

# Another Enlargement.

You can't afford to miss the articles  
inside, on The International—  
Dobbinism—Socialism—and the  
live-wire news of Irish Labour.

IRISH OPINION

# The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. No. 64.

FEBRUARY 15 1919.

ONE PENNY

## Col. Wallace as "Pontius Pilate"

### A NEW PLAY.

The attempt of the Junta that governs the Orange Order to sow disunion among the workers of Belfast should be carefully noted. They profess that the cause of the strike is unknown to them. "It is not our business and we refrain from taking sides in the cause of the dispute."

So said Pilate on one occasion—but Christ was crucified just the same.

Nevertheless they go on to allege that the Strike was engineered by outside parties in revenge for these parties' defeat at the General Election. Belfast knows that the Wallace-Carson clique are lying when they speak so in the name of the Order.

"Every Unionist candidate in the City of Belfast at the recent elections expressed himself in favour of better conditions and shorter hours for the workers, and we are asking them to keep their promise."

The Grand Lodge has some little influence with Unionist Members of Parliament. It has friends in the Cabinet, too. What are they all doing to "keep that promise"?

Then follows the old-time twaddle that the shorter hours' question is a national matter for the United Kingdom. Bob Weir—as well entitled, we believe, to speak for the Orangemen on strike as the Grand Lodge itself—said the same day ("Irish Times" report), "that in some shipbuilding centres in the United Kingdom firms worked 51 hours all the year round, and other firms 48 hours during two or three months. They in Belfast continuously worked 54 hours, and in spite of this the cross-Channel firms were able to compete with Belfast in the markets of the world and turn

out ships without any complaint against the two or three hours' handicap in favour of the Belfast firms."

We have nothing to say about the Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast in its proper capacity—but its interference with a tissue of untruths, half-truths, and hypocrisies, is an insult to the working-class members of the Order.

How did the gentlemen who compose the Grand Lodge get there, anyway? Some of us have been too long in asking that question. A straight answer would ease our minds.

## LORD PIRRIE

and the

## Competition Lie

See inside.

Mole by Mure, Too.

The "Morning Post," the organ of Blood, Bullets, and Batons, has Mr. Thomas Moles, M.P., for Belfast correspondent. Watch the Belfast articles in it!

They, too, Have Murphies.

Glasgow Trades Council has excluded the Press from its meetings on account of the slanders circulated. Direct action would be a better cure.

A Worthy Brother?

Rev. David Ness, a Grand Chaplain of the L.O.L. is taking an active part in the anti-strike meetings engineered by the boss class on the Clyde. That's the Wallace idea of neutrality.

## A Hungry Hamilton Snarls.

"For the last three years the country has been debauched by Government money, lavishly bestowed, without the least regard to supervision or control," said Lord Claud Hamilton, at the Great Eastern Railway Company's meeting.

Lord Claud is entitled to speak authoritatively on the demoralising effects of Government money. He has had several thousands in his time. His brother, Lord George, drew salary as a Cabinet Minister for over ten years and has been drawing a pension since.

The origin of the Hamiltons is lost in the mists of antiquity, but they managed to grab Government money in Scotland, France, and England. "Brute Force" established them in Co. Tyrone three hundred years ago.

"Brute force in any shape is contrary to the instincts of the nation," he continued amid cheers. "We have disposed of it on the Continent. We are surely not going to allow it, fostered by those who have not risked their lives nor suffered the unspeakable miseries of trench life, to raise its noxious head at home. The time is arriving when the Government must take off the velvet gloves they have worn too long."

Claud is 75 years of age. You can guess how much he suffered in the trenches. His service was spent at Windsor and Knightsbridge in the piping times of peace long before Cardwell or Haldane introduced work to the British army officer.

A.S.E. Members Note.

District Committees are asked for nominations for the vacant General Secretaryship. Don't have another Young or Brownlie.

# Opportunity Knocks! Shall we prove Deaf?

By Oscar Williams.

**This article emphasises the points raised by Mr. M. J. O'Lehane last week. The problem is knotty but good-will is the solvent. Will the Unions act?**

It is indeed refreshing to find that at last some attempt is to be made to solve the problem created by "overlapping and competition amongst Unions," and it is to be sincerely hoped that those who will gather together to find a solution to the puzzle will assemble in a spirit of broadminded tolerance towards each other. Any other attitude will foredoom the Conference to failure. There must be no question of this Union against that Union, no atmosphere of jealousy or mistrust, but there must prevail a genuine desire to consolidate the whole Labour front and all individual interests

## Must be Sunk.

As a Distributive worker—one of those buffers between the producer and the public—I am especially interested in the outcome of the Congress deliberations, for surely in no other sphere of Trade Union activity is there such a multiplicity of Unions and conflict of interests as in the Distributive trade.

Not alone are there several Unions of long standing catering for my class, but nearly every town has produced its own local organisation, resulting in a weakening of strength, a division of forces, and consequently an

## Easier Time for the Boss.

It not infrequently happens that these spasmodic local efforts have their origin in the action of a few disgruntled individuals who because of some grievance (usually imaginary) sever their connection with a responsible Union and immediately start to create a Union of their own, which they foster by a judicious pulling of local "strings" and by pandering to every local prejudice. Occasionally they try conclusions with the employers, but many of the settlements made are arrived at without due thought as to the ultimate effect, and the result is often the reverse of success. This is bound to happen where conceit and inexperience hold sway, and those are two qualities which more often than not permeate "localism."

The tragedy of the local Union is one that will end in disaster if it is not stopped, and that very speedily. To attempt to organise on local lines in these days of federation amongst employers as a class, irrespective of race, religion, or any distinction of nationality, is the height of folly, and those who persist in it must be "sent to Coventry" by the national movement.

For the sake of Trade Unionism, for the sake of progress, for the sake of preparing the ground for the coming onslaught of Labour upon oppressive Capital.

## Localism Must be Killed.

The Congress can do it, and the Congress must do it. It is a duty that falls upon it and if it does not carry that duty out regardless of petty interests and the brushing aside of a few local tin-gods, it will fail lamentably in its true mission.

## Congress as Game-keeper.

But apart from the blight of "localism" the Distributive worker is also considered fair game for the "poacher," and the time has come when the Congress must play the part of "game-keeper."

Poachers in the Trade Union world are divided into two classes. There is the organisation whose scope is entirely outside the Distributive world and which nevertheless unblushingly enrolls members from desk and counter, and there is the organisation which, springing into being on the plea of catering for a class or section hitherto neglected, gradually extends its operations, and spreading its net catches the unwary without being in any sense properly equipped to cater for them.

All who have made even the slightest study of the movement in Ireland as it affects Distributive workers must acknowledge the truth of what I have written, and while I hesitate to mention names, since without any definite lead from Congress it might be urged with justification that all was fair in the fight for the establishment of a large membership, I believe few will have any difficulty in recognising

## The Chief Offenders.

The trouble that is caused by different Unions catering for the same class of worker in the same establishments need scarcely be elaborated, for it is patent to all. Only last week negotiators on behalf of the staff of an important Dublin grocery firm found themselves

## Up Against "A Stone Wall."

because another organisation had previously set for a section of the workers in that establishment a lower minimum rate than they were demanding, and which they had already enforced in other centres.

This lack of cohesion must be stopped. If organisations are too jealous of each other to confer together and mutually agree upon lines of demarcation, then the

## Congress Must Step in,

and either confine the various Unions to "watertight compartments" with some Clearing House system for the proper allocation of membership, or it must propound a scheme of Amalgamation or Federation.

## A Good Example.

The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks took the first step forward at the recent sitting of their Irish National Council in calling upon Congress to move in this matter, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the other organisations who

are catering for shop and office workers will be equally prepared to sink individual interests in any scheme which will make for strength and real progress. Opportunity is knocking! Open the door!

## "A DELIVERANCE THAT DOES NOT DELIVER."

In this happy land a man who spells his name "Mac Gabhainn" is liable to be locked up by the first peeler who accosts him and is always suspected of suffering from the blind hysterics of the Celt. But if he spells it "Cowan," there is a fine choice of Government jobs open to him, especially if he hails from Drumseugh or Kenneuchar in Alba. P. C. Cowan, the Housing Specialist, is a case in point. He is, if we may judge from his pamphlet, "Reconstruction," not altogether an undesirable importation. He brings a lot of common sense to bear on the problems of Health, Housing, and Industry, mingled, of course, with a few prejudices and vitiated by a fondness for quoting Sir Charles Cameron—doesn't the Gaelic of that name mean, "twisted nose"?

P. C. Cowan's booklet reveals to us the mind of the Government's advisers on the technical side of governing. Mr. Cowan's business is "reporting." No good ever comes of the reports. If nothing is done we can't blame Cowan. His very moderate essays convince us that with little cost the lot of the people could be vastly improved.

That cost will not be met. The money is needed to irrigate Mesopotamia. We object fundamentally to English Government as alien, but as citizens of the world, we could find in Mr. Cowan's pages ample and repeated proofs that English Government in Ireland discharges none of the duties that attach to Government. The maintenance of public health, the provision of housing as fit for human habitation as an English pig-sty must be for pigs, and the encouragement of industry by exploitation of natural resources, higher education and the fostering of research in industry and commerce, these are obvious duties of an efficient Government. Dublin Castle is content to pay Mr. Cowan for telling them what to do. If we were to-morrow to abandon every national claim, against such a Government the strongest attacks ever made in the name of patriotism would still be fully justified.

