

TO THE LEADERS OF OUR WORKING PEOPLE.

By **STANDISH O'GRADY**

IV.

The abolition of unemployment, abundant and varied opportunities of occupation, the provision, in an ample and honourable manner, of the necessities of life for all would have these effects. It would break the power of capital, to exploit and oppress, to grind and impoverish, leaving it free otherwise to do everything great, salutary and beneficent which may be in its power to do. It would abolish in the mind of the masses that extreme dread—nay terror—of poverty now everywhere oppressing men's souls like a veritable nightmare. It would proportionately reduce the really insane passion for the love of money which makes men so savage and remorseless in their dealings with each other, and against which all the great prophets and preachers have preached, so far in vain. For it is as true to-day as it was when the great Apostle said so, that this love "is the root of all evil." But while money means life and the want of it means death, it is useless to say such things. Let men have the assurance that they will never—they and their little ones and their parents and kindred and dependents—never be plunged into the bottomless gulfs of destitution, and this inhuman, anti-social passion will quietly pass out of their hearts. Then, and not till then, will man be free to show and prove what he actually is, what God and Nature made him. They have made him upright and brave and kind; also have made him a being who naturally delights in every kind of creative activity. Is he not made in the Creator's image?

It is so very difficult to supply employment for the unemployed and the necessities of life for all? It does not really seem to be such a tremendous great feat after all, assuming that you had in your possession the various means and instruments of production.

If you had the necessary agricultural land for the production of food—land well equipped with stock, plant, tools and agricultural machineries, creameries, orchards, fruit gardens, &c., &c., you will understand generally how the free, glad labour of volunteers, associated in groups, working with zeal, alacrity and pleasure, would produce, and in vast masses, all the necessary food needed by multitudes of people otherwise employed. You must agree with this, for it is your position as socialists when you demand the ownership and control of the means of production. Then, as believers in freedom, liberty, you are illogical, inconsistent in your reasoning, if you can, at the same time, believe too in forced labour; in men being driven to work like the ancient chattel slaves, or the wage slaves of civilization. I hope you see this clearly. If you do, hold fast by that perception, and never, for a moment, let it pass from your minds. Nature meant man to be free, neither a driven slave nor a slave driver.

Never let a capitalist Press or the conscious or unconscious, paid or unpaid friends of capitalism bully you out of it with sneers and jibes; that is out of the perception that in Freedom man is seen at his greatest and best, even as a mere wealth-producer. You know yourselves how his powers are crippled, even in wage-slavery, which is in itself an immense advance upon chattel slavery. Seeing this hold fast by the perception. There is a truth here which is central, cardinal, vital, and essential. If you forget it you will be lost, for you will then be compelled, inevitably, to adopt its opposite, the principle of your exploiters, that man is by Nature so idle and bad that he cannot be got to work at all except by force. All tyranny and all slavery are latent in this vile and false doctrine. You may know its falsehood because it is a favourite theme of capitalism grown articulate through its Press and of all people who are capitalistically inclined. Capitalism keeps the road mainly through the diffusion and maintenance of mean notions about human nature. You at least ought not to be its aids and allies in that vile game.

You will, urban men, more easily understand how, if upon such land, you had the necessary machineries and labour-saving contrivances, you could produce with little labour, and that volunteered, abundantly and in vast masses more than enough for all. That, too, is your position as socialists, when you say "Give us the instruments of production." Now, your people, however poor individually, are, collectively and en masse, possessors of a vast financial power, a power as great as that of any of these capitalistic companies which are now grinding you to destruction, living and feeding literally on your flesh and blood, and more and ever more desperately and greedily as year follows year. And they can't help it. Please remember this, that they can't help it; and also that they are composed—these exploiting capitalists and capitalistic companies—of men and women, children, too, exactly like yourselves, with hearts and minds and sorrows and hopes like yours. If you prick them they will bleed. They, too, are driven by the same god or fiend, who has us all in thrall, hate him or it as much as you like, as much as you can. Don't hate the men, women and children who to-day chance to be the wielders of the power of capital.

Buy the land and buy the machineries, and through the free, glad, enthusiastic creative activities of men and women, lads and maidens, of happy girls and merry boys, pour forth wealth in such masses, such torrents, that no one will care even to keep an account of its distribution or whether it is consumed by the good or the bad, the worthy or the unworthy; any more than we keep an account to-day of

the good water drunk by thirsty men and horses at our drinking fountains. Make milk as free for our children as water is to-day. Make all the necessities of life—the necessities first—as free for all as are to-day the blessed light and the sweet air. For you can do it if you like; do it with ease and with pleasure, delight and satisfaction. Think and consider. You can do that—can you not?—far more easily than you to-day work for the exploiter, than you to-day labour and grind and slave and suffer and perish raising wealth, for the few, at the same time for their depravement and your own progressive enslavement.

