Incorporating the

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ONE PENNY.

THE NEXT REBELLION IN IRELAND.

(Special to "Voice of Labour.")

Receiving a reproachful intimation from the Editor of "The Voice of Labour" that I had not supplied him with exact details of the approaching rebellion in Ireland I was much perplexed having no politicians among my friends and finding No. 6 Harcourt St. very reticent upon the subject. Eventually I had recourse to a gifted medium of my acquaintance who conducted me to a seance where a bevy of spirits whose prognostications of the future are reputed to be extraordinarily accurate, oppeared in the darkness shining weirdly and accompanied by green, white, orange lights and faery music through which broke betimes "The Soldiers' Song." The obliging spirits at once informed me of the date, details and main incidents of the imminent sanguinary event, which they assure me will rival the famous Peking massacre, where the sun has not yet ceased setting over the ghastly scene. To my horror I learned that my informants had divulged the name of the "Daily Mail's" politician of thirty years experience, the very evening before, to several inquiring and spiritistic Sinn Feiners, and the intrepid fellow's number is up, having barely thirty days

A spirit with a strong Cork accent and extremely truculent demanour proceeded to tell me that the rising would break out in his native city in the middle of June under the esteemed leadership of His Lordship, the Bishop of Cork, and would move Dublin, Limerick, Belfast, other main centres and countryside generally to instant and terrible emulation, but in divers ways. Belfast, for instance, would be startled by the reply of the Irish Socialist Revolutionary Party to the arrogant and provocative gesture of the Southern Athens: a veritable establishment of the Soviet and what is far more important precede the revolutionary act by liberally garnishing every the milk and water moderates who ob- was then in the game in Scotland, and affair by comparison! struct the march of the revolutionaries towards their historic destiny. Deplorable scenes would mark every stage of the tragic upheaval. William O'Brien, People's commisary for Stringent Suppression of the Counter-revolution, would decimate the bourgeoisie and enemy using a guillotine his roll-top desk and the Liffey for this nefarious purpose.

Limerick's experience in Soviet management would prove invaluable to more than the Munster masses. Many unhappy outrages would mark the spread of the hostilities. The Irish Unionist Alliance would be imprisoned somewhere in the Main Drainage system with their own pamphlets and journals to beguile the weary hours. The "Voice of Labour's" address would be the Kildare St. Club, over the fate of whose membership my spirit insisted upon drawing the veil as well as over that of Major Bryan Cooper, Wm. Jellett, K.C., Lord Farnham, Mr. Drury, and the Editor of the "Irish Times." Beyond remarking that these gallant gentlemen would suffer and endure more for the Empire than hitherto, the presence refused shudderingly to commit itself, preferring to lighten a very dark picture with a recital of the marvellous escape of Professor Alfred Rahilly. The latter would indiscreetly attempt to explain some obscure theological objection ceedings. Carried away by the momentary success of Dr. Harty and Dr. Fogarty's forces in their respective areas an over-excited rabble would hale the unfortunate professor before the local Re-A defence sparkling with contumacy. erudition and capped with a happy quotation from Suarez would cool the brains gone hard with him had not a timely reminder from the Bishop that the British were advancing upon the city by land, sea and air diverted the attention of the

Irish Workers Sleep in Scotch Byres.

IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS.

BY PETER O'DONNELL.

In the course of a very few weeks from now, unless something very unusual happens to change the ordinary course of local events, the Irish migratory labourers will be seen making their way in groups from the railway station to the cross-Channel boats at Derry, Belfast and Dublin.

Perhaps the dress and unusual formation of these groups attract some little notice from the ordinary passer by; mayhap more than a passing interest stirs in the breast of those who may happen to have read Paddy Magill's earlier works, but an examination of the economic conditions that drive some thousands of workers-men, women and childrenfrom these shores yearly, and of the manner in which the cross-Channel employers to whom these people flock, venture to treat workers who, they believe, have very little choice of jobs makes painfully interesting reading.

The migratory labourers come almost entirely from those parts of Ireland which we usually describe as the Congested Districts, especially from Arran-more Island, off Donegal and Achill Island and other districts in the West. Small farms of bad land are the rule in these districts, and when the farmers had put in their crops and tidied things up generally off they went to Scotland or England to the harvest.

Often a group of five or six men tramped for days on end from one farm to another, looking in vanifor work, and I have no doubt it was quite by accident some of these tramps came across the Tatie merchants who were willing to exploit them.

CHILD LABOUR

the newcomers thinking of their little boys and girls hired out for the quarter In the hurry to get out, the task of ator half year in Ireland soon began to tending two poor girls who were ill with take the youngsters across to Scotland influenza devolved on me. My God; too. When School Attendance Acts made child labour impossible on the old scale in Britain a new demand for Irish children was created. Compulsory school attendance is not fashionable in the congested districts in Ireland. The District Councils are controlled by shopkeepers otherwise exploited so that the Bradbury's may be forthcoming at Hallow Eve to meet the bills for Indian meal, flour, etc., "got on tick" during the summer. So the little children at eleven or twelve go off with the grown-ups, and it seems nobody of sufficient influence is sufficiently concerned to have any attempt made to end the scandal.

THE HOUSING CONDITIONS

of the migratory labourers when the crowded train and packed steamer are left behind are truly awful. I have very vivid recollections of a byre in which ing conditions. And yet the people who some Donegal and Achill workers were toil under them are those joke loving, domiciled last year. During the sum- lighted-hearted Irish peasants. They mer the byre wasn't required, so the are wonderful. One can only wonder Donegal and West of Ireland peasants what human conditions of life would be were allowed the privilege of taking the get from such a people.

WILL SHOCK PEOPLE OF TASTE! |cows' beds for the summer. Those first to arrive cleared off the last week's accumulation of cow-dung and pitched it on top of the monster manure heap in front of the byre door.