On the question of Capital and Labour Mr. Cowan's views are the usual "hand-in-hand" stuff.

"Reconstruction." By P. C. Cowan. D.Sc., M.I.C.E. The Talbot Press, 89 Talbot St., Dublin. 1s. net., by post, 1s. 2d.

## Jail Birds for Office.

Arthur Skidmore, jailed for a month for having two copies of a Socialist paper in his possession, was nominated as Public Utilities Commissioner at Toronto.

# THE FELL IMPORT OF DOBBINISM.

## Official Story of Cork's Sixteen Month's Strike.

[The following statement of facts relating to the strike of employees at the firm of Messrs. Dobbin, Ogilvie & Co. is issued by, and with the approval of, the Cork Trades and Labour Council in the hope of removing some misapprehensions and refuting many calculated falsehoods.

Many statements having been issued from time to time in connection with the year-old dispute between Messrs. Dobbin, Ogilvie & Co. and their workers—buttressed as these statements are by dangerous innuendo—the Cork Trades and Labour Council appointed an independent Committee to investigate and report upon the ascertainable facts and herein present to the organised workers and to the public generally a fair explanation of all incidents that led up to this regrettable dispute, as revealed by the investigation of their Committee, and so far as can be judged the cause, or causes, that have contributed to its prolongation and prevents a settlement.

In view of the grave possibilities of a further development of this dispute the Trades Council feel that it is their duty to tell the truth in the matter and to abide the consequences. But the public have a duty not less obvious. Should the present resentment which is manifesting itself amongst the workers and which is occasioned by the feeling they all share, that Messrs. Dobbin have by their treatment of their workers—mostly women—led to precipitate action, the result will react upon the lives and comforts of rich and poor, masters and men. All will share in the common consequences of Industrial unrest and Social discontent. Therefore all, whether masters or men, should now strive to end this lamentable dispute; **if the dispute cannot be ended it cannot be controlled, nor can its ultimate consequences be influenced.**

The Trades Council have missed no opportunity to end the strike nor have they spared any effort to localise it. Some weeks ago they wrote to the Employers' Federation—of which Sir Alfred Dobbin is a member—inviting a conference to discuss the subject matter in dispute and help towards a settlement. The Employers' Federation, in reply, wrote that they could not enter into any such discussion because the matter involved was one of discipline and that no question of wages arose. In view of this determined refusal of the Federation to enter into any attempt that might lead to peace and justice the workers have begun to view the present attitude of Messrs. Dobbin, Ogilvie & Co. as a **set policy, approved by the Employers' Federation, to defeat Trade Unionism.** Future action on the part of the workers will be assuredly dictated by this feeling.

When the Employers' Federation asserts that "no question of wages is involved" they simply lend their sanction to a mischievous falsehood. The facts before the Council are: that on October 26th, 1917, an application was made by

the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union to Messrs. Dobbin, Ogilvie & Co., on behalf of their employees, for

- (a) A minimum wage of 18/- per week for girls over 20 years of age, and 10/- minimum for girls under 20 years;
- (b) A "one o'clock stop" on Saturday;
- (c) Payment for overtime; and
- (d) A minimum wage of 30/- per week for adult male workers.

From the letter embodying the application we extract the following telling phrases:—

"Women and girl workers are scandalously underpaid; many of them do men's work for a mere pittance; 20/- to-day (26/10/17) buys less than 8/9 before the war, . . . and the underpayment of women workers is a grave matter that leaves many of them open to exploitation of even a worse kind."

That the wages were shamefully bad seems to be generally admitted, and therefore the application of the Transport Union was as justified as it was moderate. The war had at this time run over a period of three years, and the cost of living had been rushed up by profiteers and exploiters to an alarming extent; indeed, the advances in the price of foodstuff showed an increase of 90 per cent. over pre-war rates. **Yet the wages paid by the wealthy firm of Dobbin, Ogilvie & Co. to girls ran from 4/6 per week to 10/-; the men's wages hovered in the vicinity of 18/- to 22/- per week.** While a girl could only earn 4/6 or 5/6—even girls of mature years, in fact young women, could not earn more than 6/- to 7/6—the cost of maintaining a pauper inmate in the Union Workhouse was about 12/6. Messrs. Dobbin knew they were treating their employees dishonestly and feared that, human nature being what it is, the workers might be driven to other methods of obtaining the return for their hire that their employer, through the advantage of his position, could legally and systematically rob them of, and therefore engaged men and women as hired detectives to watch and search the person of each employee as they left the works each night. Here is the surest and the most convincing condemnation of Dobbinism! **Honest men and women are inevitably converted into thieves and criminals by the Capitalistic system. Capitalism is its own accuser, its own judge, and shall one day be its own executioner. Dobbins knew their system would pervert their workers, and they provided safeguards in the persons of paid spies. 'Tis conscience makes cowards of us all.**

It was generally thought that Messrs. Dobbin & Co., who as Government contractors, had turned the distress of the people during the war period to good account and whilst remaining safely at home had made much war profit would be liberal in their treatment of the application on behalf of their workers. That the application was moderate is beyond question. But Messrs. Dobbin

turned it down, although as Government contractors they were, if the law had been impartially administered, obliged to observe the Fair Wages Clause of the English House of Commons. The firm did actually grant a paltry increase of from 2/- to 4/- per week to the women, refused the men's application, and by means of a notice publicly exhibited in the factory announced their disapproval of Trade Unionism generally, and of the Irish Transport Workers' Union particularly. This act of grace, and the implied tyranny, was followed by the dismissal of one woman who had been conspicuous in supporting the Union. Of course Sir Alfred Dobbin denies that her association with trade unionism was the cause of her dismissal, but her co-workers deny that there could have been any other cause, and so far none other has been invented by the firm. **Wages were the root cause of the dispute, but the dismissal of Mary McGrath was the spark that caused the flame.** She was dismissed on January 12th, 1918, within a few days of the anti-union notice already referred to, and if her dismissal had no reference to her participation in the activities of her Union and the application for improved conditions, there can have been no cause for it. We challenged Sir Alfred Dobbin to state and prove before an independent tribunal to be mutually agreed upon that he had any other grounds for the dismissal. It is important that this challenge should be availed of to justify the base innuendo that for many months has been inspired by hirelings of the firm, and which has unfortunately gained some currency. It is ludicrous to suggest that this young lady, who was nine years in the firm's employment, without a stain or a reprimand, rendered herself at this crucial moment open to reproach. Further, on quitting the employment she was given, under Sir Alfred Dobbin's hand, an excellent character. And well it might have been otherwise! The remarkable thing is, **not** that girls paid the sweated wage of 2/6 to 4/6 per week (pre-war values) should be depraved and abandoned, **but that they are not so.** The unblemished character of the Irish working girl, notwithstanding her privations and the temptations that dog her pathway through a life of melancholy misery, is to-day the one shining link, its brilliancy transcending all others and shedding its lustre upon a world darkened by the overweening march of the Capitalistic octopus, that binds our race and our nation to the glories of the past. **If the sweated industries that have burrowed themselves into our economic system have not produced many criminals we owe it not to them, or to the system that begot them, but rather to the inherent devotion of our Common People to a noble idealism that has become a synonym for Ireland.**

Following the dismissal already referred to events crowded upon each other in quick succession. Other girls were sent to perform the work hitherto performed by her, and refused to perform it

because, so they said, they believed their comrade from whom they received the inspiration of Trade Union Solidarity was being victimised by her employer. At the week-end each of these girls—four in number—were given notice of dismissal. Immediately this became known (on 26/1/18 the factory staff—male and female—at a meeting specially convened to consider the position, unanimously agreed that unless the dismissal notices were revoked they would not return again to work. Messrs. Dobbin were notified of this decision, an official of the Union endeavoured to interview Sir Alfred Dobbin, and was refused an interview, and the firm were adamant. **Thus was the strike of January 28th produced.** Although in its initial stages the strike only effected the general stores and factory at Hibernian Buildings, King Street, it soon spread to the Palace Theatre, which is also owned and controlled by the Dobbin interests. It may be further observed that some months afterwards an independent strike, produced by a conflict between Messrs. Dobbin and the Musicians, whose Union was also spurned and turned down, took place at the Palace Theatre, and this also is still continued. Space will not permit, nor in view of the spirit of Dobbinism is it necessary to investigate the origin of the latter dispute. Suffice it to say that the hostility of Messrs. Dobbin to anything savouring of working class action is identical in both instances. **Both the factory and the theatre are worked by Blackleg Labour,** and are guarded by the police force at much cost to the citizens.

Efforts have been made by many people during the twelve months to bring about a settlement. Amongst those who interfered towards this end may be named a High Court Judge, the late Lord Mayor, the Very Rev. Fr. Thomas, an official of the Ministry of Labour and the Trades Council. Several deputations interviewed Sir Alfred Dobbin, but his reply to all was a refusal to have the matter reviewed in any light except that of his prerogative to treat his workers as he pleased. In his reply to the deputation from the Trades Council he even asked that body to repudiate the Transport Workers' Union and declare in his favour—in fact whitewash him. The facts stated herein have been placed before the Council, and they are unable, as representatives of Labour, to adopt this course; on the contrary the Council feels bound to congratulate the Union upon its heroic fight on behalf of these unfortunate, poorly paid workers, and to recommend organised Labour in the City of Cork and throughout the country to rally to their support.

