which the poor workers have to submit? And if they do what do they mean by the "magnificent service"? And, as we opine, they do not, why do they speak and act as if they do? Is it because they realize that the medical men are an organized body who know what they want, and have acted accordingly? Or is it because of the well-known patriotism of the working classes who are satisfied to suffer on, sooner than do anything that interferes with what they believe to be the progress towards freedom of their beloved Ireland? Anyhow the fact is there: they were excluded! As a result they must pay for what the workers of England, of Scotland and of Wales are to get free! They must put up with inferior medicine, with all the degradation of the union, or poorhouse doctor, whilst their brethren across the channel are to get of the best that the medical fraternity can give! They are to be content with the brand of "paper," whilst their more fortunate British fellow-worker is to "swank" with the best. And because henceforth of the "magnificence" of their poorhouse. Oh, yes! they are magnificent for the officials! And it that was not bad enough, now comes another—and another. An Advisory Committee has been established—or perhaps we should say, Advisory Committees. One for Ireland amongst the number. But on the Joint Advisory Committee, how many Trades Unionists do you think are representing Ireland? One—Mr. M. J. O'Lehane, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee—a good man, but still only one. The others include a representative of the Land and Labour Association, Miss Harzuan, T.O., and—Lady Aberdeen! What interest does she represent? Just imagine the Queen of England being put on an Advisory Committee in Great Britain and the workers taking it "lying down"! And yet this lady is supposed to stand in a like position in Ireland, in the absence of her Britannic majesty, as her Britannic majesty does in Great Britain! Whilst on the same committee the British trades unionists have twenty-five direct representatives, Ireland has M. J. O'Lehane! So indignant did they feel that the Parliamentary Committee registered their opinion in the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Jim Larkin and seconded by Mr. William O'Brien:—

"That this meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress protest against the manner in which the claims of the Trades Unionists of Ireland for due and proper representation has been dealt with in the appointment of the Advisory Committee of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee. We desire to point out that, whilst the organized workers have only secured one representative, the other, and unorganized, interests, have secured the remainder of the representation. And we further protest against the inclusion of Lady Aberdeen, on the grounds that she has no claim to such representation and has no direct interest in the work of the Commission."

All this was bad enough; but to it must be added a direct and indefensible attempt to break through the arrangements in regard to the administration of the funds. The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in the House of Commons on November 14th last, said that not one penny of the money under any head would be taken out of Ireland. If that is so, what is the meaning of the position taken up by the Secretary of the Joint Committee, who has not even acknowledged the following letter sent him on the 27th ultimo by the one trades union representative from Ireland on the Committee of Advisors:—

27th April, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress, I desire to bring under the notice of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee a matter of great importance affecting the administration of the Insurance Act in Ireland. At the Trades Union Congress held at Galway last year, when the Insurance Act was under consideration, a resolution was passed unanimously demanding independent ad-

ministration for Ireland, with a separate Irish Commission; this demand was followed up by a deputation which waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer towards the end of July last, when the members of the Deputation were given to understand that we were to have separate and independent administration in this country. In conversation with the Chairman of the Irish Commission, I have learned that a suggestion has been made that the benefits should be administered through a Caring House in London; this, we consider entirely contrary to the promises already given in regard to independent administration, and to such a course we are strongly and entirely opposed. The Trades Unionists of Ireland, and the Parliamentary Committee speaking on their behalf, desire and demand complete autonomy in the administration of the Insurance Act, and in addition, I may point out that the people here, generally, accepted the Act on these conditions.

I am, dear sir,—(On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, of the Irish Trades Union Congress)—Yours truly,

M. J. O'LEHANE, Chairman.

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS—Parliamentary Committee, Trades Hall, Capel street, Dublin, 7th May, 1912.

DEAR SIR—In further reference to the letter addressed to you by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Unionists on the 27th April, the Chairman of the Irish Insurance Commission has submitted to us a memorandum containing some suggestions in regard to the position of Trades Unionists in Ireland who are members of societies having their head office in Great Britain. This memorandum was considered last night at a special meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress, when it was unanimously decided to reiterate the statement contained in the letter referred to, dated 27th April.

This, as has been previously pointed out, is the unanimous demand of the Trades Unionists of Ireland, as expressed at last year's Trades Union Congress, and also by the representative deputation which waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 27th July last. We are to add that there will be serious disappointment and dissatisfaction amongst the workers of this country if any attempt is made to interfere with complete autonomy in the administration of the Insurance Act here.