> THE LIQUID MANURE OOZED OVER TOWARDS THE DOOR, AND THE WORKERS HAD PUT IN STEPPING STONES TO WALK ON.

> The door was like what one often sees at garage entrances: two half doors-vertical section—meeting on wheels, but the meeting was so doubtful that pigeons flew in and out on the top of the door when the doors were shut!

> For bedding there was a supply of straw, which was shaken on the cement floor: old rugs did the rest. The breeze sweeping through the byre at night blew dust and straws in every direction. One of my bed mates, after some deep cursing, pulled off his shirt and tied it round his head to save his eyes. I took advantage of the nearness of a girl's blouse to safeguard mine. Lying on the straw awake in the early morning I should have had a good view of the fields in front of the door were it not that the manure heap blocked up the skyline.

> At 4 a.m. the gaffer roused the workers: the girls got busy very soon preparing the breakfast. In this byre there were two compartments, so that the girls had a certain amount of privacy. One of these girls told me that in another byre across a few fields there was only one compartment, so that

WHEN THE GIRLS CAME IN AFTER WORKING THROUGH THE WET SHAWS THEY HAD NO PRIVACY TO CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES, AND HAD TO DRY THEM WHILE STANDING BEFORE THE FIRE.

So our byre was more or less a swell | years of age.

At 4.30 work commenced in the field. 'twas terrible! Lying on the straw in a Scotch byre, those girls who would have had all the anxious attention of an anxious Irish mother or sister or both at home in Ireland! And how patient they

In the field at work peculiar hardship and publicans, whose interest it is to dogs the workers. Some big mass of have the little children hired out or brawn and bone is given 3d. or 6d. per day extra to make the pace hot. Off he goes, and the others toil and sweat to keep up with him, the gaffer dogging the unfit. "I'd pull the shaws with my teeth before I'd be left behind," I heard a woman worker say. By rushing it for three or four days the slave-driving gaffer succeeds in getting the week's orders filled, so work is knocked off for the other two days. I should like to know how much the gaffer benefits from thus saving a couple of days wages per worker to the employer.

This is a very brief survey of the work

of his own to the start of the entire pro- however, appealed to An Dail to deal less law and order. The rebellion would end vigorously with condensed milk upon September 31st, and be treated as hoarders, as certain excesses had usual. got upon the the nerves of the British Labour Party, and had even wrung salt tears from Trotsky. For volutionary Tribunal to answer for his himself he thought no measures could be severe enough against proved cases of flour hoarding. Count Plunkett sternly replied justice should be done though and melt the hearts of his desperate Trotsky wept. The "Freeman" called ity. Mr. George indeed suggested Lenin judges. Even then matters had likely particular attention to the tactlessness of this reply two years after the suppression devotion of the Irish people to an ideal, of the outbreak. But ex-President Wilson made it a text for a mellifluous oration to a gathering of Baptists somemaddened populace. A rousing and where in the wilds of Arizona precisely ornate address dispatched by wireless at the same date. A plague of trifrom Dail Eireann to the delighted Bol- coloured rats seen by all special corresheviki would mark the end of August, spondents, a devastated country, the them. It is as well the public should replies in most eulogistic terms being re-ceived from Lenin and Trotsky. Lenin, etcetera, told heavily upon the side of

Twenty years after the first panegyric upon the first victim would be delivered by Mr. Lloyd George, first president of British Federal Soviet Republic, whom Lenin by some extraordinary method had persuaded the illadvised and unhappy events of June, 1919, possessed some elements of nobilhad not quite grasped the extraordinary Commissary Macpherson interjecting, "Ah! Only we Celts can understand the Celts!" Having reached this stage of revelation my spirits hummed the "Red Flag" and departed, leaving the faintest suggestion of brimstone behind know what they are in for.

I.C.W.U.

Signal Victory in Printing, Stationery, and Allied Trades.

The Printing, Stationery and Allied Trades Branch of the I.C.W.U. are to be congratulated on its success in the struggle with the magnates of the printing industry in Dublin.

In November last a demand for increased wages was made on Messrs. Hely's, Ltd., Dame St., by the Union. The firm refused to recognise the Union —the idea of clerks being trade unionists was repugnant to their feelings of propriety. However, a deputation from the Dublin Printing and Kindred Trades Alliance (of which this branch of the I.C.W.U. is a unit) in conjunction with the officers of the Union soon brought the firm to their senses. The Dublin Stationery, Bookselling and Allied Trades Federation was then formed by the masters to fight the clerks.

A request for a minimum scale of wages was quickly complied with by the Union. The employers in turn offered their terms, which were rejected by the Union members. In the meantime demands for increases of pay were served on Browne and Nolan's, Combridge's, Woods and Dawson's.

By an agreement of April 2nd, 1919, the fixing of a minimum wage for clerks and assistants in the Printing, Stationery, and Allied Trades was referred to arbitra-

The arbitrator, Sir Plunkett Barton, has just issued his award. In the main it is satisfactory—at least it forms a basis for the Union to work on. Male apprentices now start at 10s. per week, rising to 55s. per week after seven years. But why so long an apprenticeship? Surely, in a trade where prices are so often fixed by the publisher or manufacturer, and are marked on the goods, there is no need for seven years training. Then, is there to be no allowance made in the case of counting-house clerks, for the theoretical knowledge acquired at much time and expense in the training colleges? Apparently Sir P. Barton assumes boys start business at 14 or 15

> RESULT IN BRIEF. Junior Assistants and Clerks.

Commence at 10s. per week, rising to 55s. per week at end of 7 years.

Commence at 12s. 6d. per week. rising to 35s, per week after 4 years. Senior Assistants and Clerks.

