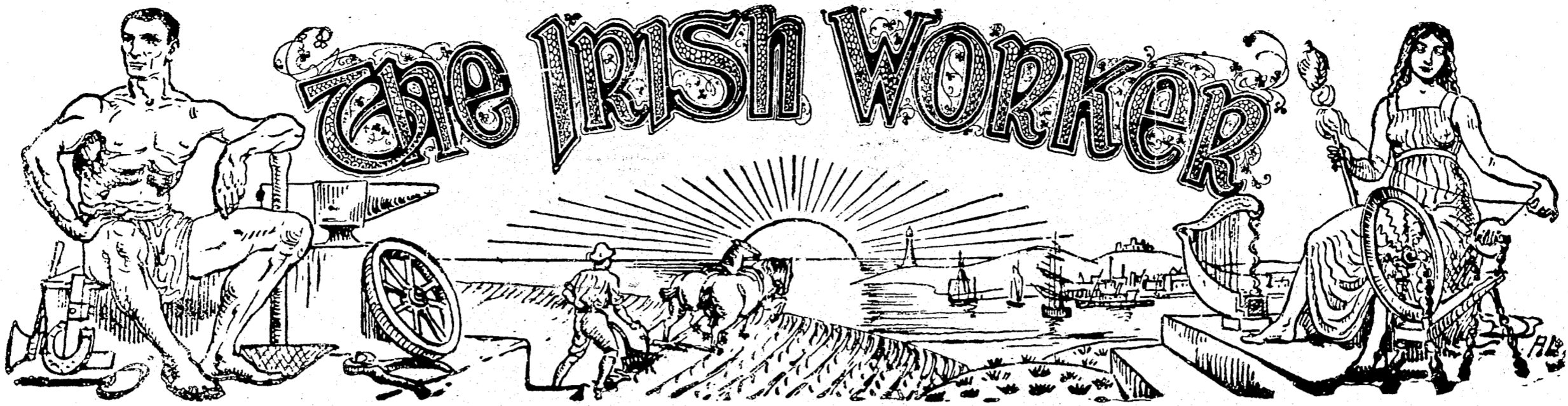


Who is it speaks of defeat? I tell you a cause like ours; Is greater than defeat can know— It is the power of powers. As surely as the earth rolls round As surely as the glorious sun Brings the great world moon wave Must our Cause be won!



The principle I state and mean to stand upon is: that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland. James Finlay Lark.

Edited by JIM LARKIN.

South African Deportee in Dublin.

On Sunday 1st in Croydon Park, a successful meeting was held under the auspices of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, the occasion being the visit to Ireland of Archie Crawford one of the deported labour leaders from South Africa.

Mr. Tom Johnson, President of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, took the chair amidst applause. In introducing Mr. Archie Crawford to the meeting, he referred to him as one of the nine men whom the governing authorities and employers in South Africa and thought fit to banish when they attempted to strike a blow for their rights.

Mr. Crawford, who was accorded a rousing reception, said he was glad to be there amongst the workers of Dublin, as this was the first meeting in their city at which one of the deported South Africans had an opportunity to speak. This, he supposed, would have to be put down as one of the injustices of Ireland (laughter and applause).

He wished to pay a tribute to the organisation of the workers in Dublin. They could afford to be proud of the great struggle they had recently passed through which had been an inspiration to the whole world. Nothing like it had ever been known, and before many years he hoped to hear more of the many things they would accomplish (cheers).

He proposed to deal only with the actual facts of the industrial history of South Africa. Up to the year 1870 South Africa had practically no economic value, but in 1871 the numerous great diamond fields were discovered and the mines at Kimberley opened up.

These events attracted great capital to that country, and it must be remembered that it is when the capitalists make the biggest profits that they are ready to stoop to the lowest depths to attain their ends— not even stopping at murder. Murder had been done in this town in the name of capital and murder had been done on the Rand in the same cause.

Other much needed reforms were waived aside by them in their desire for gain, and nothing was done to eradicate the evil. This question was at the bottom of all the revolt on the Rand—a revolt which he hoped would long continue (applause).

The workers in South Africa were not going to crawl on their knees to General Smuts, and he (the speaker) intended going back to fight a greater fight than ever (cheers). He would go back whether or not the help of the British Labour Party was forthcoming.

He felt sure of that help from Ireland (hear, hear). The recent elections in South Africa showed a reflex of public opinion on all these questions which were agitating the minds of workers. Whole-hearted sympathy had been extended to the oppressed and General Smuts was placed in power. This gentleman, however, had abused his position, and there was now, said the speaker, as much hope for his future as for "a celluloid cat in Hades chased by an asbestos dog" (laughter).