We are further instructed to inform you that the Trades Unionists of Ireland, for whom we speak, are determined on refusing to accept any compromise of the principle upon which the Bill was accepted by them and embodied in Section 81 of the Act.—Yours faithfully (on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress)

M. J. O'Lehane, Chairman.
P. T. Daly, Secretary.

We have said that Mr. O'Lehane got no reply from the Secretary; but he had evidence from another source that the matter is under consideration. A week after his letter he got the following:—

(1) INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES—In the case of Ireland the arrangements for Clearing Houses shall not apply. A Society doing business in Ireland should be required to send its cards to the Irish Commissioners and receive advances for payment of benefits from them.

(2) SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES—It should be a requirement that International Society will arrange for consulting its members resident in Ireland with regard to the disposal of surpluses and what steps are necessary to make good deficiencies arising in Ireland—the members resident in Ireland to have a deciding voice in the matter.

(3) In the case of big Societies the Joint Committee should inform the responsible people that the Irish Commissioners will require a separate office for the administration of benefits in Ireland managed by a Sub-Committee of the Society under the general control of the whole society. The Irish Commissioners to retain their right to satisfy themselves as to the amounts provided from the Irish National Insurance Fund to the central expenditure.

So that Irish trades unionists called for the medical benefits to be extended to this country. That was refused! They demanded national autonomy in the administration of the funds, and that is evidently to be refused, too! Poor Ireland! Of course it will be said that the Advisory Committee can revise this. But the Advisory Committee are not to be given any authority. They are like unto the Advisory Boards under the Labour Exchange, and the only one with any semblance of representative authority has one representative from Irish trades unionists, and then it is only a semblance. But fearing they might "talk" about it, Lady Aberdeen is foisted on, we suppose, to "smile down" any such "rowdy" conduct. They asked for the withdrawal of the disqualification clause for alleged incompetency. It is embodied in the Act in Section 100!

So much for Part I. of the Act. Then we come to Part II., dealing with unem-

ployment benefits. We are forced to ask ourselves, what the Labour Party were thinking of when they allowed it to pass in its present form. We were at the lecture delivered by Mr. Nicholson, in the Grosvenor Hotel, Dublin, on Tuesday night last; and having heard his explanation, we do not wonder that Councillor Tom Farrer should have asked if the Act was intended to provide "scabs," or, failing that, to deprive the benefits to men who refuse to blackleg! According to the Lecturer, if a job is offered at the Labour Exchange to a man in a district wherein the area in which he lives he would be entitled to "country money," he must either take the job or be debarred! Of course he has the right of appeal to the "referees." But who are the referees? There is to be one selected in order from the panel elected by the subscribing workers, one by the employers and an "impartial" person selected by the Board of Trade. He is not to be an employer; he is not to be a worker; and he is not to be "prejudiced" on one side or the other; according to Mr. Nicholson—a sort of "neither fish nor flesh," and we are wondering where they are going to get him. We have had some little experience of these "impartial" gentlemen ere this, and we must be pardoned if we occupy the role of "doubting Thomases." A "good employer" is to be decided by another good (?) employer, a worker, and a man who has no experience of either, but who is nominated by the Board of Trade! In reply to a number of questions which the metropolitan Press carefully suppressed, we learned the same court has the power to decide on all questions of "suitable" employment. Questions of trade rules are also to be interpreted by the same "court." If a man refuses to accept employment in a non-union shop, he may be debarred from unemployment benefits! Or, it is left to the referees; and we believe that amounts to the same thing. No pay during look-out or during a strike and we are not quite sure whether the same condition does not apply where a man is unemployed because of either. And for all these "benefits" it spells compulsory insurance for the trades on the schedule. Is it any wonder that we question what the Labour Party were thinking about? Is it any wonder that we exclaim "Poor Ireland!"? No sick medical benefits! And compulsory insurance in order that we may give the weak ones an excuse to "scab" and help unfair employers to procure labour to help them out of their difficulties. And to put the climax on the whole position, the "friendly" Board of Trade officials are to have the full control of the administration of Part II., or Unemployment Section of the Act! And still we have heard it stated that we do not need an Irish Labour Party. Well, well; and we'll leave it at that, or amongst the men with the "billiard-ball" heads we will soon be added.

FARGO.

LABOUR DAY DEMONSTRATION IN WATERFORD.

Speeches by Messrs. Larkin, Wall and Daly.