Arbitrator suggests further arbitration for senior positions—charge hands, cashiers, senior ledger clerks, estimate clerks, and positions that require special skill and training. Award is retrospective from various

The old distinction in pay between men and women is again made. Female assistants and clerks start at 12s. 6d. per week, rising to 35s, after 4 years. It is assumed girls begin business at about 18. Why do women not rise to 55s, per week? Have they a special facility for living on air? Women clerks usually do the same work as men clerks.;

We are sure the I.C.W.U. will immediately adopt Sir P. Barton's suggestion for a further arbitration in regard to senior positions that require special skill and training.

The number of apprentices is not limited. The traffic in young labour in the printing and stationery trade has been notorious. The I.C.W.U. will want to see to this point.

The award is retrospective in Hely's and Combridge's from first pay day in January, 1919; in Browne and Nolan's, Wood's and Dawson's from first pay day in March, and in all other cases from first pay day in April.

Again congratulations to the I.C.W.U. The victory shows what solidarity and earnestness can do.

LIBERTY HALL PLAYERS. The above players will visit the following towns: Drogheda, 6th June; Swords, 8th June; Rathfarnham, 16th and 17th

AUTO MEN AND LIMERICK STRIKE. Members of the Irish Automobile Drivers' and Automobile Mechanics' Union are urged to hand in subscriptions, to branch secretaries, and the latter to forward all monies for the Limerick Strike Fund to Headquarters, 22 Dawson St., Dublin, as Union fund for this object is about to be closed.



Saturday SEVENTH JUNE, 1919.

LL-IRELAND LABOUR WEEKLY. ::

"THE PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING."

The Appeal from the Hungarian Social-his friends mean business, even if he did ists, which we publish in another column, not ask for the exclusion of the British is a call for action to save the Workers' Republics now threatened by the whole tude and vacillation. united militarism of the capitalist Go- The French, too.

But it was only in Western Europe the ery of the Russians was in vain. In the peace terms; it is demanding joint Central Europe it had a ready and a courageous response immediately. As the Hungarians remind the workers in the Entente countries, one million of workers in Germany, Austria and Hungary hurried to the rescue of their comrades in Russia and declared a general strike. The general strike, it is true, did not avert the peace of violence imposed by force upon Russia at Brest, and it was crushed by the armies of German Imperialism. But it had tremendous effect upon the immediate course of the war and it sounded the death-knell of imperialism and capitalism in Central Europe. More than any other single act it contributed to that interior weakening of the German machine which eventuated in the fall of the Central Empires, the conquest of their enemies by the Entente Powers, and the establishment of Re-publics in Germany, Austria and Hun-

On behalf of the Workers' Republics of Russia and Hungary, the Hungarians cipal partner in the Entente; their Go-now call for similar action on the part vernment is the great naval power of of the workers in the Entente nations. the anti-Bolshevik combination; their of the workers in the Entente nations. They ask for deeds, not words. Votes in Parliaments are uselss, they say; resolutions presented to the Governments are useless; meetings and demonstrations are useless. These things do not count with the Governments. They are like President Wilson's speeches, all point and no practice. What the Hungarians ask for and the situation demands is action. If there is not action, better noth-

Hungary or Germany, many of them are mittee has therefore declined to call a supplied by the Entente itself. The ques special Trade Union Congress. Perhaps supplied by the Entente itself. The question of conscription, for instance; the that is well, for the Congress is not employment of armies in industrial distikely to do anything heroic. What will putes; the condition of affairs in Irethe Triple Alliance do? In reality it is these ought to be enough to stir the or breaking of the peace in its hands and the serving of the Entente to notice or be workers of the Entente to action on behalf of themselves as well as of the
Workers' Republics. The failure of President Wilson the impedition of the Saving of the British as well as the
furopean workers from the death-grip
of militarism at home which the Churcneace terrible blockade that is killing women ish Government know it has the power. and children by tens of thousands; the general offensive on a big scale against fession of its internationalism, of its the Russian Soviet; the direct and de-liberate encouragement of the most brutal imperialism in Poland; the incite-ment of the newly-erected Czecho-Slovak State and the Roumanians against the Alliance act or will it gracefully accept State and the Roumanians against the most peaceful and most bloodless revolution Europe has ever known, these are enough to arouse the whole working-class in Western Europe if there is any manhood left in its leaders.

Here and there are signs that the workers in some of the Entente countries are beginning to realise their responsi-

Party, Lazzari, has proposed a Franco-British-Italian Socialist Congress, to full fruits of our acts. take common action upon the peace Hungary waits. Russia waits. Gerwhich the diplomats have devised to many waits. France and Italy are getstrangle all liberty and all humanity. ting ready. Are the British getting The splendid uncompromising attitude of ready, or are they only going to refer the Italian Party throughout the war is the question back to a later date and a sufficient guarantee that Lazzari and then do nothing?

Labour Party owing to its weak atti-

united militarism of the capitalist Governments.

Will the cry of the Hungarian workers
fall on deaf ear in Western Europe as
did the cry of the Russian workers on
the eve of Brest-Litovsk?

But it was only in Western Europe the mere declaration against the injustice of action by the industrial organisations in France, Italy and Great Britain. The French Socialist Party is taking vigorous measures, both inside and outside the Chamber. But better and more hopeful than all these is the revolt of the French Fleet against orders to fight the Russians. The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet hoisted the Red Flag and extracted from their commanders a guarantee that they would neither be asked to fight against their Russian comrades nor punished for

But by far the most satisfactory position taken up is that of the workers of Norway. The Norwegian Trades Unions and Socialist Body have withdrawn all transport and all other facilities from the forces which are operating against the Bolsheviki. That's the stuff to give 'em.

What is happening in Great Britain?

After all, it is upon the shoulders of

British Labour lies the greatest responsibility. Their Government is the prin-

Bonar Law's reply is a curt refusal to God knows there are pleaty of reasons turn from the neth of conquest by mili-why action should be taken. Not all of tary force upon which his Government them are supplied by either Russia or has embarked. The Parliamentary Comhills and the Lloyd Georges would im-The Triple Alliance has made loud proopposition to conscription, of its repudiation of its master's peace terms and of the present position and go on expressing its sympathy with those whom by its inaction it is helping to ground down into dust? The Italians have spoken, the French have spoken, and both of them will act. The British have spoken, but will they act?