We believe that the workers of the city will respond to our invitation in a manner worthy of Irish Labour, and **that the result will, in its effect upon Sir Alfred Dobbin, be immediate and crushing.** We are working for peace and tranquility and pray that both may be secured and preserved, but as the men and women are loyal to Labour we owe loyalty to them. The workers of every grade have a duty in this matter from which they cannot shrink. Need we name it? No less obvious is the duty of the public. Many people who have no direct interest in the dispute have de-

monstrated their disapproval of the conditions that led up to it, but there are also those others who because they felt that only a few unknown workers were affected have demonstrated on the side of the oppressor. Should the workers, in their conscious strength, give battle to the firm in all its wide-spread ramifications those who to-day glory in their sympathy with Dobbinism, and scab labour, will suffer no less surely than the interests to which they cling. They have the power now to save themselves from this tragedy—it is already looming on the horizon, and tragedy it surely is—but to-morrow their opportunity may have gone, the tragedy may be masquerading on the public stage, the passions and emotions that will be called forth are too terrible to be even hinted at. The workers have displayed a restraint that under the circumstances cannot be too highly commended, they are to-day in readiness, and if they strike the blow which is threatened the effect will be sure and terrible. **The citizens have not done their part.** They made no effort to ascertain the truth but with a blind pertinacity that seems almost incredible they declared against the workers.

In conclusion the Trades Council invites the various unions to ponder the salient facts herein presented, and declare for or against the workers now on strike, and the public are invited to make, each person for himself, a similar study and a decision based on the result of his investigation. Above all let the decision be now, and let the result be made known at once.

#### OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY.

**The Same Exploitation in U.S.A. as in "Green Isle."**

The Income-Tax struck in the States is beginning to reveal the glaring robbery of the wealth producers that is legalised under the American Constitution. The figures for 1916 show that out of a population of one hundred millions 429,401 persons received an aggregate income of one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine million five hundred and eighty-three thousand pounds (£1,739,583,000).

Allowing each taxpayer to represent a family of five, we calculate that just over two million persons enjoy that vast income. The very wealthy constitute only two per cent. of the American population, the same proportion as in Britain.

Only one-fifth of the sum (or about £348,000,000) is earned in wages, salaries or fees). The rest is derived from business profits, rent, interest, and dividends.

The wages of the great mass of the people are not included in these figures, as the lowest limit of income tax is 3,000 dollars (£625) per annum.

#### Ireland Abroad.

The Labour press of the world has received and reproduced the statement of the Foreign Policy of Irish Labour, published in the "Voice of Labour" of November 9th, 1918.

#### YOUR DISCOMFORT PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Dublin United Tramway Company which had twice in the last year to be threatened with strikes before it would consent to meagre increases in the workers' wages, which has twice raised the fares, and which subjects the tram-users daily to inconveniences, bled workers and public of £21,256 more in 1918 than in 1917. The shareholders take dividend at 6 per cent. with a tidy bonus besides. £50,000 is smuggled into various reserve funds for the future enjoyment of the shareholders. The No. 19 Death Traps are not going to be replaced.

#### Benighted Spanish-America.

The despised, lazy, thriftless, etc., Latin Americans are beginning to slip it across the superior Europeans. Argentina capitalists are lending money on their own terms to Britain, France, and Italy, States which used to send gunboats to enforce payment of dividend on Argentine bonds.

Labour in all Spanish-American countries is active and aggressive. The recent strikes have secured victory all round. Even Mexico has introduced a new code of labour laws embodying the suggestions of the national labour organisations. That's why American Capital wants war in Mexico. Another paradise of cheap labour has vanished.

#### IMPERIAL CABINET MINISTER WELCOMED AT LIBERTY HALL!

Hon. J. A. Fiheelly, M.L.A., Minister of Railways in the Ryan Labour Government of Queensland, the exploits of which have been noted from time to time in the "Voice," was an interested and interesting visitor at Liberty Hall this week. He complains we hear that the Bolsheviks have crowded the Queensland Government out of the picture.

The social revolution has begun in Queensland, and Irish Ryan and Irish Fiheelly from Co. Cork have been doing their bit, with the people of Queensland behind them.

The State Governor tried to down them, William Morris Hughes suppressed the Queensland Government printing press and even the Queensland "Hansard" came under D.O.R.A., but when the elections came round the Ryan Government was strengthened by the people's votes. Nothing short of overwhelming military force—perhaps not even that—can upset the Labour Republic of Queensland.

#### THE 44-HOUR WEEK.

A Conference of Women working under Trade Board regulations was held lately at Denmark House, under the auspices of the Irish Women Workers' Union, and resolutions were adopted urging that the minimum wage be based on a working week of 44 hours instead of 50, and that the working week of young people under 16 years of age be limited to 34 hours weekly. The Confectionery Trade Board have adopted the proposal for a 44-hour week and the minimum wage has been raised from 4d. to 5d. per "Propaganda and Progress," a title which hour. It is probable that the Tailoring Trade Board will follow along the same lines at an early date.

**In Cold Weather don't wet the hair, but come to Mallon's, 30 Edon Quay, and have a shampoo, sure preventative of colds.**

**A MAN OR AN OCTOPUS?****Pirrie's Clutching Hand.**

One of the causes of Labour unrest is the high price of food, and the entire disappearance of some food stuffs. Butter, for instance, has been replaced by margarine. Before the war margarine was bought any where for 3d. or 4d. per pound. Now it costs a shilling a pound.

Lord Pirrie is not the cause of the high price of margarine—but of course he benefits from it.

West Africa is the main source of supply of the nuts which are the raw material of margarine. Before the war West Africa was an open market, and the world's shipping competed for the carriage of its exports, thus keeping prices and freights low.

When war broke out competition stopped, and an export tax on Palm kernels with a preference to British exporters killed all foreign competition. Who benefitted? Not the natives. The margarine trust of England fixed the prices at lower rates than in the free market, thus robbing the natives.

The Trust raised the price of margarine at home. Pirrie pocketed his share of the robbery of the natives in Africa and the extortion at home.

He was director of the West African Lighterage and Trading Co., the Nigerian Dry Dock and Engineering Co., The African Boating Co., Elder, Dempster and Co., Ltd. (who monopolise the West African shipping trade), and through the last named he controls several other shipping lines and the Bank of West Africa, Ltd.

Through his pals, the Phillips family, he controls the South Pacific shipping trade, which taps the palm kernel supplies of that part of the globe. Through the Phillips' he controls the South American dead and live meat trade, and through his association with the International Merchantile Marine Co., of New Jersey, and the firm of J. P. Morgan and Co., of New York, he has pickings of profit from the American Meat and Bacon business.

His association with Sir John Reeves Ellerman, Baronet (son of Johann Herman Ellerman, native of Hamburg), gives him control of what shipping the Phillips' Royal Mail Steam Packet Co has not swallowed up. Ellerman is a substantial shareholder in the Hate-the-Hun newspapers, the "Times" (London) and the "Daily Mail." Pirrie, through Sir Hugh Bell, Sir Edward Holden and other directors of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, is associated with the pacifist weekly "Commonsense." His support of the Ulster Liberal Association is notorious, and it may be safely deduced that he is not without influence in the direction of the "Ulster Guardian."

We still say Lord Pirrie is not the cause of the high prices of margarine, cocoa, rubber, soap, tea, nitrates, meat, bacon, wheat and all the other things we must import but we fail to see how he can avoid profiting by them, when as a ship-builder (controlling the collieries, mines, foundries and forges that supply the raw materials of ship-building) and a ship owner, a merchant and a banker he controls the trade of the world.

And he controls, too, the Press that camouflages the facts.

**THE COMPETITION LIE.****The Bosses One Big Union Exposed.**

"Belfast cannot compete with English and Scottish engineering concerns if Belfast ship builders only work 44 hours against England's 47 hours."

Such is the cry of the capitalist Press. The one wee man that can alter it all is Lord Pirrie. The reason for the fight against 44 in Belfast is that if Pirrie gives way at home, he must concede 44 in Britain.

John Brown & Co., Ltd., Clydebank Shipyard, is controlled by Harland and Wolff, Ltd., Caird and Co., Ltd., Greenock, the London and Glasgow Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd., of Govan; D. and W. Henderson, Ltd., Meadowside, and A. and T. Inglis, Point-house, all on the Clyde, are now either absorbed or controlled by Harland and Wolff, Ltd. **Belfast is not competing with these, the principal Clyde yards. Pirrie is master there.**

Sir John Ellerman, like Lord Pirrie, is interested in the Diesel Engine Works at Scotstown. (Note the recent appointment of a Diesel manager at Queen's Island). Ellerman controls the Hull ship-building interests.

Through Lord Abergavenny, Chairman of the Harland and Wolff control firm of John Brown & Co., Pirrie is not without influence on the Mersey shipyards.