On Sunday last we went to Waterford to take part in the Labour Day Demonstration. The procession started from the Trades Hall at about 3 p.m., and paraded the principal streets of the city to the City Hall, where a public meeting was held. Those represented in the procession were—Trades Council, Plumbers, Stonecutters, Carpenters, Tailors, Drapers' Assistants, Land and Labour Association, Typographical Association, and Irish Transport Workers' Union. The Barrack Street Brass and Reed Band, the Trades Hall Band and Reed Band, T. F. Meagher and Eric's Hope Fife and Drum Bands were interspersed through the procession. A feature of the procession was the large attendance of Drapers' Assistants carrying notices claiming the disestablishment of the living in system. Several other trades displayed banners symbolic of their association.

The Mayor (Councillor M. Kirwan) presided at the public meeting, at which there was a very large and enthusiastic gathering. The following were on the platform:—Messrs. James Larkin and P. T. Daly (Organiser Irish Transport Workers' Union); W. Halls (A.S.R.S.); M. Wall (President Trades Council); T. Dunne (Secretary do.); D. O'Hanlon, T.O.; T. O'Neill, T.O.; R. Keane, T.O.; James Kelly, M. McGuinness, M. Power (Land and Labour Association); M. O'Connor (Irish Transport Workers); G. W. Hayes (Sailors' and Firmens' Union); T. Grant, etc.

On the motion of Mr. R. Keane, T.O., seconded by Mr. J. Kelly, Tailors' Society, the Mayor (Mr. M. Kirwan, T.O.) took the chair.

The Mayor, who on coming forward was received with applause, said:—Fellow-citizens, my first duty is to thank you most sincerely for the high honour you have conferred on me in asking me to preside at this meeting of the trades of Waterford. I appreciate this honour very much, and I extend a hearty welcome to all here to-day. By your strong adherence to trades unionism you have gained many benefits, and I am sure you will gain more in the future. As Mayor of the city I will do everything in my power to help the workers as much as possible (applause). I am confident that your work here to-day will be such that we will all be proud, and will tend to the general welfare of all concerned (applause).

Mr. J. Dunne, hon. secretary of the meeting, read letters of apology for non-attendance from Mr. P. Lynch, T.O.,

Cork, who wrote that he had to attend in London owing to the strike in the tailoring trade, and Mr. M. J. O'Lehane, General Secretary, Drapers' Assistants' Association.

Mr. M. Wall, President of the Trades Council, proposed the adoption of the following resolutions:—

1. That this meeting of the workers of Waterford desires to express our appreciation of the successful efforts of the Trades Council in organizing the labour forces of the city, and hereby pledge ourselves to support the Council in all its future efforts on behalf of the workers; further, that we will upon all those who are not yet outside the ranks of organized labour to join their respective trade unions at once, and thereby help on the emancipation of the toilers of the city.

2. That this meeting of the workers of Waterford again desire to express our regret at the exclusion of the medical benefits from the provisions of the National Insurance Act as applied to Ireland, and that we call upon our Parliamentary representatives to use their best efforts in restoring those benefits to Irish workers, either by a short amending Act or by any other means which will obviate the necessity of the workers applying for poor law relief.

Mr. Wall said this fine demonstration amply proved that their efforts, small and humble as they might have been, were being recognized by the workers of Waterford. He, as President of the Council, and the Council as a whole, must feel proud to see this public expression of confidence in their efforts, and he sincerely thanked all those who took part in the demonstration. They had used their best efforts to revive the spirit of trades unionism, and they had been partially successful, but a lot yet remained to be done. Since that time they had got into line the Transport Workers, the Plumbers' Association, and the Land and Labour Association. Their interests as wage earners were identical; no matter in what capacity they earned their bread, they had the same enemy to fight, because up to the present the employing class had been opposed to the working classes. Referring to the Insurance Act he said the Trades Council in conjunction with the more powerful bodies of organized labour in Dublin, Cork and Belfast, uttered their strongest protest to the Irish Party because the Act, in its relation to Ireland, did not include medical benefits. They did that without attempting to hamper or interfere with the Irish Party in its struggle. He held that the failure to extend these provisions to this country was nothing short of slavery to the industrial workers of Ireland, because those whose right it would be to gain those benefits, would have to seek the old time method of red tickets, which was regarded as a degradation by the people of this country (hear, hear). However, he trusted their efforts in the near future would meet with success, and that they would get these provisions of the measure extended to Ireland.