Here in Ireland we are but a handful as compared with the British workers, but when action was demanded we acted In Italy the secretary of the Socialist and we won. When we act we shall win arty, Lazzari, has proposed a Franco-again, even if we have to wait for the

an chainnt atá ins an irisleabhar seo agus badh dhoiligh an cur-amach seo an tsamhraidh a shárú. Badh mhaith linn an smaoineamh atá ag deireadh an chéad-ailt do mholadh do Gaedhil na tire seo. i. "gu'm bu chóir do Albannaich agus do Eireannaich an sean-bhóidean a cocadh agus a nasgadh aig Druim-ceata." Eireagheann an smaoineadh seo as tráchtas atá ag "A. M. E." ar an gceangal atá idir na Gaedhil ar an dá thaoibh de Shruth na Mhaoile ó annsir na Sean Scotach anuas. B'fheidir nach mbeadh de chead ag an da phobal theacht le chéile ag Druim ceata acht mar sin féin badh cheart do na Gaedhil an iarracht do dheanamh. Ailt eile atá san uimhir seo: "Ar Dleas don Ghaidhilg,"
"Leabhraichean Ura Bardacht." "An

"Geo chugainn arist ar sean-chara agus an Ghaedhilg" (6 Cú Uladh"), "Greugach agus Ceilteach," "Imrich nan Gaidheal do Tír-chein," etc.

Má's maith linn "Guth na Bliadhna" is fearr linn "An Branar," nidh nach iongnadh os rud é gur Gaedhil. Eirann aidheal, Samhramh 1919, sgilling glán). Is bréagh, bríoghmhar an t-adhbhar agus an chainnt atá ins Má's maith linn "Guth na Bliadhna" are eligible for membership of the Irish is fearr linn "An Branar," nidh nach iongnadh os rud é gur Gaedhil Eireann atá in a bhun. Cúis athais is bróid do lucht leighte na Gaedhilge go bhfuil ag eirghe go geal leis an miosachán úr, uasal seo (Muinntir an Bhranair, 19 Plás Eli, Ath Cliath, sgilling glán). I n-uimhir na Bealtaine tá ailt no sgéalta 6 Pharaic O Domhnallain, Séamus O hAodha, Feargus Finnbheil, Seán O Conchubhair, Nioclás Tóibín agus daoine eile nach iad agus mar sin ní ghadh dúinn a radh gur fiu nios mo na sgilling an cerned. Let them be overcome. The eile nach iad agus mar sin ní ghadh dúinn a radh gur fiu nios mo na sgilling an t-adhbhar leighte atá ann. Molanmid corned. Let them be overcome. The corned in the 'Worker' of May 24th from Delia Larkin to you, re Peter Larkeatha' uirre agus a bhfuil tracht innte ar am mBolsheveachas agus ar an Eigipt agus go h-aithrid an leirmheas atá ag Mairéad Ní Ghrada ar "L'Irlande dans la crise universelle." Má's feidir le muinntir an "Bhranair" leanmhaint ar an mbealach seo acht ailt níos fuide níos "documente" a thabhairt duinn beimid sit within a reasonable time.

Sylvia Pankhurst in Limerick. "Leabhraichean Ura Bardacht." "An documente" a thabhairt duinn beimid Sylvia Pankhurst in Limerick.
Saoghal a ta ri Teacht," "Dail Eireann uilig an-bhuidheacht doibh.

A correspondent who were

The Workers' Republic.

The great only appear great because we are on our knees: LET US RISE.

Resolutions for Congress. Sunday, June 8, is the last day for sending forward resolutions for the Irish Trade Union Congress at Drogheda. All resolutions should be addressed to William O'Brien, Trades Hall, Dublin. Connolly's Birthday.

To-day, June 5, is the anniversary of the birth of the greatest man the work-ing class in Ireland has ever brought The occasion will be fittingly honoured by the great gathering which will be held to-night in the Mansion House. It will be honoured as we think Connolly himself would like it honoured. with a great feast of revolutionary Lab-our and Socialist song and music, and not too much oratory, the whole profits to go to the most worthy memorial that could be erected to the memory of the great educator of Irish Labour, a Con-nolly Memorial Workers' College, which will perpetuate his teaching and show the workers how to follow the road to free-dom he marked out for them.

New Titles for New Times.

The time has come, we think, when the local federations of Trade Unions now functioning as Trades Councils or as Trades and Labour Councils, should step boldly forward and mark their advancing progress by proclaiming themselves Workers' Councils. As they stand at present, the Councils are no longer under any real necessity to camouflage the once conflicting interests of the two classes of Unions, craft and non-craft, under their old double-barrelled titles. In the old days before sectional prejudices had begun to break down, there may have been some excuse for indicating distinctions in the very name of the Councils. But now when it no longer serves any real purpose, there is every reason for scrapping the verbal distinction. To-day all the Councils are local federations of Unions with a common and definite function, and in none of them that we know of is there any constitutional distinction between their craft and non-craft units, although in some old prejudices of one or the other may still reveal themselves on occasion.

The Example of Congress.

In this connection it is useful to note the exact signification of the title of the National Organisation, the Trade Union Congress signifies the Trade Union or the annual congress of the Trade Unions, but, be it remarked, there is no distinc-tion between Unions so far as Congress is concerned, except such as their vary. ing numerical strength naturally and rightly demands. The term, Trade Union Congress, signifies the Trade Union or industrial function, just as the term Labour Party signifies the political function. As the function of the national organisation is dual, so also is that of the local federation. The Council is (or ought to be) the local industrial political one whole, without any professional distinctions. This in its turn helps to rob the term Labour of its narrower interpretation, that of workers who are not craftsmen. Thus in the end the term, Trades and Labour Council, is found to be a misnomer if applied in its original signification, and the same holds good when the somewhat better but still unsatisfactory title becomes, as it does in some cases, Trades Council and Labour Party.