It must be remembered that when the strike broke out on the Rand it was only of a sectional character, as the miners alone came out and were blacklegged upon and defeated. They had never had a sectional strike since and were determined not to have another. Their unions were amalgamated and the Government became frightened when they saw the workers' organisation developing.

The speaker went on to describe the trend of industry on the Rand, the huge mining operations in progress, and the relations between landlord and tenant as they affected the miners. The workers decided, amongst other things, to put a stop to all work on Saturday afternoons and consulted the Labour Federation on this latter question. The result was that a deadlock arose and the mining operations came to a standstill.

The men's demands were refused and the mines' managers were united in their refusal. He (the speaker) wished that the workers were always as loyal to their class as the masters were to theirs. The strike went on in a most "peaceful" fashion for a few weeks until it arrived at that stage when financial support a one was useless to the men; the only thing of any avail was sympathetic action all round.

supply of workmen to avert this and the Federation acceded to their request on certain conditions, which the employers were forced to agree to, because the men were having their day then. The Government were only allowed to run the mail trains on condition that the trains carried a red flag, and they were further forced to take the police and soldiers out of the streets.

The Federation then stepped in and ruled the town and never before did such order prevail. The workers were accordingly shown the enormous extent of their power and were taught a lesson that they could not have learned from twenty years of propaganda.

Later, however, there was a fresh outbreak of commotion as the result of an attack by the military on peaceful meeting. People were ruthlessly shot down, whom Lord Gladstone afterwards described as the hooligan element, but he (the speaker) would tell Lord Gladstone that he was a liar.

Amongst those who were shot down were men of the propertied class and others not concerned in the strike. Cinematograph films of these occurrences were taken, some of which were seized by the Home Office and destroyed. Mr. Crawford then spoke eloquently of the great heroism displayed by the strikers in face of the odds against them, and related many interesting incidents of the great struggle that were listened to with rapt attention by his audience.

All these events went to show how the people were being treated. Those who had been murdered were shot down because they were unarmed. This was why he was now glad to see the Citizen Army in their midst as this was an institution that would have to be built up (applause). When they did this the Government would respect them. The Rand crisis now reached such a climax that the Government began to dread the nights. They were afraid that bombs would be brought into use by the strikers, and that some morning they might waken up to find Johannesburg blown off the map.

Consequently they agreed to grant every one of the men's demands, but evaded having it set down in writing. The strikers, although reluctant to do so, were persuaded to go back to their jobs, but when the Government were called on to redeem their promises they told them to go to hell! Whilst everything was quiet they had got their troops and forces ready, and now made every effort to induce another strike. But the Federation were not moved; there was no use in calling a strike when the employers were prepared. Accordingly men were sacked wholesale, and in the end the Federation found it necessary to call a general strike.

Military law was immediately brought into force. The Boers were let loose on the public, and went into the homes of the strikers and dragged them off to gaol. Others were imprisoned who had no connection with the strike, such as doctors and professional men. Even the Mayor of Victoria and an ex-Mayor of Johannesburg found themselves in gaol. Mr. Larkin—it would be a good thing if the Mayor of this town was in gaol. The speaker next dealt with the long period of turmoil that ensued and the manner in which the British workers were treated by the Boers, and concluding with the farcical siege of the Federation headquarters by the Government troops.

Government in attempting to crush out the rights of the workers those rights which they were determined should be preserved and handed down to their children and their children's children (applause).

The Chairman, in commenting on Mr. Crawford's eloquent address, said that if they compared the great struggle which they had gone through here in Dublin with that of their brothers in South Africa they would see that the governing class all over the world were as one in their antagonism to the cause of the workers (hear, hear).

Jim Connolly thought that the workers of Dublin should be glad to have an opportunity of meeting the representatives of the South African Labour Movement. No matter under what flag or in what country it flourished Capitalism was the same, and the working classes ought to pledge themselves to carry out the same fight as that which had been put up by the workers in South Africa. The freedom of a country must be measured by the freedom of that most oppressed class in it—the working class.

Jim Larkin, amidst applause, described Mr. Crawford's speech as one that was most stimulating and strengthening to hear. He could see a certain individual now within reach of his voice who was one of the employers who had been so bitterly arrayed against the workers of Dublin during the late dispute—a man who had broken every honourable promise he had made.