Mr. O'Connor (Irish Transport Workers) seconded the resolution and expressed his appreciation of what had been done by the Trades Council in organizing the trades, and it would be appreciated by every worker who had the interest of organization at heart. He seconded the resolution as an individual and not as a delegate of the Trades Council. While the attendance there showed their appreciation of the action of the Trades Council there was, as had been said, a lot to be done as there were still a good many outside the ranks of organization. He regretted that the appeal to organize had to be put forward so often in Waterford. If the subject of medical benefits under the Insurance Act were discussed at public meetings such as they had there that day, very likely the Irish party would have taken a different attitude and have medical benefits included in it. He appealed to them to give the resolution their hearty support so that in future the Irish Party would move as the workers wanted them.

Mr. R. Keane, T.O., said it gave him great pleasure to support the resolution. What had the men who had been organized gained by organization? There had been a substantial increase in the amount paid to workers through the Irish Transport Union. The Corporation labourers were now guaranteed a minimum wage of 16s per week. (A voice—It's not enough). If the citizens did not cry out, with the assistance of Keane and O'Neill, and their friend the Mayor, they would yet have 18s and 21s, please God.

The Mayor—Don't make any promises. Mr. James Larkin, who rose to support the resolutions, which he remarked he had not read, in the course of a speech said it was an exaggeration to state that he escaped with his life when he was there last, but thought that the boys who came there paid to stop him escaped with their lives. It would not have mattered very much if he had lost his life, because he was but one of a multitude. It might be that he stood for something although he was a unit, and he spoke as the representative of a vast organization of workers. He thought they should not congratulate the Trades Council, because he believed they should have done their work long ago, and they should have seen that Waterford was the same as she was one hundred years ago, well organized, when she was a great shipping port and owned her own shipping. At present her ship-

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ping was under foreign if not alien management, which had no sympathy with the country—which had no care for its employees except to get as much as possible out of them in the shortest space of time. It monopolized the port, and unfortunately the public men were not public spirited enough to demand and exercise the powers they had in this free port, which belonged to the citizens. If their public men were public spirited enough, and knew their duty, they would see to it that these foreign ship owners would treat not only their men better, but would treat their customers better, too. No doubt individual members deserved every credit for the act as satisfactory work in which he too was engaged, but they got no gratitude, and were despised and spat upon by the employing class who were the enemy that they had to fight. But men were their own greatest enemies when they were not organized. Non-union men whom he described as camp followers and robbers of the dead, would take the advantage of every benefit gained by the organized workers. They would take the same wages and every benefit of that miscalculated basic measure—the Shops Act. Mr. O'Lehane had sent a telegram to the great Winston on the Shops Bill, although at the moment a few shopkeepers he wiped out the very vitals of the Bill giving a minimum wage and a 60 hours week which was long enough for any human being to work. He believed in an international movement, an organization in which men could meet in comradeship and fellowship and join hands with their comrades across the water to march forward to meet the dawn of a new era. They called upon the men who represented this country but who, no doubt, did not represent the opinions of the people. On the great National question, undoubtedly, they had got a mandate, the people did not want to be convinced of the necessity for Home Rule, but men on this platform who gave their time and the service of their lives for this country would demand through other workers across the channel who were being exploited the right to govern their own country. They were not getting the right to govern their own country in two years although they might get the right to legislate in a sort of way. They had already got power of administration. Home Rule meant much more than the Home Rule he saw in front of him. He could see this nation taking her rightful place amid the nations of the earth, but not coming in with a man with the red flag in front limiting the rate at which she should progress. That was the Home Rule they were getting next year, but he would say to them the man with the red flag must stand aside. "We are going to be a nation in fact not a nation in name." He cared not whether he was in the town of John Redmond or not he was not a man who fell down at any fetish. Mr. Redmond was an able and convincing man who had done his work with very ineffective tools, that some men might have failed with; but if they said they had got what the Irish nation was demanding in Home Rule that was a misundersanding of their meaning. They workers would say to him, "Go forward; we are not going to hamper you and your party; get what you think is Home Rule, and when it comes we are going to utilize that measure; we are going to utilize our powers to get the right Home Rule Bill!" Once they had the measure it was for the workers to form such a Parliamentary Party to take the machinery and utilize it, and making the road level, go hand in hand up the hill to meet the new horizon. They were told because they said this they were hampering the Party.

A Voice—This is not a Home Rule meeting.

Mr. Larkin—I am not speaking of Home Rule; I am dealing with the resolution. I have been invited here, and I am going to say what I think.

Another Voice—Throw him out.