A Call to the Councils.

This is actually the position in the movement now. Nearly everywhere the movement has outgrown old prejudices and narrow, retrograde interpretations, and elsewhere it is rapidly discarding them. In all the circumstances, then, we suggest that the Councils should abandon the old tyranny of words and blossom forth anew as Workers' Councils. The term is inclusive of both the craft and the non-craft Unions. It is inclusive too of all sections of workers engaged either in manual or mental occupations. It covers, therefore, all who are eligible for membership of the Irish

Limerick need not worry himself either about what the "People" says or the story certain enemies of Labour are cir. culating to the effect that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's political and social opinions and activities are the same as those of Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and "The Voice" has al. ready said so. Sylvia is in the same camp as James Connolly or Jim Larkin; Christabel is in the same camp as Havelock Wilson or James Sexton, Could we put it any plainer? This Limerick yarn is only another form of the campaign of calumny against which "The Voice" has repeatedly warned the workers. It is only one of many forms which the cam. paign is taking in Limerick and in other centres of militant Labour activity, and we should not have far to go to trace its source. Nobobdy, even in Ireland, has a cleaner or nobler record than Sylvia Pankhurst in England and Adela Pank hurst in Australia. Both of them have been uncompromising in their active opposition to the war, to conscription, to the dragooning of Ireland, to Entente intervention in Russia, to the blockade of Central Europe, and every manifestation of militarism and imperialism. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's paper, "The Workers' Dreadnought," is the best fighting friend Ireland and the Irish workers have abroad, and throughout the war it has taken special measures to tell the whole truth about Ireland. If our correspondent wants to certify this, let him see last week's "Workers' Dread-nought," with its articles on the Lime-rick Soviet and the women workers. More Slanders.

Another Garryowen correspondent is troubled over certain references to the present writer in a recent issue of the "Weekly Observer," of Newcastle West. We are too modest to take much notice of personal remarks that may from time to time be passed upon us, and our hide is too thick to pay much attention to slanders. But we can assure our correspondent that in the charges made against us by the "fearless champion of Ireland and friend of the workers" who hasn't the courage to give his name (like the 'Irish politician" in the 'Daily Mail,' he doubtless fears summary execution!) there is no more truth than in the charge once made against us that we wanted to food to pigs and dogs! And we advise our correspondent not to tell the Executive Committee of the I.T. and G.W. Union that we have assumed "the dictatorship of the Union" (God help it!) as the anonymous scribe of the "Observer" says. The "Big Twelve" might sack us if they heard that, for the worst of it is, it isn't true!

A Trap for Carlow. There are more ways of killing a dog than by choking him with butter. In the North of Ireland we know a town organ of Irish Labour. It is to be noted in which everything belongs to the too that when people speak of Labour owners of the local factory. The town is they mean, not an organisation in one the absolute property of the employers, body of the craft Unions nor of the non- and all the houses, all the lighting, all craft Unions, but the mass of organised the public services are their private and workers, the syndicated wage-earners, personal possession. The workers are crafts and general workers combined in consequently at the absolute mercy of the bosses, and when a man leaves his job in the factory or gets the sack, he is evicted from his house. It is a pretty and a clean little town, but it is hell all the same. Something of the same kind is going to happen in Carlow if the workers of the town are fools enough to let Messrs. Shackleton and Sons carry out the little housing game they have proposed. The workers have won short hours through combination, and Messrs. Shackleton propose that, in their spare time they should build houses. Messrs. Shackleton will supply most of the money and of course draw the rents. When industrial trouble comes in Shackleton's flour mills the mill-owning landlords will be able to put the screw upon their worker-tenants. Messrs. Shackleton even say the L.G.B. will make them a grant for this purpose. Is this true? If it is, why cannot the Urban Council or the workers themselves get this grant for housing? At all events, the working men and women of Carlow are bigger fools than even their employers take them for if they don't see through Messrs. Shackleton's nice little trap.

> CITIZEN ARMY'S NAME Used, Without Authority,

We have received for publication a letter addressed by Commandant O'Neill, I.C.A., to John MacLean, in reference to a letter from Miss Delia Larkin, which was published in the "Worker" of Glasgow on May 24th. The essence of the letter is in this paragraph:

(A letter dated the 15th May ap-

A correspondent who writes from did not get any answer until then."

Workers' Library on Bolshevism.

SIX SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

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Release the Twelve Men.

The fight with Capital for the release of the 12 I.W.W.'s in Australia is as unceasing as was their fearless propaganda for the O.B.U. Grant, King, Lynn, Larkin, to mention a few names of this band of uncompromising fighters of Capitalism, are still held in the filthy guard houses of private property. On this side of the world little is heard of the criminal action of the police, which was so vile that a Royal Commission sat to inquire into it. The Capitalist Press, up to now, has not divulged any news of Australia's famous "Frame up," and the class war prisoners. All reports to hand denote the failure of the Royal Commission to incriminate the police, not from want of evidence, be it stated, but from a desire to deny the vile nature of the "frame up."

The rank and file, however, are fully aware of the established innocence of the 12 men to the charges of sedition and seditious conspiracy laid against them. The Royal Commissioner refused to take any new evidence concerning the innocence or guilt of the men, and was only interested in white-washing the character of the police concerned in the case. Although some of the charges against the police were not proven, most be made quickly, for the imprisoned men of them undoubtedly were, and even the rely upon the strength of the Industrialclass-biassed Commissioner remarked ists for whose cause they are being upon the mental agility of the witnesses | foully tortured.

and detectives.