Now, this the glad creation of wealth by all for all has been indeed always possible, and has been actually and in a considerable degree realised half consciously among some happy nations in their primitive simplicity, peoples who just obeyed the natural instincts which are in us all. I refer, amongst others, to those little prehistoric communes and socialistic clan republics which Europe was once besprinkled all over as the sky with stars. A beautiful example of such natural primitive instinctive socialism is supplied by the little independent communal or semi-communal States of ancient Greece—friendly, independent States with territories often as small as the areas of our own parishes! It was in the early Hellenic times when the Greek was young and in the dawn of his great day, pious and simple and friendly and fraternal. It is a beautiful story this of the young Greeks before they began to degenerate still dimly perceptible through the mists of time—a noble and even prophetic bit of human history. I say prophetic because we must regard as such all examples shown anywhere of "brethren dwelling together in unity."

Such a free and glad production of wealth by all for all, and each for each, and each for all, was, as I say, indeed always possible; could man but have seen through the veil of lies, deceits and idolatries which he has in some mysterious manner woven around his own soul.

Always possible. But now! now! do you at all or fully realise the range and extent of the stupendous powers which man's brain and inventive capacity are bringing to his assistance in the creation of wealth out of the rude materials supplied by Nature.

There is a machine which puts forth a gigantic hand—a hand which at one grasp takes up two tons of clay and gravel, lifts that mighty load, carries it, and deposits it carefully in a railway truck waiting for its reception; all within three minutes, to the guidance of a single operator working handles. The men who are so miraculously assisted in their labours by this iron Titan receive no material benefit from its huge services no more than you, dockers, derive from the great cranes, or you, railway men, from the steam engine. There are machines which— But I had better stop here. I hope to conclude next week. (To be concluded.)

WEXFORD NOTES.

Another scab rewarded—Billy is after getting rid of Mitchell, the scab manager, scab foreman, scab labourer, and various other things too numerous to mention.

This English hound did all the dirty work for Billy during the lock-out, and now when things have settled down again he finds he can get on quite well without him.

Wexford is once again called upon to part with one of her true sons in the person of Paddy Saunders. Paddy has always proved himself a man, and was thrown out on the streets of Wexford to starve along with his wife and nine children by a man who when he came to Pierce's was very glad to seek information from Paddy as to how such a deal was done.

Of course everybody knows the man we refer to above is the famous Bob Malone, a man who could not look you straight in the face when he is talking to you, a man who does nothing from day to day but make trouble (and sharpen pencils with his foot on a box or stone and his head down). At, Bob, a day of reckoning will come, and then we will see how you will fare.

But of course I suppose Bobbie has to do what he is told by the alleged manager.

But, Bobbie, does it ever strike you that Davison also did what he was told, and we know the result. There was not room for two managers in the Folly, and of course the one that went had no influence with John Pierce, because the man is blinded, and led astray by people who are feathering their own nests.

On Saturday morning last when the m ulders went into their shop, the place was in a river. It appears that Rock Browne had got the job of putting in a new valley between two sheds, and instead of taking off the stuff bit by bit he stripped the whole place, with the above result.

Tramie never send a boy on a man's errand. But I suppose none of you know any better.

We hear a lot of present about the extension to be made in the Folly, and we also hear they are to be done by a Dublin firm.

Before the lock-out this job was about being done, and Willie Harrahan was supposed to have got it, but of course things changed when Willie would not allow harrow to be built in his place this time last year.

Salmon is not content with doing his dirty work at home, he must do it in Glasgow. When Mick Lacey went to Glasgow Davison got him a job in a firm called Byda to do work for him "till his own moulding shop was ready."

Byd wrote to Pierce's for a reference about Lacey, and was told that Lacey was a dangerous man, and not to have anything to do with him. Result, Mick was sacked two days after he started work.

Is not this a horrible state of affairs that this arrangement is let do what he likes, and then we have Billy Egan in publichouses telling the people who have the patience to listen to him that Salmon is a perfect gentleman.

Is this thing to be allowed to go on? Is there nobody in town to ask John Pierce are all the good men to be forced to leave their native town, while all classes of tinkers and thimble-riggers are drafted in to take their places?

John, once more we call on you to awake before it is too late. Davison's was as big a concern as yours and it went to the ground.

The local papers are full up of the extensions that are to be put up in the Folly, but what is the use of extensions if the Wexford men are to be robbed of their birthright?

Wickham has a bit of an industry going at one time and it went to the ground, and now he is trying to manage Pierce's and the Star in the snug every night. Ho! Ho! Sandy Beau.

Peeler Dolan has got two stripes, such was the news we were greeted with on Saturday night. Isn't it a great thing for him that there were labour troubles in Wexford?