Mr. Larkin said he wanted to show what was behind the resolution which demanded a short amending Act to extend medical benefits to Ireland under the Insurance Act. The English, Welsh and Scottish workers were getting benefits; they were not getting it in Ireland, while they were as good as the workers in England, Wales or Scotland. They took as much pride in their wives and children and claimed the same benefits and medical attention as their employers' children and family got. The reason these benefits were not extended to Ireland was that there were no workers in the Irish Party. Proceeding, he said he wanted all classes of trade and labour organized, that they

might have men like Keane and O'Connor administering the laws as made in College Green. Personally was nothing, but principle remained, and the time was coming when all parties would pass away but the working-class principle and party. The people had the power if they only exercised it, and the day would pass in Ireland for begging any favour. The men in Strangman's Brewery who joined the Union forget all about it when they got some favour, and these in Graves' when they got a rise of wages, took down their badges when told to do so by their employer. That was a sample of their manhood. The man who told him to take down his badge would have to take it from him, and he would never do that while he lived. He asked them to rise to their responsibility, and in the name of their manhood to organize, to raise the old banner of good times for themselves, the banner of better hope, comradeship, and a new spirit. He appealed to them that in future they would go out on May Day with their wives and children and demonstrate their strength, as men did in the good old days, when they were not slaves or driven like dumb beasts. He hoped that in the near future Waterford would send its representative to Clonsilla to sit in the new Labour Parliament, to join with their fellows for the good of the country. Let them not say a word against Belfast and the North. They, too, would take their share of the work. They should not be humbugged by blatant, ignorant bigots. Belfast would join Waterford in a march forward to victory.

Mr. P. Daly, southern organiser Irish Transport Union, in the course of his speech, said he regretted that the women workers were not represented, as he hoped to take them along with them on the road of progress. If they were employed, it was not because their work was better than that of men, but because it was cheaper. If they were to be employed, they should see that they were put on an equal footing with men, and if they were put as men's work they would see that they got men's pay. He hoped that the next time he came to Waterford he would be in a position to congratulate the Trades Council on having all grades of labour organized, and particularly the ladies.

DUBLIN OPERATIVE BAKERS, Bridge Street. An Organising Meeting of the members of the above will be held in the Hall, Bridge street, on Sunday, May 12th, at 12 o'clock. Mr. McPartlin, Vice-President of Dublin Trades Council, will preside. Election of Secretary and Officers of Committee will take place.—By Order of Emergency Committee.

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LITTLE SHOP FOR GOOD VALUE

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TRADE UNION EMPLOYERS,

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Ladies' Silver Watches, 12s. 6d.; Gents' Silver Watches, 12s. 6d.; Gents' Silver Watches in Hunting Cases, 22s. 6d. Warranted 3 Years. English Lever Watches, 3 holes jewelled, compensation balance, Hall-Marked Silver Cases, 23 2s. 6d. Warranted 7 Years.

Best House for all kinds of Watch Repairs

Double Bull ANARM CLOCKS, 3/6.

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141 Capel street & 38 Mary street,

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For Best Value in Provisions

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PETER MOLLOY,

18 Westworth Place, and 2 Thurstons Street, Ringsend, Dublin.

How they Vote in America.

We are enabled, through the kindness of our friend, Councillor Clary, of Wexford, to publish a specimen of the American Democratic Political Ticket; also a copy of Confidential Circular, issued by a party boss:

CARTER H. HARRISON, Mayor's Office, City Hall, Chicago.

Chicago, April 5, 1912.

DEAR SIR—Next Tuesday April 9th, the Democratic Party will nominate its candidates to be voted for at the next fall election.

A great many candidates are on the primary ballot, and great care should be exercised in selecting a ticket to be submitted to the voters.

The Harm by Committee of the United Democracy has carefully examined into the qualifications of the different candidates. Care has been used, not only to ascertain the personal fitness of the candidates, but an effort has been made to recommend to the Party a complete ticket for local offices which will recognize the many different nationalities which make up our great cosmopolitan city.

On the enclosed specimen ballot you will find the names of the candidates recommended marked with an X before their names.

You are respectfully requested to vote for these candidates and to urge your friends also to vote for them.

I would also recommend that you vote for the United Democracy candidate for Precinct Committeeman in your precinct, Meyer Stein—Very truly yours, CARTER H. HARRISON, Chairman.

SPECIMEN BALLOT 5th Congressional Dist. DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY BALLOT.

For United States Senator

Vote for One.

X James Hamilton Lewis

For Governor

Vote for One.

Ben. F. Caldwell

X Samuel Alschuler

George E. Dickson

Edward F. Dunne

For Lieutenant-Governor

Vote for One.

Barratt O'Hara

Charles O. Craig

William E. Golden

Gustavus J. Tatge

Adal T. Ewing

John L. Pickering, SR.