"HE CHARACTERISED SCULLY (CHIEF CROWN WITNESS) AS AN UNSCRUPULOUS PERSON WHO WOULD NOT HESITATE TO STOOP TO PERJURY TO SERVE HIS OWN ENDS, BUT PRESENTED HIM WITH A HALO WHEN GIVING EVIDENCE FOR THE POLICE.

After denouncing the Crown witnesses as criminals and perjurers, and casting doubt upon the honesty and veracity of the detectives, the Royal Commissioner, Mr. Justice Street, blandly, and blindly too, marks his approval of criminals and liars by pronouncing the innocence of the police to the charges levelled against \cdot them.

This most remarkable Commission ended after ten weeks' session, the Commissioner taking that length of time to decide to white-wash the police, and his reputation has been decidely soiled in the process. That is the end of the politicians attempt to free the 12 men.

The next, and I sincerely hope, successful attempt must be made by the rank and file on the industrial field. It must

WOBBLY.

An Appeal from Australia.

[The following letter is the first com-#] munication to reach the "Voice of" Labour" on the subject of the Australian persecutions of the advocates of then formed a Release and Defence Comthe One Big Union. The postscript mittee, which worked for the release of shows that the Australian Post Office is the 12 men, but with little results, only run in the interests of William Morris a Royal Commission eventuating which Hughes.-Ed.

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

Headquarters: 192 Castlereigh, St., Sydney, Aus.,

· Fellow Workers,—Greeting. As you will see the old movement has started going again, but under a new name, aware there is an Act of Parliament good fight will soon be on. Big meetwhich makes the old name illegal, and ings are being held in Sydney Domain, we have not enough strength to fight and at street corners. Shorthand them—the authorities—as yet. We have writers at every one guarded by police. The ald constitution and a preamble How long we shall last remains to he altered only in phraseology, but same in seen; I hope it will be till the men come substance. See the paper, "The Proback from the Bastilles of Capitalism.

Conditions here are very bad, unemplementariat."

do anything over there. Approach the are making it worse. The Trades Hall Irish Transport Workers and the other here is running a One Big Union with a fighting bodies, also Glasgow, and acrevolutionary Preamble, but a political quaint America, for we find it hard to clause, and they are receiving plenty of get anything through. We must make abuse from the Capitalist Press and uestion. I will write a short history of

events since the 12 men went to gaol.
After their conviction Sydney local tried to get a general strike going, but the Government was quick and passed an Illegal Associations Act, which put most of the militants into gaol and deported all who were not born here. Tom

Some went to Liverpool, as you must be aware.

A few of the boys who were left here proyed the 12 men's innocence in the

public eye, but did not release them. We then captured an organisation named the I.L.P., which was running here, exploiting the old I.W.W. name, changed the name, moved into a good new hall, started a paper, and the .W.W. constitution and Preamble as you see it in the paper, "The Proletariat." "which means the same." As you are All the boys are coming in again, and a

The 12 men are still in gaol. Can you ployment rife, and the soldiers returning the 12 men's release an international trade union officials. It is purely in its Any good class Druggist can obtain this propaganda stage, but is likely to materialise into an organisation. the result will be remains to be seen.

Hoping to hear from you soon.—Yours for Revolution,

GEORGE WASHINGTON. P.S.—I have scribbled this because I only have five minutes to write it. A fel-Barker is in Bandera, 849 Santiago De, low-worker just let me know he was go-Chili, S. America, c/o Alex. Rosenthal. ing your way.—G.W.

IRISH AUTOMOBILE DRIVERS' AND **MECHANICS'** UNION.

Heavy Lorry Drivers' Section.

The following agreement between the above Union and the Dublin Carriers' Association was duly completed on the 28th May, 1919:—

AGREEMENT.

(1) £3 (Three pounds) per Driver for a working week not exceeding 48 hours, made up as follows:—8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with one hour interval for dinner on five days of the week, Monday to Friday inclusive, and from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. without a break on Saturdays.

(2) 1/3 per liour overtime from stopping time until 10 p.m.
Time and a quarter from 10 p.m. until starting time
next morning, and double time for Sundays and Bank

Increase to take effect from Monday, the 19th May, 1919. As the working conditions of the MOTOR DRIVERS ENGAGED ON COAL WORK are still under consideration the decision regarding the working hours will not apply to that class of Driver for the

LIAM SLATTERY.
Acting General Secretary.

29th May, 1919.

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SEX EQUALITY.

To the Editor "Voice of Labour." Dear Sir,—Your unnamed "contributor" in a letter published in current issue of your paper again raises the question of the women temporary clerks employed by the Department of Agriculture at fifteen shillings a week. Some time ago in notes published by him in your paper a demand was made that these women be dismissed and replaced by men with large families at a higher wage. The "Irish Citizen" challenged this view-point as unsound from a labour as well as a feminist basis, and challenged also the taste of the attacker, who did not better his weak case by indiscriminate and irrelevant abuse of a personal kind. His answer is to repeat the offence in a still grosser form and to accuse the "Irish Citizen" of scabbing. I gladly take up the challenge, and would ask your contributor to give his reasons for accusing the paper, founded by Francis Sheehy Skeffington, of ever having advocated a policy hostile to the workers either during its late or present editor's time. We have always maintained the right of equal work for equal pay, and have held it to be economically unsound and ethically indefensible to advocate the displacing of one class of worker by another on grounds of sex, the number of dependants, the place of residence, the kind of clothes worn, or any such irrelevancy. Unmarried women, whether they live in Rathgar or elsewhere, have a perfect right to live: women's wages are (especially in Ireland) so uniformly low that fifteen shillings per week is to many not to be despised. Many have the choice between such low wages and complete dependence on their fathers or brothers. The only way to meet the case is to level up wages all round, and not to drive poorly-paid women entirely out of work. May I add that this was the policy always upheld also by the founder of your paper, James Connolly, whose feminism was founded upon justice and logic, and who would never have descended to cheap and vulgar abuse of women, nor would have allowed the columns of his paper to be used for such a purpose.