There is one thing in it, anyway—he is about to be removed; and the sooner the better, as he is a nuisance.

What will Stifford do when he is gone and all his creditors?

Can anybody tell Tom Bueber who put him in the "Worker"? A prize will be given to the informant (one of Tommie's pigs pups).

WE HEAR
That Mike Sheridan is going around with the wheelbarrow collecting the £125 that is due to Johnnie Colohan on the Sioh. Good man, Ollie.

That Dolan is going to be sent to Foulk's Mills. Beware chimney sweep, shopkeepers, and garden diggers.

That Tommie O'Connell is blaming Bob Malone for having him put in the "Worker."

That Billy Byrne makes himself a pavement inspector every time he meets some of us.

That Tommie Lawlor threw Billy Egan out of his shop on Saturday last.

That Peter Whitty called the boy that was selling the "Irish Worker" into his house on Saturday to beat him. Good man, Blue Beard.

That Tommie Meade says he did not mind being in the "Worker" so long as the boss did not see it, he being sick in bed.

That the butchers say they were not against the fundrymen. What about Jack M'Goldrick supplying the scabs?

That Johnnie Daly says he does not care if the dog has a timber toe, he is going to put it in for cursing.

That the Peeler had a dance in Over the Digger's on Sunday night last.

That the "Worker" is responsible for keeping the clique from getting their beer at Wickham's back on Sundays.

That people are anxious to know how could Wickham go bail for Scrap Keating when he is a bankrupt?

Feed the Children.

The cry has gone up in Dublin at last "feed the children!" and no one can say who knows anything about our city that it is out of due time.

If the cry is heeded and the hungry children are fed the credit is due to the untiring efforts of Madame Gonne MacBride, to whom all honour be given.

There was a meeting in the Mansion House on Wednesday evening, called at the instance of the Ladies' School Dinners Committee, for the purpose of discussing this most urgent question. That a large number of the people present were those nice, amiable folks who dabble in social problems without knowing much about them, I doubt not, still I have great hopes that something, even be it a very little, will come out of this meeting and more will follow. The children must be fed, even though it be but a few to begin with.

Dublin people are, on the whole, abnormally proud of their city. The report of the meeting must make a sorry reading, for throughout the course of it nothing was said that Dublin people may pride themselves on; but many things were said that ought to make them hang their heads with shame. For instance:—

specification of school children in Ireland. In Great Britain the children were periodically examined, and it was possible to nip in the bud diseases which might otherwise become chronic. The public authorities in England had power to supply food to children.

Sir Charles was followed by The Rev. Thomas Keane, D.D., O.S.A., who proposed a resolution stating that in the opinion of the meeting the objects of the Ladies' School Dinners Committee were worthy of liberal support. He was manager, he said, of the John's Lane Schools, in which the work of the Committee was carried on, and he knew the necessity for it. Some of the objectors to the system of feeding school children stated that it pandered to the neglect of responsibility on the part of parents. No doubt there were parents who were forgetful of their duties to their children, but the children should not be allowed to suffer. Another objection advanced against this work being done by the municipality was that it meant the beginning of a State undertaking (to provide for families). If the conditions of life in the city were normal, then, perhaps, that objection would hold. But they were dealing with exceptional circumstances and exceptional treatment must be adopted without exposing its advocates to the accusation of dealing with socialism (hear, hear).

The Rev. Doctor deserves credit for coming to the front, particularly when some of the past history of the feeding of Dublin's hungry children is remembered. I have drawn "Euchan's" attention to his remarks, and my colleague of the front page may have something to say in the matter of the imaginary evils of socialism next week, as instanced by his Reverence.

BETTER FEEDING WOULD REDUCE TUBERCULOSIS.
Dr. Boyd-Barrett resonated. He came in contact, he said, with 17,000 of the poor children of Dublin, and he gave it as his opinion that there would be a great deal less tuberculosis if the children were properly fed. They must not consider the State feeding of children a luxury. It was a necessity and a measure of justice (applause). The children in Ireland should be inspected; those eliminated by inspection should be treated and the hungry children should be fed (hear, hear).

The resolution was passed unanimously. Professor J. M. Keble proposed:—

"That this meeting calls on the Irish members of Parliament to get the Free Meals Act extended to Ireland in a form suitable for this country."

The feeding of hungry children was, he said, the best form of municipal expenditure and of National Insurance (hear, hear). "The right to bread of any child," he added, "is invaluable; and if the economic position of its parents is such that they are unable adequately to fulfil the obligations cast upon them, then society must and ought, and we say that it shall step in (applause)."