A Voice—Put him out. Mr. Larkin. No, he would not be put out, but he (Mr. Larkin) would tell him that he ought to go back to his own camp because they had now put their hands to the plough and cut a furrow that neither the employers nor their breed would ever blot out (applause). The working class possessed greater souls than the mean pettifogging souls of the employers. The employing class of Dublin had starved and locked out women and children because they could not defeat the men. Orange and Board of Erin employers were all combined against Trade Unionism and in their attempt to destroy the workers of Dublin body and soul. The leaders of the victimised workers were denounced from the Press and the altar, and threats were made that they would be run out of the country, but he (Mr. Larkin) would never leave Ireland so long as he had the confidence and support of the working class (cheers).

He would tell the employers that he was as ready as ever to continue in the great fight that was going on. God had never bestowed power upon the masters; it was the workers themselves who gave it. They had the rights of their class to fight for and their greatest right was the liberty to enjoy the fullness of life. The man who proved a traitor to his class was a despicable being, no matter whether he sheltered under the banner of Redmond or of Carson, and the breed of this type that cursed Ireland most was the Board of Erin Order of Hibernians (groans). They in the Labour Movement did not live merely for a day; they were building up a new future for Ireland—a great new structure wherein they and their class would henceforth live in complete unity and harmony (applause).

Messrs. M'Mullen and Campbell, of Belfast, and Mr. Donnelly, T.C., also addressed the gathering, which separated after an enthusiastic rendering of "The Red Flag" and "A Nation Ours Again," and cheers for the South African deportee.

A Tin Bethel Strike at Liverpool.

By "Shellback."

For the past week some three thousand workers, out of a total of about five thousand employed by the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board, have been on strike in Liverpool. What they are fighting for includes that cause of many strikes—"Recognition"—which is a something that, like the ballot box, may or may not prove of value. However, I believe there are other demands included in their policy that will improve their position industrially, when won, that legalises their present action, and consequently every labour man must heartily wish them success. Even without that qualification, we sympathise with workers, who, on any pretext, are prepared to try a fall with the pampered loafers who have waxed fat on the labour and the misery of the bottom dog. And these men in Liverpool, whatever their demands may be, have grievances deep and sore that should not only be remedied instantly but a penalty enforced for their existence in the past. Recognition should not be sought for as a concession, but the unions should insist that no other method of dealing with workers should be tolerated, save that which was directed through their selected representatives. The word has no right to appear on any list of claims presented to an employer, but no work should ever be permitted when the right of the workers' representative to state the conditions under which that work shall be done is disputed. But wasting our substance in claiming or begging what should be ours by the right of might is one of the little extravagances of sectional unionism and constitutional and gentlemanly leaders; and this strike in Liverpool goes a very long way towards proving clearly to the worker the necessity of immediately revising our methods and saving the money that we now expend in running an annual pantomime strike that only results in giving an opportunity to empty-headed, useless "leaders" to do their little turn in the limelight as peaceful angels or compromising, agreement-signing White-Book fakirs. Taking it for granted that every worker is agreed that we must change our methods—and there is no earthly reason for supposing that that agreement does not exist—the question is how is the change to be made, or in what way can we improve upon present fighting tactics?

By industrial unionism. That form of labour organisation that would have made a desert of Liverpool's docks by now if the claims of these three thousand men who have been all the week on strike had not at once been met. True it would put a lot of labour leaders out of work, but that would prove another gain, for instead of being a tax as at present on the funds of the union, they would have to become contributing members.

I quite admit there is a difficulty in the way of making this change. One of the greatest obstacles the preacher of industrial unionism has to contend with is the absolute blindness of the average worker to what can be only described as the octopus-like organisation of the employing and capitalist class. Religion, commerce, law, medicine, and professionalism in every direction are all part of a great devil fish whose numerous arms are driven through the giant body of the workers, dividing and separating them into smaller and smaller sections that they keep in open opposition or competition in order that, while they are spending all their time in solving such riddles as are connected with the savings and doings of Parliamentary humbugs, they will not discover the ugly, hideous body with the jelly eyes that controls the arms that divide them. This strike in Liverpool typifies in every sense the absolute solidarity of all that represents commercialism. The Mersey Dock Board—the body that represents the bond holders in the Liverpool Dock concern—are risking everything, their docks and capital in opposing the claims of their employees to recognition. This board is mostly made up of men who, as local shipowners, have already conceded their labourers' claim for recognition of their union, yet as dock board directors these same men are prepared to fight their workers on this question, and the irony of the position lies in this fact, that the workers fail to realise

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that the reasonable employers as shipowners are the same individuals who comprise the unreasonable employers of the dock board, and the result is that ships are loaded and discharged, are decked and undocked by trade unionists whose sympathies are with the men on strike, but whom they are helping to defeat by remaining at work.