HANNA SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Editor, "Irish Citizen,"

[Our contributor "unnamed" like the writer in the "Irish Citizen" will probably reply to Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington's letter. Meantime we are content to record our disagreement with much of the above communication .- Ed.]

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Hands Across the Sex.

The Irish Self-Determination League, Earlestown (Lancs.), has forwarded £3 10s. to Limerick Strike Fund.

IN HOT WERTHER a shampoo cools and refreshes and guards against the treacherous summer colds. MALLON, 30 Eden Quay, Dublin.

Transport Union Notes.

SHOP STEWARD MOVEMENT IN THE I.T. & C.W.U.

On Tuesday, 21st May a meeting, attended by seventy-six workshop delegates of No. 1 Branch, was held in Liberty Hall, T. Foran, General President, in the chair. The object of the meeting was to inaugurate the shop steward movement in the Branch, and arrangements were made for regular fortnightly meetings.

The President gave a clear statement of the Union's present position in membership and finance, and referred to the attempts to defame and divide the Union made by the agents of the Unionist Alli-

Questions and answers on Union policy and recent movements engaged the meeting's serious attention for two hours. Arrangements were made for a better distribution of the "Voice of Labour"

by the sliop stewards.
Workshop collections are to be made to assist the Hotel Workers in their defence of the right to organise and the right of collective bargaining. At next meeting the officers of the shop stewards' committee will be elected and machinery elaborated for what may yet be the Dub-lin Council of Workshop Delegates.

Buttevant,

Oliver, whose wriggling propensities suggest the suitability of a surname after Dickens' Oliver, has now been forced, after a fortnight's strike, to observe his obligations under the Flour Milling Awards, and has had to pay the men's wages while on strike.

Mallow. Mr. Priestley's unpriestly attempts to victimise men in his hide stores and to refuse recognition to the Union were met with a stoppage of labour, and the employes refused to fall for the dope-"increased wages if you renege the Union." Unless he mends his hand he will have trouble in other enterprises in which he is financially concerned.

The general demand resulted in a flat rate of 27s, for a 54 hour week for shop labourers, being an increase of 15s. to

Cootehill.

Strike at McKay's Bakery now settled foreman getting 6s. advance and assistants 8s. and 10s. Mountcollins.

The Creamery carter has returned to work, having secured his demand. So much for the management's 'inon-recognition" stunt. Rural Don Quixotes of this ilk pretend to tilt at the Union-but Castleisland.

Conciliation Board recently formed here resulted in a general award of 36s. to town workers. Agricultural labourers next.

Breadvan drivers at Spicer and Co.'s Bakery now receive 35s.. Carters also vance, and must get Co. Kilkenny,

Two new branches started on Sunday, 25th May, by Organiser Branniff. Mr. Philip Mansfield, D.C., presided at Mullinahone (which commenced with 85 members), and spoke at Grangemockler, which started 70 up. Surrounding districts joining up rapidly. Co. Tipperary,

The Co. Council has conceded increases varying from 4s. to 7s. per week, retrospective from Feb. 21st. New rates include broken time, and ten days free holidays in the year for all employes. Cork Court of Referees.

Four women members of the I.T. and G.W.U. have been nominated members. Strokestown.

Reports good organisation, all farm labourers within two miles radius hav-Rumour has it that Col. ing joined. Pakenham Mahon, on his return from service, will try to dismiss his Union men, and replace them a la Powerscourt by discharged soldiers from England, In thion is well as the demobs., will have something to say if this be at tempted.

Knocktopher. Although the Ballyhale Co-operative Dairy Society agreed to be parties to the Grist Milling Arbitration, they have not put into force the increases provided by the board. Cratice,

O'Regan, the saw miller, who locked out his men because they joined the I.T. and G.W.U. is now willing to "recognise," his attempt to run the job with scabs having failed. soon expected. Skerries.

Flanagan, the picture "palace" proprietor, has been considering a modest demand of his employes since April. He evidently regards the applications as a "serial"; the next instalment will be "The Light that Foiled." Ballaghadereen,

asking for Dublin rates.

| Fermoy.

The building strike still continues. The Employers' Federation are obstinate, but it is not the building trade employers who are blocking a settlement! Perhaps the others want trouble! Tarbert,

A demand has gone in to the Co-operative Creamery for the rates secured in adjacent creameries. A gallant pigjobber has threatened to run creamery without hands.

The Laundry is at present under police protection, lest some of the girls might carry it off.

Mullingar, The Transport Union branch, with 2,000 members, complains that mention of its claims, meetings and general activities are suppressed by the local papers. The day should soon come when the organised workers in every district can have their own Press organ.

SECERT DOCUMENTS.

Boyle Employers and the Cash Nexus.
The Head Office of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union is making a collection of documents issued by em ployers in their various attacks upon the membership of the Union. These documents will be preserved for posterity, and in due time will be lodged in the meseum of historical relies under the government of the Workers' Republic. The latest addition to our stock comes from the town of Boyle. This document ranks in historical interest with the famous document issued to the Dorches-

ter labourers early in the last century and the pledge exacted by the Dublin em-ployers in 1913. It was signed by every employer in Boyle with one or two exceptions, and some of the signatories have been mulcted for breaking their bond and dealing with the Union. The document reads:

"Boyle Employers' Association,

"Boyle, March 3rd, 1919.