Pirrie sat or sits on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Telegraph Co. along with Lord Inchcape, of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company. With the P. and O. are connected Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Lt., the great Tyne ship-building concern.

Armstrongs are closely linked with Vickers of Barrow and Vickers with Beardmore's, Dalmuir.

We have not space to trace out all the connections or to detail the links that make the ship-building industry of Britain one great group of profit-making concerns.

**Competition, the parrot cry of the Belfast Press, is a great illusion.**

Ship-building is a trust on the Capitalist side. Labour must learn its lesson and make a great Labour trust to meet, to fight and overcome the Industrial Octopus of which Lord Pirrie is the brain.

**TOO LONG.**

Too long have they been harnessed to the mill

That of ten thousand lives grinds life for one;

Too long denied an hour of blessed sun,  
From dark ere dawning sweating blood until  
Again the dark of night. So did they fill

Your coffers to the brim with gold fine spun

Of brain and tissue; and their labour done,  
Found grudging rest beneath a lone grass hill.

And dare they hope, ye ask, the break of day,

Whom we accorded leisure of the night?

Presume to harvest any they have sown?

Aye, do they dare! And who shall them

gainsay.

Or ban a little hour of waning light?

\* Aye, they do dare to hope and HAVE

their own!

Edmund B. Fitzgerald, Belfast.

**PIRRIE'S WILES RESISTED.**

The Belfast Strike Committee has had a busy time since Lord Pirrie arrived in town. His Lordship consented to see them in his capacity of Ship Controller—a curious commentary on the Cabinet's declaration that it would not intervene. The Committee was firm in its refusal to surrender, the key position, the control of electric power and the tramways.

"An injury to one is the concern of all" has many implications, and the workers have made common cause with one another cannot surrender the interests of one section to obtain terms for another.

The Municipal employes have been refused the 44-hour week by the Corporation. The shipyard workers are standing by them.

So Pirrie's attempt to break the solidarity of Belfast Labour broke down. At the moment of writing the conferences continue. What news we have is hopeful, but must not be published. The situation may be gauged from the advertisement in the "Strike Bulletin":

**Two Respectable Working Men** require Board and Lodging convenient to shipyard.

**COVE BACKS BELFAST**

Typical of the sort of resolution that our paper is too small to print is this passed by the Queenstown branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners at a special meeting of the branch.

We congratulate our Belfast comrades on the magnificent stand they are taking for the reduction of working hours and better conditions in general, and we wish them every success, and trust their action will sound a key-note to the rest of our country.

—R. RONAYNE, Branch Secretary.

Every morning the "Independent" and every evening the "Evening Herald" arrive in Belfast with insidious articles about "Bigotry in Belfast" and alleged interviews with anonymous "prominent trade unionists." The tares of religious mistrust and political suspicion are being sown as industrially by the so-called Catholic and Nationalist Press as by the professedly Protestant and Unionist journals.

These manoeuvres can be counteracted by trades unions sending their resolutions of congratulation direct to the

General Strike Committee,  
Artizan's Hall,  
Garfield Street, Belfast.

**Dichroic Ink.**

We shall be glad to publish any statement of wages paid to the girls in their employment that Messrs. Bewley and Draper, Ink Manufacturers, 23 Mary Street, Dublin, may care to furnish to us. If they do so they will save us the trouble of investigating certain information received.

**Unemployment on Farms.**

"Commonsense" reports dismissals of youths by English farmers, the latter being unwilling to pay the legal wage. **Archbishop steals "Hun Church."**



Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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## THE INTERNATIONAL STILL LIVES!

**"We are they whose trumpet rings that all the wars may cease."**

The International Socialist and Labour Conference now in session at Berne certainly does not suggest to the casual reader of the daily Press a very brilliant or a very inspiring assembly. Nor, certain fervid Labour and Socialist critics may add, a very proletarian, a very revolutionary, a very internationalist assembly. The new International appears sober, academic, almost respectable. No voice like that of the pre-war Gustave Heirve, that of Liebknecht daring the Jingos of Prussia, that of Keir Hardie pleaded resolutely for peace and brotherhood in a war-crazed Britain dominates its councils. No giant like Jaures has arisen to criticise impartially the Left and Right sections. No iron personality like James Connolly is to the fore. We would remind such critics that the International has come together in a sober and exhausted world. Although, for the moment Lenin and Trotsky remain further off than Berne, although International Socialism has had nobler gatherings second views are best and the beginning at Berne promises well. We do not hesitate to salute the Berne Conference. Let him who sneers be sure he has the right to sneer. We are listening, in this fateful hour, to the resurgent cry of "Workers of the world unite." "Workers of the world slaughter one another!" has never been a welcome cry to the working class. It has been practised but never really re-echoed in the heart of the peoples. Labour's organisation and educational propaganda were not powerful enough to prevent the international blood-letting, important a part as they played in stopping that blood-letting when the battle lines of two great empires had rocked for years in vain. At Berne a dazed and saddened International meets, but is the International that meets, alive after four years of unreason and horrors indescribable and unspeakable. It has survived the betrayals of its principles by predominant exponents. It faces a world that has learned from sad experience what filthy barbarism goes to our modern scientific warfare. Empires, systems, tyrannies have fallen. But the Inter-

national still lives. Long live the International! Notwithstanding its shortcomings its ranks higher in importance than the Peace Conference. Let it but have courage and Labour in all countries alert and militant behind it, and the voice of the working class shall be heard and followed at Paris yet.

Incomplete the Berne Conference doubtlessly is. Over 21 countries are represented by 80 delegates, but the Belgians, the Swiss and the Bolshéviki are all absent for different and excellent reasons. The Belgian objection to fraternising with the German we can appreciate, however unsound we may consider it. Emile Vandervelde, we note, does not agree with his compatriots' attitude. We trust the Belgians will be as strenuous in opposition to any annexationist schemes of their Government. The Swiss (and in this they have the support of influential Austrian sections) remain aloof on the ground that the Conference is too "reformist." They contend that its promoters have forsaken the Socialist ideal to support imperialism and capitalism. The contention is true, but not wholly true.

The German Majority Socialists have hit one nail fair and square on the head when they urge that there were many Scheidmanns throughout Europe. "We have done what we could for justice and peace, retort Herrén Wels and Müller to their critics, "but we had to maintain the national defence. Eisner and Kantsky, with a candour that Socialists of less outspoken countries not a thousand miles away might do worse than emulate, have been unsparing in criticism of German Social Democracy and the German Government alike in connection with the war. Proudly do they point to the new German constitution, the Revolution which ended the war and falsified the exultant sneers of the "Times" in 1914 anent the impotence of the working-class movement's anti-militarist ideals. Comrade Eisner asks pathetically whether the Revolution were not five years too late? If the Chauvinistic bitterness of Messrs. Albert Thomas and Pierre Renaudel were an index of the mind of Western Democracy the answer would be that fifty revolutions of the kind would not only be too late at any time but utterly useless as well. These representatives of the French Minoritaires were responsible for the fatuous discussion on the responsibility for the war.

Jean Longuet spoke up to the Jingos as befitted the grandson of Marx, a staunch friend of this Irish people's claim, a representative of the fearless and hard-thinking working-class of France. He deprecated the sweeping attacks upon Bolshevism and pointed out that Chauvinism and militarism, prostrated in Berlin and Vienna, had raised their heads in London, Paris and Rome. "Toujours la politesse!" But wait till Cathal O'Shannon and Seamus O h-Aodh and Thomas Johnson unfold their tale at greater length.

Mr. Stuart Bunning, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Union Congress, had the very creditable distinction of exorcising the spirit of Havelock Wilson. He agreed that the responsibility was a question to

be left to calmer times. At the best such a controversy was useless; at the worst it might break up the Conference, which should aim at influencing Paris. This appealed to the delegates, who agreed to a resolution deferring the discussion to more normal times. The International has turned to influence Paris and ignore the "Daily Sketches" of the world. The tone of the discussions on the League of Nations, conscription, self-determination, has been moderate, but healthy. The voice of working-class Europe is growing stronger and its brains are being used again.

We observe with guarded satisfaction the effect Berne has had upon Mr. Arthur Henderson as regards his views upon self-determination for subject nations within, aye, even within, the British Empire! You may hide Ireland, India and Egypt in Westminster. The silence of the Press and the amazement of politicians who try to ignore a proud and ancient people may deceive even a well-meaning moderate Labour man like Mr. Henderson. To do him justice he was improving slowly even before the clear light of Socialist and Republican Europe revealed to him that Ireland and Czecho-Slovakia have a common denominator of nationhood. Many such discoveries to him and his friends. The Italian Press has (for what motives it is needless to inquire) made a similar discovery. The Sinn Féin movement, the last four years' developments here, the demand of Ireland for independence, the grave national crisis, the high spirit of this people nowadays are no longer facts which displease the Censor in Rome. The voice of Ireland, of Labour and Republican Ireland is even now being heard at Berne. The separate and distinct nationhood of Ireland, her right to self-determination, her destiny, have been proclaimed before the whole world. Eisner, Kantsky, Longuet, will understand. Will Henderson and MacDonald have the courage to understand and say so? Will Dr. Wilson have the happiness to coin some resplendent phrase to hail the victory of a people that has long and rightly struggled to be free?