X Frank D. Comerford.

For Secretary of State

Vote for One.

X F. Baidler

Andrew Olson

Harry Woods

For Auditor of Public Accounts

Vote for One.

George Sulan

James J. Brady

X William Dearing Steward.

For State Treasurer

Vote for One.

C. V. McClenathan

William Ryan, JR.

Henry Vincent McGurran

X Winstead D. Walton.

For Attorney-General

Vote for One.

Patrik J. Lucey

Albert E. Iley

William A. Bowles.

For Representative in Congress—

State at Large.

Vote for Two.

William E. Sullivan

Lawrence B. Stringer

Henry Hogan

James P. Brennan

William J. McGuire

X Albert J. W. Appell

X Ernest Langtry

Leonor J. Walters

Elmer A. Perry.

For Representative in Congress.

5th District. Vote for One.

X Adolph J. Sabath

Edward J. Forst

Jacob G. Grossberg.

For Member State Board of Equalization.

5th District. Vote for One.

X J. J. Viterna

Edward J. Novak.

For Member State Central Committee.

5th District. Vote for One.

X Michael Zimmer

Joseph Mendel

William J. Kruger.

JAMES LARKIN,

Plain and Fancy Baker,

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THE WORKERS' BAKER.

Ask for LARKIN'S SOAP.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR IRISH WORKER.

I had an opportunity, the other week (which seldom occurs), of visiting a music hall to wit, the Tivoli on Baggin Quay. A strange idea smote me when I discovered the man in the box office was a clerk in the service of the Corporation, where I am led to believe he has a salary of at least £2 a week. Now this seems to me very unfair, to allow a man employed by the Town Council, at a good salary, depriving some other man and perhaps a wife and children of the means of existence. There are several members of the Municipal Staff employed in the different Halls and Theatres in the city, none of whom are paid less than 30s. a week, such as Sanitary Inspectors, Porters and others of the official staff. This is a public scandal, especially at such a time, when there is such distress owing to unemployment existing in our midst. I know also that those men can leave their duties long before their time to attend a midday performance, while men are actually staggering in the streets from hunger. Sir this should be stopped at once, surely one job is enough for any man, barring of course Town Council work. There are thousands of poor men with hungry children would be glad of the nine or ten shillings a week, but there, until we send our own men to office this will continue, however it may be no harm to let the public know what is going on. Yours truly, FOOTBALL.

Independent Labour Party.

BELFAST FEDERAL COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR IRISH WORKER.

6th May, 1912.

SIR,—At a meeting of the above Council the following resolution was adopted—“That this Council of the Independent Labour Party heartily welcome the advent of the Independent Labour Party of Ireland, and assure them of our cordial support in the fight for Economic and National Freedom.” Harrah for the New Party for Ireland, we will yet win. The old parties must go. Labour in Ireland must be organised, we are out to do it. Ireland must not be governed by English or Irish Capitalists—Ireland must, and will be owned and controlled by the Workers.

Kingstown, Bray, and Deansgrange.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

What are the wild waves saying? I am told that they are angry, because of the action of the City of Dublin Company taking back from their men the subsistence money that they granted them when one of their boats was laid up for survey in Liverpool.

What happened was this, when the men were over in Liverpool they were allowed for the week—I am informed 3s. 6d. subsistence money. But immediately they returned to their station from Holyhead to Dublin—in fact the next week—the money was recalled, and the men allowed it, too. Brave men, these! I don't think. This is the firm that has the contract for the Mails, and the Government Inspector visited their yard at Holyhead, and ordered a complete routing of all the rubbish therein, whereupon Mr. Watson was on the scene to see to it.

Vaccination.