"We, the undersigned employers in Boyle and neighbourhood, hereby agree to observe and faithfully carry out the following rules and regulations, in view of the fact that a number of the employers have been threatened with strikes promoted by the Irish Transport Union:

"'That we, the members, hereby agree to act together and to enter into no negotiations or bargaining with the said Transport Union or its organisers unless said negotiations have been approved and sanctioned by a majority of our members at a meeting duly convened for the pur-

pose. "That we and each of us hereby and each of us hereby agree to forfeit same or such proportion of same as man be fixed by this Association at a meeting duly convened in case the majority of this body at said meeting found, after hearing said member, that he had vio

lated or broken in any way these rules.'
"In case you are prepared to join said." Association, you are requested to state the amount you are prepared to deposit as guarantee, which will be returned if the threatened strikes collapse, and less any necessary expenses that may be incurred in the defence of the members."

NO "COLOR BAR" IN OFFALLY

Rhode.—The evictions of the workers from Kerr's houses has strengthened the workers here in their fight. The public city afforded the military and police has slightly modified their offensiveness.

A deputation of workers met the local Farmers' Association on 20th ult., but before the bosses would discuss the outstanding grievances they demanded that the workers should sign a declaration of willingness to work with non-unionists. A query by fellow worker O'Connor if

that meant that non-unionists were the imported in order to victimise the local workers led to the reply that the Union men must be ready to work with

anybady,

"Japanese, if we like,"
said the Chairman. This proposition was
formally voted upon by the farmers present, and out of thirty only two refused

to support the chairman.

The newly-emancipated farmers' tenants no longer, thanks to the nation, have dropped the old war cry "Ireland for the Irish" in favour of "Ireland for the Farmers 'Association and its labour for the Japs."

NO "ULSTER QUESTION" IN NENAGH BRANCH.

All shades of political thought and re-Settlement ligious belief joined together at Nenngh this week for the purpose of forming an employers' association. The meeting was called by a Scotchman, The Sinn Fein election agent at the recent General Election in North Tipperary presided, and a vote of thanks to him for his arduous duties was proposed by a man from the Black North (Unionist), while the various propositions were supported by a Anglo-American Oil Co.'s employes are one-time president of the A.O.H. and Secretary of the Town Tenants' League.

Though possessing many different opinions, the meeting was certainly a union of hearts with one object, not, of course, as the chairman so ably and cloquently put it, "to fight the workers, but to protect the employers interests."

The interests and very existence of the employers are threatened in Nenagh. The highest rate paid before the present increase was from 17/6 to £1 5s.. Now the workers have the audacity to look for more, and to prevent them getting it the following committee of employers has begun business:

Jas. O'Brien, solicitor; F. R. Moloney, auctioneer and picture house proprietor; Denis O'Meara, U.I.L., and Town Tenants' League; Adam Hodgins, draper and churchwarden; P. J. Gubbin, nonpolitical, and Joe F. Gleeson, brother of the Crown Solicitor for Co. Tipperary.

SOME UNION PROBLEMS

III.

MORE DEMOCRACY.

In order to drive home the necessity for Committees in the Branches and the great value of the services rendered by the live Committee-member, we mentioned in some instances where lack of such supervision had caused chaos in the Branch affairs. But it must not be assumed that these instances are the rule, or even at all common. They are exceptional in our experience. In the vast majority of our Branches the Committees are doing their duty, and in several cases, as in Carlow, Newbridge, and Tullamore, for example, the method and functioning of the Committee work approach the ideal. Lucky are the members of such Branches, because there the Union gets a chance of showing what it can do, and the results are worth record-

ing.
In many places, it is true, the Secretary has no alternative but to assume all authority and all responsibility. If not, the Branch would fall through. Laziness, lack of faith, petty personal differences, anything and everything prevent the Committee from filling their part. In such cases, the "one man" must do his best to carry on, hoping the while that no influenza, none of the ills that flesh is heir to, will claim him for a victim, or "pop goes the Union."

This brings us to the really important

aspect of this question of democracy in the Union. All Ireland knows that the battle of Aughrim was lost because St. Ruth's head was carried off by an unruly cannot ball, and nobody else had the plans. When our Aughrim is being fought, the newest corporal in the line should be ready and fit to take St. Ruth's place. In the army of Irish Labour there must be direction and discipline if there is to be-victory. We cannot win by mob tactics,

have officers mustobey them till we change them, but the plans will need to be more widely known and understood than they were at Aughrim.

In the I.T. & G.W.U. division of the Labour army, every inducement is held out to the members to know their Union, to take a hand in its work, and to qualify for a part in that great task of social reconstruction which lies before us. This truly educational work is under way, slowly, it is true, but when once the average member has grasped the aims and objects of the Union, when the average Committee man knows how to work it to the general advantage, we can face the enemy's fire without trembling to think what will happen if we lose our St. Ruths. When we have democracy we won't be dependent on leaders. If we lose one good man, we'll have plenty to fill his place.

The well-laid plot of the Unionist Alliance disclosed in last week's issue is another proof of the need for an enlightened rank and file.

The Executive were well aware that the unusual stiffness of the bosses in such disputes as the Dublin hotels, Rhode, and Boyle, was prompted by the political bigotry of the Umionist employers, but they had no proof of it till the plot was revealed. Similarly the desire to

split the Transport Union

shown by these amiable people throws a curious light on some recent happenings in the Union which for the moment we need not mention, as they proved abortive. The campaign of calumny and misrepresentation (written and verbal) at present raging furiously against us from north to south of Ireland is somewhat more serious. Some of these slanderers are outside the Union; others are in it, but not of it. We can reckon on the loyalty of our members to prevent the "split." At any rate, the Union has been such a "good thing" for them during recent years, that we know they will have the horse sense to make a few inquiries before lending a hand to wreck it at the bidding of the common enemy. If there's something wrong with the machine, men of sense will find a better way of setting it right than smashing it up with a hammer.

J. J. HUGHES Assistant Secretary.

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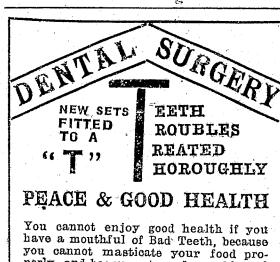
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