Be that as the future reveals it. The International sits at Berne. Its ideals are precious to all mankind. It represents the only force in the world outside the Christian Church which works against war and the military machine, which dares hope to beat swords to ploughshares and realise the prophet's dream. It is the first sign of sanity among Europe's workers, of a reaction prevalent everywhere, learned in blood and tragedies and the devastation of continents. A nobler and stronger International arises to follow that which seemed to have vanished in wounds and death. We of the Irish Labour movement send it our fraternal greetings. We could have no better champions and standard-bearers than Cathal O'Shannon and Thomas Johnson and Seamus O h-Aodh at Berne. Good luck to them and their mission. For the rest, what disciple of Connolly, what follower of Larkin, what man or woman of the Irish working-class will refuse to cry: **"The International still lives! Long live the International!"**

# The Workers' Republic. The great only appear great because we are on our knees: LET US RISE.

## The Congress.

Not long ago the National Executive of the Irish Labour Party were, in the pages of the "Freeman" and the "Irish Times," the sinister forerunners of social anarchy. Last Monday they were transformed into staid conservatives, the bulwarks of society against the shock of the impetuous hot-heads from Cork and Limerick.

"In so grave a matter the Committee seems to us to have been right, says the solemn "Freeman's Journal." The difference, this grave matter, between the National Executive and the Congress was simply the date on which the new schemes for enforcing the maximum hours and minimum wages were to be notified to the Executive. The latter proposed to fix May 1st; the Congress decided March 1st. Grave as the matter may seem to the "Freeman," it is unlikely that the movement will split on that issue when all are eager, ardently eager, to forward the programme.

That is the significance of Saturday's Congress. The rank and file are roused. The evil conditions too long endured revolt them. The swelling bank balances, even the drain of taxation which pours upwards of 30 million pounds a year into the lap of Step-mother Britannia, all the proofs of abounding and multiplying wealth in which they do not share, are moving the rural labourer, the small town craftsman and the city worker to claim at least that "frugal and decent comfort" which nature and religion unite to demand for them as inalienable inheritances.

The short period allowed by the delegates for the preparation of schemes of action is not unduly short. Every trade union branch is now tackling its individual problems. The facts of the case are well known. What is needed now is co-ordination of effort and the adjustment of the national programme to local needs. That need involve no long delays if union executives, branch committees and trades councils get to work at once. The spur of rank and file enthusiasm is hardly needed, but when the fight comes, and there will be a fight, it will find vent in a nation-wide effort to obtain justice.

## Stanley Wobbles Above.

The Railway Clerks' Association is entitled to our heartiest congratulations on the masterly victory secured last Tuesday. The Irish station masters, clerks, and goodsagents did not receive the news of the settlement in time to prevent them stopping work on the evening of the 4th inst., and many stations were left derelict by their withdrawal supported by their staffs. Our note last week gave too much credit to Sir Albert Stanley, the railway director who is President of the Board of Trade. Professing himself willing to recognise the R.C.A., he threw the onus of refusing its right to speak for the supervisory grades of the railway service on the Railway Executive Committee and stood by their decision until solidarity proved that without the goodwill of the station-masters and the R.C.A., the railways must stop.

Then followed an ungracious climb down, a surrender so prompt that one wonders if Sir Albert Stanley really possesses those virtues of foresight, business acumen, and organising ability claimed for him by the eulogists of the so-called Business Government. If the refusal to recognise the R.C.A. was the outcome of serious consideration and was justified as sound public policy, then the rapid turn-about was wrong. Or vice versa. We can neither fear nor respect such a Government.

## And Below Ground.

An equally erratic performance was Stanley's handling of the London Tube strike, which was brought about by the Companies, with the approval of the Board of Trade, stopping the meal intervals when the hours were reduced. The agreement on the 8-hour day clearly laid down that all other conditions should remain as heretofore. There was a distinct breach of faith and Sir Albert Stanley (a director of the London Underground as well as a Cabinet Minister) and his subordinates declined, with intolerable insolence, to discuss the grievance. The Loco. Engineers and Firemen's Union retorted on Monday, 3rd inst., by stopping four tubes by withdrawing the motormen and extended the strike daily until Sir Albert Stanley caved in on Thursday night.

## Trade Union Scabbery.

Then Mr. Walter Hudson and the N.U.R. Committee came in. At the beginning of the week Hudson condemned the strike. When he heard that the A.S.L.E.F. had settled with the Board of Trade and that the N.U.R.'s rival union would obtain credit for a great victory the tune was changed. The N.U.R. became the striking union. Doubtless, Mr. Hudson will present some sort of case for his latest turn-about, but there is no defence for his previous condemnation. Even such a rival as the Loco. Engineers' Union ought not to be stabbed in the back. Railwaymen demand that the policy of the N.U.R. should be governed by consideration of the men's interests rather than dictated by official jealousies. Hudson has earned a pension, and the N.U.R. would benefit by his retirement.

## Fools and Rats.

The fool official and the "rat" official are two grave problems requiring immediate attention from the rank and file. In these days when Labour intelligently led might attain mastery over the economic forces that have too long oppressed it, the failure is never in the spirit of the mass. Loyal, disciplined, courageous, the rank and file of Labour dare any deed, however dangerous or difficult. They stand up to any blows the master class can shower on them, but the treachery of their chosen leaders in many instances disheartens them and generates an atmosphere of suspicion hostile to solidarity. Happily, the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in Belfast, Glasgow, and London have learned too well, and too often in

the course of the war, the mean and treacherous nature of the ex-Socialists who have captured the Headquarters at Peckham Road to be dismayed by the suspension of their district committees. It is to the other district committees we look for a prompt repudiation of the Executive's action, the summoning of a delegate meeting, and the dismissal of the Young-Brownlie outfit at once. Will Dublin lead?

## The Tuft-Hunter.

The newspaper articles by J. R. Clynes, M.P., of the National Union of General (Gasworkers) Union, appearing in a dozen papers every day, afford another example of deliberate treason to the militant forces of labour. Safeguards against betrayal are difficult to devise, but a measure of safety involving no loss but much possibility of gain in unity would be the expulsion by British labour of all "Right Honorables" and "O.B.E.'s" and by Irish labour of all J.P.'s. The union official should seek the hall-mark of working-class approval rather than the Brummagem E.P.N.S. stamp of master-class dignities.

## Sgoil Enna.

Circumstances of weight such as the imprisonment of half the committee have prevented the friends of St. Enda making an earlier appeal to the Nation for the funds necessary to ensure the continuation of Patrick H. Pearse's brilliant and fruitful adventure in education. St. Enda's while he yet lived was the apex of Irish-Ireland attainments. Scholastically, as tested by University passes and such like standards, it was the peer of any school in Ireland. That was its founder's lowest standard. What it meant to the Nation is best measured by the sacrifice of the Brothers Pearse and their companions. Loving and devout hearts have carried on the school in its original home, but the fruition of Pearse's ideal demands the more spacious Hermitage from which he marched forth, never to return, on Easter Monday, 1916. Already an American Committee is at work, and generous donations are being given by the Exiles there. It will not be said that the homeland lagged in the good work. An appeal has been issued by the trustees and the committee, and subscriptions should be promptly sent to Rev. Dr. Browne, D.D. (of Maynooth), and Mr. Alfred McGloughlin, the Joint Treasurers, St. Enda's College, Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin.

## HOTEL AND RESTAURANT STRIKE.

London West End hotels were paralysed by a strike of 10,000 workers on February 4th. Many closed down, but at the Criterion Restaurant two companies of Freemasons dined with the aid of scab labour.

Aristocrats are offering to send their household servants to the hotels in order to break the strike.

Carmen.—£3 6s. 6d. gratefully acknowledged by Ginger-Nut.

# Transport Union Notes.

## That Membership Returns.

Will Branch Secs., who have not yet furnished Head Office with returns of their membership on December 31, 1918, please attend to this, the fifth reminder, and deliver the goods this week. Otherwise, we'll get a list of defaulters "an, faith, we'll prent it."

## Three "Dont's" for New Branches.

Don't expect that millenium after a month's affiliation. Don't make demands for increases until that job or that district is well organised. Don't press the farmers just yet, unless where conditions are favourable—work is slack and they can mostly dispense with labour for a little while. Collect the arrears under the A.W.B. regulations and wait for the Spring Offensive.

## Additional Arrivals.

Amongst recent new Branches are **Templemore, Dunmanway, Middleton, Loughrea, Mohill, Lixnaw, Mount Bellew, Rathcoormac, Ennistymon, Killimor, Mitchelstown and Skryne**, one of the remaining strongholds of the M.L.U. **Loughan** and **Robinstown** have also decided to come across. At **Hill-of-Down**, a non-scheduled item on the programme of a travelling circus was an address to the workers by E. Rooney.

## Something for "George A. Birmingham."

Anti-Collectivists aver that State Control doesn't pay. The men employed in the Congested District Board's saw-mill at **Claremorris** echo that argument, but in another sense. They had luxuriated on a 25s. wage and struck when that Board refused to increase it by a small John Bradbury. The affair is being taken up by Union Headquarters, pending the issue of a new book on the subject by Rev. Canon Hannay.