We have received the May issue of the "Vaccination Inquirer," a well written Journal that was started to help on the Anti Vaccination movement. It contains a grave warning from Father J. J. Kelly against the dangers of "this senseless and cruel operation." Father Kelly states a child named Lanihan was killed by Vaccination in his parish, and he has since advised his people to avoid it. The Rev. A. F. Moody, George Bernard Shaw, and other prominent Irishmen contribute to the May issue, which we advise our readers to purchase. We also notice from the Ennisworthy "Echo" that a workingman's child in Wexford named French is dying as a result of Vaccination. Three weeks ago it was a beautiful child and never had a day's sickness. The mother frightened at the blue not to be received went to the Dispensary, and now the little one's arm is a frightful mass of corruption oozing with ugly sores. Another workingman's child named Cullen died in Ennisworthy some time ago after vaccination, and the Guardians have since refused to enforce the Vaccination Act. We hope to give photographs in a future issue of the present Wexford victim's arm, which will strike terror to say Mother's heart. If any of our readers have children suffering from the bad effects of vaccination write to us and we will arrange to have photographs taken. Doctors say there are no ill effects, such photos will convince even the Fee-hunting Doctors who bully the poor, but leave the middle-class anti-vaccinators alone. Don't be bullied. The Guardians of the North and South Unions have refused to prosecute and the blue notices are sent out by the Doctors and Believing Officers against the wish of the Guardians. Only the Guardians can prosecute, so light your pipe with the blue notice. If you get your child vaccinated at the Dispensary "Free" the Doctor gets 2s., and the Believing Officer ninepence from the "Poor Rate." That's why the blue "Final Notice" goes out so regularly. Remember Father Kelly's warning and don't be frightened.

Another Stamp Hunt.

Thomas Dickson, who is at present undergoing a twelve months' course of physical culture with a hammer and a heap of stones in one of His Majesty's prisons, was not the worst Henry Herbert Ernest Hunt is still at large, and likely to remain until the law is amended.

Dickson, though a rogue, was a fell. Henry Herbert Ernest Hunt carries on his swindle in a most gentlemanly manner. He visits the Dublin shopkeepers at his catpaw, and gathers in the chestnuts, while they sit, howling with their poor sore heads bound, in RED MUTUAL STAMPS.

About ten months ago we wrote the light shines on Henry, in three columns. The majority of the smaller shops in Dublin were, at that time, being rapped in by him. "It is in vain, the net is spread in sight of every bird," and our timely warning and exposure frustrated Henry's little plot. Write for libel and unredeemed RED MUTUAL STAMPS arrived daily; but, alas, for our hopes of a fight, Henry Herbert Ernest Hunt, to use a vulgar phrase, was not having any. Not being of a very gregarious disposition, we have since disappointed philosophically. However, we keep our powder dry so as not to be taken by surprise; for we expected Mr. Hunt would begin to wriggle again when he found the source of his revenue dried up. Time has brought us our reward.

Every tenement house in the city has been visited this week by men distributing handbills advertising Hunt's Stamp. The Stamp Swindle having been so thoroughly shown up by us before, we have no intention of dealing in detail with it again this week; we only wish to draw the attention of those in authority to the false statements contained in the handbill just mentioned. In large type on the top of these bills H. H., etc., promises "8s. 4d. WORTH OF RED MUTUAL STAMPS FREE." This short line contains two lies; first you do not get 8s. 4d. worth of stamps; second you do not get them free. What do the police intend to do about it? If this is not an attempt to obtain money by false pretences there is no meaning in words. And what about "false trade descriptions"? If a man sells margarine as butter, or cotton as linen, he can be imprisoned; but when Hunt calls valueless bits of perforated paper "fourpenny stamps" the law is dead, dumb and blind. Is the manufacture of bogus four-penny stamps to be left solely in the hands of Hunt? Supposing another shopkeeper began printing bogus 25 notes to give to his customers would he be interfered with?

Dickson would still be swindling had we not publicly drawn attention to him, and thereby compelled the police to act. It is time the Mutual Stamp System received a little attention from the law officers.

We have no personal spite against Hunt or any man. We are out to fight every kind of fraud and corruption. At present we are determined to get the scalp of the Stamp System. Watch for further developments.

In the meantime SHUT THE STAMP SHOPS; it's your money they want.

The Half Holiday.

An Impression.

It would bring a thrill of pleasure even to a capitalist's heart to have seen the happiness marked on the faces of the throng of drapers and shop assistants hurrying to Westland Row on Wednesday last week. They seemed like a crowd of light hearted youngsters released unexpectedly from school on some fine Spring morning. Giggling, laughing and hurrying, they reached the Station fully an hour before the train was timed to start. We felt tempted to slip in amongst the crowd to go on to Graystones where the victory, or rather their partial emancipation was to be celebrated. Then we feared they would not understand how their joyousness could affect an outsider so much, and decided not to go. Yet, the writer could not help thinking of the hard lot of those who toil in the shops of the city, and of the thoughtlessness of our women folk which is in a large measure to blame. What pleasure was there in the lives of the girls that had to slave seventy and even eighty hours per week? Not so long ago, employers headed these girls and boys into compounds giving food and clothing in lieu of a living wage, and would have continued it only that a Trunk Act had to be passed. The living in system with many of its evils remain, but public opinion is rising. Successive Acts have been passed to administer a narcotic to this public opinion. In the old days we were shocked when medical reports emphasized that assistants suffered abnormally from bladder diseases, and complaints due to leg strain. Yet we did not blame or imprison employers for their criminal neglect. Public opinion brought about Public Health Acts and sanitary supervision of shops and workrooms. The employers were even forced to provide seats behind the counter for the girls. Now a half-holiday has to be given. Twenty years hence, it is safe to say, all our shops will close at six o'clock or perhaps earlier. That dreaded public opinion has called forth all these reforms, or