The Liverpool Dock Board strike is a shipping strike. And what I want to know is, why has there not been declared a general shipping strike in that port? Liverpool is, as one of the local leaders recently declared, the best organised labour centres in the Kingdom, yet labour can be attacked in small sections, while the organised thousands retain their friendly relations with the bosses in this best of all labour citadels.

In Liverpool labour men seek seats in the City Council for the benefit of every section of labour in the city; if proposing monuments to the worst type of employers or attending fat men's dinner parties can be so considered, for personally I have heard of no other sort of "benefit" materialising from their presence on the Council. But in purely labour matters they are sectional to the core. There is something like thirty different unions working along Liverpool docks, and the strike of one of these unions against the Dock Board is no concern of any of the other twenty-nine spouters of "solidarity." The work is going on.

The injured workman expects honest treatment from a doctor, and trusts his claim for compensation to a lawyer, who, for all he knows, might both be financially interested in the firm to be sued and therefore opposed to his claim. A railway director is not only connected with the conduct of a railway company. He is also, nine times out of ten, connected with those who use the railways and those who make them, with land ownership, and always with the political parties, who, on the pretext of governing the country, exist for the purpose of helping him on his career of money-grabbing and oppression. All these gentry are bound together in the commercial brotherhood of Freemasonry, and are always opposed to the just claims of the workers who are too honourable for too innocent to fully understand the real connection that ties all commercial interests tight and solid in that figurative faggot of sticks that up to now has so successfully resisted all attempts to bend or break one single stick of their number.

Liverpool has no Jim Larkin. If Jim had been there, I venture to assert that the Dock Board by now, would have suffered a defeat, as sailors, carters, railwaymen, as well as Dock Board employees would have been out, and they represent such a number, that there could be no fear of a sufficient number of blacklegs being obtained to keep the Dock work going. He would have raised the cry that an injury to one Dock Board employee, was an injury to every man whose living was connected with the work of the docks. He would not have retired into the obscurity of his tent or become conspicuous by his golden silence. How long, oh Lord! how long?

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QUEENSTOWN NOTES.

THE MERE IRISH. "Better hate or cold neglect Or lukewarm love at best Is all we've had, or can expect We aliens of the West." The above lines appended to an article by James Connolly in 'Forward' a few months ago...

Northern Notes.

he 'we'll h. Of late there is little to chronicle in the labour movement in Belfast. The majority of the workers have had their annual week's holiday at their own expense...

INCHICORE ITEMS.

For the information of my friends in Inchicore, I desire to make the following statements:— 1st.—The Citizen Army was founded and formed before the Irish Volunteers were even discussed.

ARCHIE CRAWFORD.

An Impression. We had been led to expect any kind of man. We labour under the disadvantage of getting all our knowledge from the Press—and what the Press can't lie about is not worth lying about.

SEARCHLIGHT FLASHES.

"This is a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves." As I trace the words forming in my mind, my imagination paints for me the picture of the gentle Saviour flogging the money changers from the Temple.

MANUFACTURING CRIME.

Making Cases in the D.M.P. It is a matter of common acceptance that a job is certain to be done if high enough a price be offered. However low a task may be, somebody will be found low enough to do it for a reward.

The Reward Board.

It is not commonly known to the public that a system of rewards exists whereby "cases" secured are rewarded by money grants, based upon a regular definite scale.

The Compounds.

Another factor which aids this pernicious situation is the method of recruiting men from the distant country places, and the refusal to admit men born and reared in the city of Dublin.

WEXFORD NOTES.

On Friday night last the Wexford Labour Party arranged a demonstration, which took place in St. Mary's Ward, so that Alderman Corish could personally thank his many supporters.

North Dock Ward.

Notice to Members. Members of the Transport Union resident in the above Ward are again reminded that the Long List can now be seen in No. 6 Room (1st landing) Liberty Hall.

WHAT IS THIS SOCIALISM?—Workers, Attend the following Meetings:— Sunday, 26th July, Beresford Place, 12 noon; Sunday, 26th July, Foster Place, 8.30 p.m.; Tuesday, 28th July, Beresford Place, 8.30 p.m.; Thursday, 30th July, Charlemont Bridge, 8.30 p.m.; Friday, 31st July, Business at which intending members may join. Reading Room open every evening.

THE SPORT WORLD.

There is one outstanding subject of discussion in the sport world at present. "A foul or not a foul!" The "Times" has raked up the Sayers-Heenan fight for a parallel.

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