## G. D. Board Helps Migration.

Another matter concerning his old love to which "G. A. B." might direct his gentle sarcasm. The Board's road-workers in **Achill** district get 15s. weekly. And the Board's higher officials smugly deplore the ever-swelling number of migratory labourers from the locality and meanwhile draw their own four-figure salaries.

## Beleek.

The Pottery Co., as is revealed by its balance sheets, is a good paying enterprise but not so far as concerns the employees, some of whom are actually on less than p.w. rates. A demand for a 50 per cent. increase all round has been served.

## Coolooney.

The British-controlled Bingham Calcium Carbide Co. wanted the bold, bad Union to go away and sniffled of "legality" when approached for a 10s. increase on a miserable wage of 25s. The 20 men have downed tools.

## Kilrush.

Last month the effective membership of the Branch increased by 50 per cent.—to 236. Many Non-unionists have lately come to see the light; others will be propelled towards it.

## Edenderry.

Only one non-Union worker now remains in the town and his position is not enviable. Increases of 5s. 6d. have been secured for Board of Guardian's men.

## Castlepollard.

New sections have been started in **Coole** and **Collinstown**. Bakers have gained increases of from 10s. to 15s.

## Scarriff.

A local clergyman is taking an active interest in the new Branch, which will cover **Mountshannon, Whitegate, Feakle and Bodyke** areas. Membership will soon top 400.

## Kilmacthomas.

A farmer in Kill district, who has been taboo by Union men since the harvest strike

when he failed to fall in line with the general settlement, gulled a threshing-engine driver with a fake settlement, but Secty. N. Phelan was made wise and not a sheaf was threshed until that crafty one had weighed out in full. This is the last-remaining farmer recalcitrant in that area. Two bakery firms have settled, giving 5s. increases and other concessions. The third, Hill, wants to wage war single-handed on 80,000 Irish workers. Hill will soon be brought to heel.

## Rathfarnham.

The wealthy proprietor of Marlay Grange has refused to pay harvest bonus to his labourers, who have been on strike for six weeks. The men, who are being supported financially by their comrades in the Branch, have drawn a tight cordon round the Grange, while the local Royal Irish picket the picketers. Near by, military hold St. Enda's, and thus khaki and dark-green make Rathfarnham safe for democracy.

## Craiguenamanagh.

The town employers' offer of 2s. 6d. advance has been rejected by the 64 men involved, who hold out for the full 5s. and are likely to get it.

## Nenagh.

Snarper measures are to be taken against the local bakery firm whose men ceased work some weeks ago. Malthouse workers seek a 9s. increase on present wage, 36s.

## Co. Cavan.

County Council men in **Virginia** threaten a stoppage unless better rates are conceded. Peadar O'Donnell has held a successful organising meeting in **Ballyjamesduff**.

## Western Organisers Busy.

W. J. Reilly has recently visited **Claremorris, Westport**, where not a single town worker is now outside the Union ranks, **Belmullet** and **Achill**, where district committees and collectors have been appointed, and **Balisodare**, where the establishment of a co-op. store is mooted. M. Healy has opened several new branches and has fixed up a strike of Co. Council men at **Roscommon** and also a stoppage by flax-mill employees, who got full demands and Union recognition.

## Clonmore.

This County Wicklow branch has had success with arrears claims and is now preparing for an extensive wages movement.

## Street.

Rev. Fr. Goodwin, Chairman of the Branch, presided at a public meeting, addressed also by Peter Connor, at which each member was asked to become a recruiter for the Union. The release of the Irish prisoners and the division of a local ranch were also demanded.

## Limerick.

Trouble is brewing in some of the flour mills in connection with the employment of demobilised soldiers and the resulting projected dismissal of old employees. Laundry workers have secured a fair increase. The "One Big Branch" idea for the city will work well and now finds universal favour.

## Kiltimagh.

At long last, the A.W.B. has decreed that O'Donnell, Clerk of Petty Sessions, will go to Court in other than his usual capacity unless he pays the arrears due to his farm labourer. One example will help to bring the other defaulters—and they are legion—to order.

## Cloughjordan.

Pattison's saw-mills' men resumed work on the non-Unionist foreman joining up.

## Arklow.

The claim for a 10s. advance for coal carters having been turned down, strike notice has been served. Present wages, 28s. weekly, work out at about half the Dublin rates.

## Arigna.

The 3-months' agreement with the Mining Co. and with Messrs. Layden having now expired, new demands are being formulated by the miners. Solidarity will be lent to the demand by reason of the recent incorporation of all the coal district in one Branch.

## Navan.

The demand on behalf of Clayton's Woollen Mills' employees has been referred to arbitration, both sides agreeing.

## Lucan.

Thirty-three one-third per cent. on Nov. '17 rates for piece-workers, 3s. 6d. increase on existing rates for time-workers over 18 and 1s. 9d. for boys, all payable as from last pay-day, was the poor award of Mr. Andrew's, K.C., for Hill's Woollen Mill employees. The Union has objected to this Arbitrator adjudicating in future cases.

## Killala.

Arrangements are being made for a general wages movement by town labourers.

## Listowel.

An average increase of 9s. 6d. weekly was gained for 35 members last week. Finuge has come in as a Section.

## Killenaule.

The Branch has been strengthened by the influx of new members from **Moyglass**. New **Birmingham** will shortly come in.

## Thurles.

Steam bakery foremen have in demands for £3 weekly, second-hands 50s., work to be one sack per day, extras at 8s. per sack. Increases have also been claimed by men employed in hand-shops.

## Bray.

Urban Council men have demanded an 8s. 6d. increase and a 44-hour week.

## Ballinrobe.

Has quintupled its membership during January. Hotel workers are considering a forward move.

## Newry.

This live Branch has had invigorating addresses from D. Houston and S. Dempsey, organisers. Girls are joining up in good numbers. The Mineral Water Factory employees have closed with the firm's offer of 5s. advance, and it is anticipated that the outstanding firm will also settle.

## Four Mill Boys and Girls.

J. B. Baillie's award gives youths between 18 and 21 a 5s. increase, under 18 3s. 9d., women over 18 get 5s., under 2s. 6d., all retrospective from January 1. Where higher advances than those have already been given to females and boys, these are to be continued.

## Sandyford.

The annual meeting last Thursday was breezy, but the election of officers for the coming year was followed by a speech in Frank McCabe's best style, which if not exactly unctuous has the same good effect as oil on troubled waters.

## Grain Warehouses.

An award by Prof. Baillie gives the warehousemen an increase of 7s. 6d. per week as from January 1. The carters working under tonnage rates get 2d. per ton and the other 6d. per load advances.

## Balbriggan.

The Town Commissioners have summoned several girl strikers for demonstrating on streets. To be precise, the charge is "disorderly and indecent behaviour." The scoundrels who make the charge of indecency ought to be tarred and feathered and ridden out of the town on a rail.

The strike against non-unionism in the Hosiery Mills has resulted in the conversion of most of the non-unionists whose attitude to the Transport Union was dictated by the bosses and supported by political wire-pullers.



# THE INTERNATIONAL

**SEND YOUR SUB. TO-DAY.**  
**S.P.I. INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION FUND.**

Seumas O hAodha, the S.P.I. delegate to the Conference at Berne has departed to strengthen the hands of Thomas Johnson and Cathal O'Shannon there. It will be seen that they have lost no time in pressing home the claims of Ireland.

The fund to meet the expenses of the delegation grows steadily, but it will barely suffice to meet all the likely charges. The continued support of all who wish to press home Ireland's case abroad is urgently solicited. Subs., as before, may be sent to the **Treasurer, Room 3, Liberty Hall, Dublin.**

Cumannacht na hEireann acknowledge the aid given by many Irish newspapers in printing the appeal. Special mention may be made of "Freeman's Journal," "An Saoghal Gaedhealach," "New Ireland," and the "Galway Express." Doubtless the appeal has been printed in other journals, but the Treasurer has been able to note the direct influence of these journals.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	90	0	0
Mr. O'Donohoe, I.T.G.W.U. ....	0	5	0
Miss E. Mulhall, Dublin ...	0	5	0
Box Collection, Cork Bch. I.T.G.W.U.	5	5	0
J. N. Beaumont ... ..	1	0	0
P. Farrelly ... ..	0	2	6
B. Farrington, Cork ... ..	0	10	0
"Finnuola, Mayo" ... ..	0	3	6
I.C.A., Cork (per Miss McCarthy) ...	1	6	0
Mr. Comerford ... ..	0	10	0
James Comerford ... ..	0	2	6
Andrew Comerford ... ..	0	2	6
Robert Comerford ... ..	0	2	6
Matt Comerford ... ..	0	2	6
F. Mac Inglis, Baile ata Cliat ...	1	1	0
J. Mallen, 31 Eden Quay ... ..	0	5	0
Rois Ni Tiommonaidhe ... ..	1	0	0
R. T. Mortishead ... ..	0	4	0
	£102	7	0

### Mooney in Jail.

We have just seen a letter from Miss Mooney to her brother, Jack. It breathes the real spirit of Xmas good-will with which the workers of California have tried to console the aged mother of Tom Mooney. With exquisite symbolism they appropriated Countess Markievicz's gift as a present to the old lady. There were many such gifts from all parts of the world.