"socialistic measures," as they are called by the class that 'must keep profits up,' the class that dismissed their assistants by neglect, and sent them into early graves. Oh, that we could quicken the growth of public opinion, and give the slaves of the shops more of God's pure air these fine Spring days. Why should they be deprived of the pleasures of life to build up dividends. We have been in cities in other countries where most shops close at six, excepting on Saturdays. But the world is so strongly organised there. In Ire and we are only toying with the Trades' Union movement. Better conditions will follow. Organisation of the workers—as surely as night follows day. Many a girl and many a young man will enjoy the Half holiday, though outside the various organisations they have moulded public opinion. Surely their better nature will now urge them to be faithful to their fellows and cause them to join their Trades' Union or Association.

As to the sending of Telegrams to party politicians of the Chamberlain type, it shows a want of dignity and sense. Not Chamberlain but public opinion moulded by labour workers brought about the holiday. It would be as consistent to thank the Port and Docks Board for the recent high tides in the Liffey or the Astronomer-Royal for the spectacular eclipse a few days ago. Why give thanks for getting a chance to breathe God's air? You were slaves to wait so long for it.

Sailors' and Firemen's Union.

(DUBLIN BRANCH).

UNDERMANNING LIFE BELTS, &c. OUR MAIL BOATS.

Whilst the enquiry into the cause of the loss of the "Titanic" is in progress the Union officials throughout Ireland are vigilantly watching the sailings of all vessels out of the various ports. Notwithstanding their watchfulness it is the duty of all seafaring men, cooks and stewards to report at once to their officials, any cases of negligence in the matter of undermanning, shortage of life belts or dereliction of duty in boat drill, the putting up of the boat stations allotted to the members of the crew or any matters in any wise relating to the undermanning of ships. We know of boats (mail boats at that) where the life belts are tied up in canvas and huddled in a corner of the ships—if a collision occurred what a panic would ensue if these mail boats, travel at a speed of from 22 to 24 knots an hour across channel in fine or foggy weather, carrying over 300 passengers and 68 of a crew. Imagine for a moment what would occur if a collision took place, with only 8 life boats on board to meet such a demand! and which are only lowered once in a blue moon for boat drill. These matters are of the greatest importance not alone to the crews but to the public at large, and the defects ought to be seen to at once. Every steamer or sailing vessel at all, no matter how small nor how large, should receive attention; now is the time for action in order that the lives of poor men who have to plough the seas may be better safeguarded against the awful and calamitous results as have been exhibited in the late terrible tale of the sea—the "Titanic" disaster. No steamer should be left untrailed in order to unearth the rotten system that has too long been thrust upon us by the undermanning of all vessels, and the want of assiduity on the part of Board of Trade officials. A system that has hurried many a man to his grave, and left women and children hungry.

The committee of the Dublin Branch will meet next Thursday, the 16th inst., at Liberty Hall at one o'clock. All committee men should be in attendance.

HIS BUSINESS.

"Oh, Papa," she said, with a blush, "young Mr. Chestnut, who owns so many coal mines in the Midlands, is coming again this evening, and he says he wants to see you on some important business."

"All right, my dear," responded the old man, chucking her playfully under the chin. "I know what the young man wants."

"That evening Mr. Chestnut came to the point at once."

"Mr. Hendricks," he said boldly, "I want to ask you if you have laid in a stock of coal?"—"Ideas."

THOROUGHGOING COURT.

A rural magistrate, listening to the testimony of the witness, interrupted him, saying: "You said that you made a personal examination of the premises. What did you find?"

"Oh, nothing of consequence," replied the witness; "a beggarly account of empty boxes," as Shakespeare says.

"Never mind what Shakespeare said about it," said the magistrate; "he will be summoned to testify for himself if he knows anything about the case."—"Delinquent."

The dock workers at Sydney, Australia, have announced that in the future they will work no more than eight hours per day and all over time is tabooed. The dockers of Auckland, New Zealand, say eight hours a day and no Sunday work under any circumstances.

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