The weekly income of nearly 70 per cent of the working class population of Dublin was 15s. ("shame"). That was not a living wage for a family (applause). He did not see any reason whatever why they should wait for Home Rule in order to get this Bill passed. The Home Rule Bill was going through the House of Commons this Session. The measure the resolution advocated could be passed next Session. The feeling of the present House of Commons was in favour of it.

Mr. Thomas Murphy, ex-President of the Trades Council, said the poverty of Dublin arose from the want of employment.

The resolution was passed unanimously. Madame Gonne MacBride proposed:—

"That, pending the extension of the Act, the Corporation of Dublin should make a grant to meet the immediate needs of school children."

She spoke of the heroic love which Irish mothers possessed for their children, and spoke of the national duty which should urge the feeding of the necessitous children.

The Lord Mayor spoke of the probability of a surcharge by the Local Government Board auditor in the event of the Corporation making a grant, but he gave expression to the Corporation's sympathy with the movement.

The resolution was passed. Now that all these resolutions are passed something concrete may be expected.

When the children are fed it is not to the sympathy of the Corporation the credit is due, but, as I have said already, to Madame Gonne MacBride.

TRADES SOCIETIES,

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Murder of the Children of the Poor.

OFFICIAL PROOFS.

Cases of the awful injuries inflicted on working-class children by vaccination are often brought to our notice. Passing along the streets we frequently notice children with their arms thrown over the mother's shoulder and displaying four large sores, or in cases where these have fixed one huge sore, with four rounded corners. If readers would send us word of any of these horrible proofs of the dangers of vaccination we would arrange to have more photos taken to convince the sceptical.

In the Local Government Board Annual Report, 1912, pp. 23, we find Dr. Montgomery admitting that two cases of that terrible skin disease, "Erythema Circinatum," broke out in children vaccinated at the O'Connell Street Station. That is only one of the vaccination stations, and in the whole city we do not know how many children died of foul diseases caused by the vaccination before the time for bringing them to the Dispensary for the second visit came round. These are only two that survived, and as Dr. Montgomery did not see any that died he concluded they were the only two that suffered.

The dangers of the O'Connell Street Vaccination Station are even greater than at the dispensaries, because Dr. Montgomery is a believer in that foul system, arm-to-arm vaccination. He must know that medical opinion and Parliament have universally condemned this system, except in Ireland. It has been proved that scrofula, eczema, syphilis, and the dirtiest blood diseases were spread by arm-to-arm vaccination. In other countries a doctor would be imprisoned or flogged by the public for advocating it, but here is what Dr. Alexander Nixon Montgomery writes on pp. 60, Local Government Board, Thirty First Annual Report:—

"I think it would be well to instruct public vaccinators in Ireland . . . they should immediately resort to ARM-TO-ARM LYMPH before certifying that a child is insusceptible to vaccination."

During the past year, we are informed by disgusted medical students, Doctor Montgomery has in lectures repeatedly advocated this dangerous personal fad that seems to have completely obsessed him. Remember, you mothers who go to Montgomery because it has been drilled into you that he alone has the "pure poek" for vaccination; that you are running a dread risk. If your child contracts a certain terrible disease there, the doctors will gravely examine it, shake their heads, and say "sins of the parents." This has often occurred. The honour of noble working-class parents has been falsely assailed so that their poisonous lymph should be proved irrefragable. Parents, take this lesson to heart.

The report of the Dublin Anti-Vaccination Branch has also reached us, and we note that "despite the non-prosecution motions of the North and South Dublin Unions, the Relieving Officers and dispensary doctors attached to all the city districts sent out printed forms stating that if the unvaccinated child is not brought to the dispensary at once a prosecution and fine of twenty shillings will follow. These notices are often endorsed in red ink 'Final Notice' or last notice before prosecution." The report goes on to say "we are surprised to find members of the medical profession stooping to such brutal intimidation." It must be clearly understood that these notices and threats are all bark and no bite. The doctors or Relieving Officers cannot prosecute. Only the Guardians can order prosecutions, and both the North and South Boards by strong majorities have agreed not to prosecute ANYONE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN VACCINATION. All our readers should emphasize this point on poor mothers who are terrified by the blue notices with red ink endorsement that medical "gentlemen" are sending out.

The first annual meeting of the Dublin Anti-Vaccinators, we understand, is being held in the Antient Concert Rooms next Friday. All parents with young children should attend and get the assistance of an organization that is saving the children from, as Dr. Creighton said, "a grotesque superstition."

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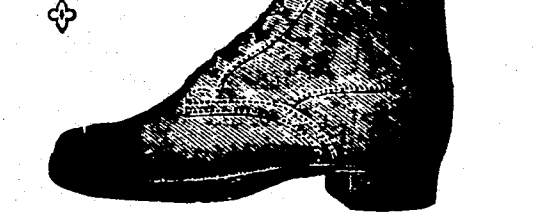
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