Tom Mooney is now incarcerated at the notorious San Quentin Prison, where he is working in the foundry. With him are many victims of Californian capitalism, notably, the MacNamaras railroaded by Double Sandy and the "Los Angeles Times." Imprisonment has set its mark on Tom Mooney. Greying hair records the anxiety and torture of mind that has been his these last two years. He will not be forgotten. The Labour movement of America continues insistent demands for his release; and at Paris and at Berne, Wilson and Gompers will find many reminders of the Mooney case—one of the "Acid Tests" which the apostles of the platitudes have tried to escape.

### A Spanish Example.

The Spanish Congress of Labour Unions has decided to subsidise "El Socialista," the Socialist newspaper. Its reports of Cortes (Parliament) debates, and publication of labour news suppressed in capitalist journals, make "El Socialista" indispensable to the Spanish labour movement.

### All-American Socialist Movement.

The threatened exploitation of Central and South America foreshadowed by Senator Champ Clark, led to the call for a Pan-American Socialist and Labour Congress, which assembled at Buenos Aires on 30th January. U.S., Canada, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, and Porto Rico are represented.

### Peace Motives.

The Congress has two immediate objectives. One is to prevent war between Chili and Peru, over two rich nitrate provinces; and the other to prevent U.S. interference in Mexico.

### Hamilton Goes Labour.

Gordon Nelson, editor of a local labour journal, was elected hydro-electric commissioner at Hamilton, Ont., by a majority of 800 votes. Other labour candidates in this town were elected as controllers, aldermen, and education board members.

### "Irish Times," Please Note.

Washington Industrial Welfare Commission has fixed 13 dollars 20 cents, or in English money, £2 15s., as minimum wage for all women workers.

### £7 14s. 2d. per Week.

Frank P. Walsh, the U.S. War Labour Board, the Department of Labour, and Dr. Royal Meeker of the Bureau of Statistics, concur in estimating the living

wage for a man, wife and three children as 1,800 dollars, or £375 a year, or £7 14s. 2d. a week.

When that International Labour Programme emerges from the den of thieves at Paris we may perhaps see that minimum enforced in Ireland. Meantime our own trifling demands have to be fought for.

### Unity in Russia Against Allies.

The "Freiheit," organ of the Independent Socialists, published a Russian Government wireless message announcing the formation of a Supreme National Committee of Defence to unify the military efforts of the country against the Allied intervention. All Socialist parties, including the Mensheviks and Left Socialist Revolutionaries, are represented on the Committee, and the president is Lenin himself.

The Central Committee of the Menshevik party has issued a special manifesto calling for unity of action with the Soviet Government, and its leader, Abramovitch, has been delegated to the Central Committee of the Soviets.

Randall Davidson, otherwise known as the Archbishop of Canterbury, took possession of a Protestant Church in Koln, and preached to the brass hats of the Anglo-Hun Army in that part of Teuto-Hun-land.

### Trades Hall Lectures.

Brian H. Magill held his audience last Sunday by a masterly survey of social evolution. Mr. Jack Rubenstein again contributed instrumental music of notable quality. Next Sunday Mr. John Farrell will talk about Limerick.

Messrs. Thomas Foran and William O'Brien will speak at Limerick Sunday, 16th inst. suggests ample opportunity for the lively discussions that enliven these meetings.

**CUMANNACHT NA hEIREANN.**  
**SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES,**  
**TRADES HALL, CAPEL ST., DUBLIN.**  
 SUNDAY, 16th inst., at 8 p.m. prompt,  
**JOHN FARRELL.**

Subject:  
**Propaganda and Progress.**  
**DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS.**  
 Admission Free. Collection.

## This was James Connolly's estimate of the I. T. & G. W. U.

"It found the Workers of Ireland on their knees, and has striven to raise them to the erect position of manhood; it found them with all the vices of slavery in their souls, and it strove to eradicate these vices, and replace them with some of the virtues of free men; it found them with no other weapons of defence than the arts of the liar the lickspittle and the toady, and it combined them and taught them to abhor these arts and rely proudly on the defensive power of combination."

**IRISH TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION.**  
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**TOO MANY UNIONS.****Federation Should Become Amalgamation.**

The disputes in Belfast and Glasgow have proved for the umpteenth time that there are too many unions and too little unity. Of old, we would have at once propounded Industrial Unionism as the immediate solution and would have proposed a Union on a National scale. But an Industrial Union with its headquarters and funds in London would be subject to the same influences and would develop the same weaknesses as, for example, the A.S.E. in the present crisis.

This is not a Sinn Fein criticism, for it appears that Glasgow—which is not troubled by a "National" question—is in the same position as Belfast. Twenty union district councils agree to strike; nineteen National Executives agree to recognise the strike. It is an accident that only one Executive declines to carry out the will of the local members. Fate might have made the number nineteen instead of one. In that case the position of the strikers would have been desperate despite their courage and zeal.

Trade Union organisation then presents a serious problem with two closely linked features:

How to secure unity in any industry, a unity that will permit of action being taken throughout the British Isles, while preventing the more advanced districts being fettered by the backward or badly-organised areas.

The solution of that problem will, in the long run, be of greater value than a forty-four hour week or a big rise in wages.

The suspension tactics of the A.S.E., and the shaky and uncertain policy of several Union Executives in the present crisis have made the problem acute, and by illustrating the dangers of over-centralisation, have not made it easier of solution. The Belfast Engineering and Shipbuilding Federation has attained a disciplined solidarity among men who although they co-operate in the shipyard have hitherto been separated in their trade unions. Engineers, tool-makers, steam engine-makers, shipwrights, carpenters, boiler-makers, and all the craftsmen, whose skill and strength in unity, builds up the ocean greyhound, have been sundered in their fight for the living wage. They have now risen above the false divisions, for a time. Will they preserve their unity when the strike is over, or will they sink back to the old ruts and re-open again the demarcation disputes and revive the petty politics of inter-union squabbles?

Belfast has a great opportunity of leadership in its grasp. It has produced from the ranks of labour, leaders of men and administrators, and has confounded the sneers that the Burn, Donald, McGuffin trio evoked. Will these leaders see to it, that when the strike is won, its fruits are preserved by welding into one sound and well-financed group, officered by Belfastmen, the forces that have already won the admiration of Irish workers, and, what is more significant of the

might of their achievement, have disarmed the military power that was so promptly used across the Channel?

Now is the time for the rank and file to think out the matter for themselves. We have to face this question,

"If the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (every man will put in the name of his own Union) is a hindrance to the entire working-class movement, is there any sentiment or tradition about my Union that is more valuable than the whole working class?"

If there is none, then be ready to scrap an out-worn Union as you would an old bicycle.

**SPRINGBURN IRISH LABOUR PARTY.**

The above Party held its weekly meeting in hall, 19 North St., on Sunday, 2nd Feb. In view of the important work we intend to get through in the near future twelve members were added to the general committee. Mr. Ed. Carr gave a short address outlining the position of the worker, and showing the need for united action irrespective of creed or race. Mr. J. Roe followed, and pointed out that the Irish people in Britain while supporting their countrymen in Ireland must also fight their battle as workers in the land they lived in, and the best way to discharge both duties was by joining up with the Irish Labour Party. An interesting discussion followed, and Mr. Carr received the thanks of the meeting. Lit. sales amounted to 8/6, and five new members were secured. In the evening our meeting place was crowded out, and Irish song and story were enjoyed, the following tip-top company providing the goods:—The Misses McKenna, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Brolly, Miss Mullin, Master Mullen, Master Brolly, Mr. Wm. Stevenson, Mr. D. Ferrie, J. Downey. Mr. Lyon-Mey received a hearty vote of thanks, and our first musical night closed.

JAS. ROE, Sec.

25 Avenue Rd., Springburn, Glasgow.

**WAR CHARITIES STOLEN.**

According to a New York correspondent, District Attorney Swann made public on Sunday night that out of the sum of £800,000,000 collected in the United States for war charities, £600,000,000 had been stolen, of which sum £400,000,000 was collected in New York.

**ONE OF MANY.****Murphy Press Tactics Condemned.**

Dear Sir,—The capitalist papers in Dublin are carrying on a vigorous campaign to stir up those religious differences that existed between "the North" and the rest of Ireland. It was always the weapon used by the enemies of our country to keep us in subjection, and now are we going to allow the same weapon to be used to defeat the worker. We have a splendid opportunity of linking all Ireland together, and by giving the Belfast workers all the support in our power we may attain it.

165 Capel Street.

M. C.

**HAVE CIVIL SERVANTS SPINES?**

The prolonged effort to establish an Irish Civil Servants' Union has not yet borne fruit, and from what we learn of the outlook of those who are promoting it, we are doubtful if the addition of another sectional union will add strength to that body of workers engaged in the State service. There are already several unions catering for sections, notably in the Post Office, and none of them is capable of efficient trade union action alone. Some of them have in their membership an undue proportion of that sort of person who is prepared to profess trade unionism when it can save him from conscription or relieve his conscience, but who is not willing to join in anything more effective than join a deputation to members of Parliament. During the past year the Association of Irish Post Office Clerks has shared the progress of trade unionism, and has escaped the text oath of allegiance through the affiliation with the Labour movement. That danger past, some of its members wish to escape the contaminating touch of the horny-handed. Not that way lies the success of the Dublin branches' new demands for higher wages and reasonable conditions.

The A.I.P.O.C. and Postmen's Federation together occupy a "key" position in the postal service, and both in unity would form an effective base on which to build up a well-financed all-embracing trade union for all Civil Servants. With such an organisation catering for all grades, the salaries question would be easy of solution. To attain the One Big Union for State servants snobbery must be discarded, and backbone developed.

**BITES****(From "The Scottish Farm Servant.")**

Remark by a farmer at a meeting in Argyllshire: "It's a crime that boys over 12 years of age in a rural district should be compelled to continue attending school." That farmer had better hurry up and get into heaven quick, for the Education (Scotland) Act, 1918, provides for compulsory continuation classes for boys and girls up to 18 years of age.

I notice that an Ayrshire farmer has died leaving about £16,000. If he was earning a minimum wage of 40s. a week from the day he was born, and only spent 20s. a week, he must have lived for about 320 years. It's a healthy life, the farming! Stick at it, John!

**BOSS CHEMISTS ALARMED.**

"To defend the interests of members against combinations of employees seeking by strikes or otherwise to impose inequitable conditions upon members and to secure united action and mutual support in dealing with such combinations"

"To promote the settlement of disputes with employers by conciliation, arbitration or otherwise, and to assist in the formation, development and maintenance of Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration."

These are the objects of the Belfast Chemist Employers' Association recently formed. The assumption in the first paragraph that employees' demands are always inequitable should be a new spur to the Belfast assistants in their effort to bring conditions ahead of those obtainable by their

# THE TRUTH

"Your paper is good, pity that you are radical." —*Dep. of Justice Official.*

"One fine paper, breathing the spirit of revolt." —*E. V. Debs.*

"Congratulations on issues received." —*Jim Larkin.*

We arouse the workers.  
Shock the highbrows.  
Make the capitalist rub his eyes.

THAT IS ALL.

Our paper is too good, no sample copies sent out. Send Two dollars and receive it weekly for one year. 2½d postage on letters. Edited by Jack Carney, Late Associate Editor of Irish Worker.

THE TRUTH, Duluth, Minn.  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## A DREAM THAT SHOULD COME TRUE.

(Passed by Censor.)

"An Ulster Imperialist" writing in the "Manchester Guardian" of 6th inst. propounds another quite visionary scheme for settling the English question in Ireland. He introduces his Utopian fantasy, which isn't really worth an inch of our space, by relating a dream.

"The time was summer—summer of 1919. I was spending a Sunday afternoon in the fields, enjoying the peace and quiet of it all, at a place some miles out from Belfast on the main road to Dublin. Suddenly I saw in my dream an aeroplane passing swiftly overhead, then another, and another,—and then a whole flight of them, travelling at great speed southwards. Very soon after these had gone I heard a heavy rumbling on the road, coming from the direction of Belfast; armoured cars, tanks, and lorries laden with armed men began to roll by in a cloud of dust. I remember knowing without being told, as one knows things in dreams, that another

### Rebellion Had Broken Out

in Dublin, and that this was the British army of occupation in Ireland setting forth to crush it. There were no Irishmen in this force. I remember that the very 'temporary gentlemen' by whom it was chiefly officered treated us Irishmen all alike, as dangerous subjects, potential if not actual rebels. This had the effect of making me so angry that my sympathies veered perceptibly towards the rebel side—foolish and hopeless though I knew it to be!

"I do not know how long, in my dream, the campaign lasted. It was at any rate several days. At the end of some such indefinite period I was again in the fields when I perceived troops retiring in some disorder—officers endeavouring to hold certain positions, but the

### Men Straggling Away

from them. There was no fighting; only this unmilitary, untidy movement of men to the northward. At length I saw an old Regular officer whom I had known for many years; he looked ashamed, haggard, desperately tired, and dirty. I tried to talk to him, but he did not want me. 'Bad trouble,' he said to me, 'bad trouble we've had'—and plodded wearily on towards Belfast. It was only by scraps of conversation overheard that I realised at length what had occurred—the British army of occupation in Ireland had gone on strike; the men had refused to fight, and had demanded to be at once demobilised and returned to their homes in England. I heard one man say that he had not enlisted to prevent the Irish from getting their own government, same as the other small countries. . . . and then I woke!"

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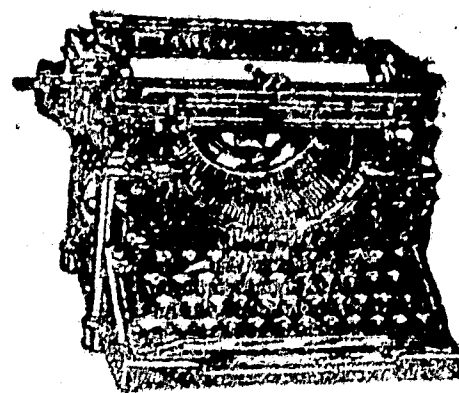
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# SOCIALISM. The Surgeon's Knife for Social Cankers!

This fearless article by a prominent business man should give many to think.

The thought is as bold as the words. Pay the writer the compliment of reading the article twice, then—think it over.

(As Passed by Censor.)

If Democracy implies government by the majority it follows that the Proletariat should rule, as there must be at least ten poor men to the one rich.

And yet we are governed by the rich, so there must be something wrong.

It is the practical expression of fraternal or international charity and justice!

Socialism is the modern version of St. Vincent de Paul, as it gives to the poor by right and priority and merit what has been doled out to them heretofore as charity.

It is the fairy godmother to the Cinderellas of the world.

It destroys sometimes, but to rebuild on a more lasting and solid foundation. Its hereditary enemies are landlordism, feudalism, capitalism and officialism with their respective retinues of parasites, clamouring against all interference with their ill-gotten gains and age-long privileges which they call—the existing order of things.

Entrenched behind the mazes of red tape and backed up by false standards of municipal and Parliamentary government traditions, impregnable, dilatory, arrogant, hopeless, all such obstructions must be broken through by direct action before a single aspiration of the submerged multitude can be realised. The Surgeon's Knife of "Doctor Socialism" must be utilised for the successful removal of all social cankers.

## BIG DEMESNES FOR ORNAMENT

While the People Clamour for Food.

Under present capitalist conditions we have huge ranches at one end and overcrowded slums at the other. Not very far apart either. A living picture of capitalism's influence. We have millionaires at one end and millions struggling for a mere existence at the other.

**Sweating and Ranches. Mansions and Slums. The Children of Capitalism.**

Socialism is the remedy, as it cuts away at one stroke all capitalistic obstructions to the immediate acquisition of cottages with plots or small holdings in the immediate vicinity of the city, creating new and happy communities, reversing the amenities of suburban demesnes from being ornamental deserts or golf preserves into a series of food producing holdings, now really ornamental and useful both, by the erection thereon of workers cottages as intended by the great Creator.

Socialism levels all things and is the handmaid of creation.

It takes away that fear of want in old age, which makes cowards of us all, and also removes that fear of want in middle life, which makes grabbers, misers and scabs of many.

Socialism tranquilises the mind by giving State security of at least a competence in old age, when the aged are

liable to be forsaken by their children and left to the tender mercies of the Poor Law.

Socialism gives courage and confidence to the worker who has charge of a young family by giving State guarantees that food and shelter at least shall be assured to his family in times of sickness or unemployment, not the termnable and miserable starvation doles as at present allowed through profiteering insurance companies.

Socialism does not destroy the enjoyment of private or personal property when held in moderation, as it allows for and encourages the play of moderate ambitions by allowing the individual to secure a competence above his immediate needs according to his merits or abilities, thus the inventor, the business man, and the thrifty worker are assured of personal prosperity, and its secure enjoyment.

Coal, turf, oil, and minerals were never created by man, but given by the Creator with lavish hand for the use of His children. Yet a few wealthy grabbers can dare usurp the children's rights.

And that great universal food factory, the land. Those great universal workshops—the smiling fields—have undoubtedly been given to mankind by the Creator for the sustenance of his children: "Give us this day, our daily bread." Yes, yes, in abundance; only till the rich soil that I have given to your city.

But we find that it has been grabbed up by a few capitalists, hoarded for profiteering, or used for pleasure, sport or game by wealthy idlers, while the children die from want.

"Woe unto you rich who have your consolations in this world, saith the Lord."

Socialism is the fearless social sanitary plumber who takes the gloves off and tackles into the dirty thankless job, from which the timid and the dainty shrink, and removes the obstruction completely before he stops for the sake of the community's health and welfare, no matter what false gods, flower beds or summer-houses may suffer in the process.

The Soviet is the refinement of socialism. A dream come true. The charter of freedom to the Proletariat where money ceases to exercise the spell of its fictitious value, and where real worth in goods or labour, food, fuel and clothing takes its place. "The man's the gowd for a' that."

Heretofore a false value has been placed upon gold and silver for the benefit of capitalism.

The mint should be merely a factory for turning out unlimited supplies of money as in Russia, so that all could share alike; the only limit being the supply of paper, as we have seen how paper tokens of exchange have been worth their face value in gold when backed by the State during the great war. This great invention will suit the great peace just as well.

T. McHUGH.

Dublin, Feb. 3, 1919.

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