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ONE PENNY

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ONE BIG UNION.

BY THE LATE JAMES CONNOLLY.

On the eve of his return to Ireland in 1910 James Connolly wrote an article in "The Harp." outlining a new Labour Policy for Ireland. We reprint the greater part of the article, and would be glad to receive contributions from our Trade Union readers in criticism or in support of the policy suggested. Many things have happened since January, 1910, affecting Irish Labour; the workers are better organised to-day than ever before, and the cry from all parts is still for organisers. And the questions are forced upon us: Does our present method of organisation enable us to make the fullest use of our forces? Is the structure of the Trade Union of to-day fitted for the work that lies to our hand? Perhaps the suggested Irish Federation of Trade Unions would meet the needs? We suggest that a public discussion on these subjects in our pages will clear the way for definite and well-considered action.—Editor, IRISH OPINION.

THE work that lies before us is "the proper organisation of the working class of Ireland as a coherent whole, under one direction and in one organisation. That the workers of Ireland be organised on the industrial field, not as plumbers, painters, bricklayers, dock labourers, printers, agricultural labourers, carters, shoemakers, etc., but that all these various Unions be encouraged to become sub-divisions of one great whole whose aim it should be to perfect an organisation in which the interests of all should be the interests of each—in which the right of membership should rest not in proficiency at a craft or trade, but in the fact of being a member of

the working class. Such a welding together of all the forces of organised labour in Ireland would make it possible to effect a settlement of most, if not all, of the questions which to-day are the stock-in-trade of every quack reformer and politician, as indeed they have also been for fifty years and more. A militant organisation of the working class of Ireland, in town and country, would have as dominant and controlling effect upon the fortunes of the Irish working class as the Land League had upon the fortunes of the Irish farmer. It would enable Labour to dictate terms to the employing class, to raise wages and so give greater

possibilities of life and happiness to all, to shorten hours and so give the parent more time to spend in the bosom of his family, and give the working boy and girl more time for self-improvement and study; it would create a force which could at any time settle the question of supporting Irish manufacture by refusing to handle all goods whose use or sale in Ireland tended to deprive Irish men and women of a chance to earn their living in their own country, and it would tend to create in the Irish working class that spirit of self-reliance which comes from grappling with problems affecting a whole class, as distinguished from the sectional, selfish spirit which is bred by our present system of independent Trade Unions.

It would do more. The feeling of power, the consciousness of strength which would follow upon this unification of the forces of Labour, would develop in our working class an ambition to do and dare greater things, to march forward to the achievement of their emancipation. The spectacle of the whole force of organised Labour in Ireland acting as a unit in the enforcement of any demand made by any of the Unions in the organisation would awake in the least thoughtful a newer, brighter, more hopeful conception of human relations than is to be found in the ranks of any Unions which accept the capitalist idea of individualism. Capitalism teaches the people the moral conceptions of cannibalism—the strong devouring the weak, its theory of the world of men and women is that of a glorified pig-trough where the biggest swine gets the most swill. The idea of human relations which would grow out of the working class of Ireland solidifying and concentrating their forces for their common benefit—and the abandonment of the idea behind the English system of Trade Unions, which has hitherto cramped and dwarfed their mind and powers—would make for human brotherhood and a conception of the universe worthy of a really civilised people.

It shall be our purpose to work for such a re-organisation of the forces of organised Labour in Ireland—the organisation of all who work for wages into one body of national dimensions and scope, under one executive head, elected by the vote of all the Unions, and directing the power of such Unions in united efforts in any needed direction.

At present we shall do no more than suggest the idea to the trade unionists of Ireland, reserving a fuller outline of the principles of organisation involved until a future date. It is to be hoped that those who are to-day loyally working for the benefit of organised Labour under the hampering conditions of old style Trade Unionism, will seriously consider the great advantages which this new style would give to their organisations, and bring the subject of a national organisation of Labour in Ireland up for discussion in their Unions. And let them remember that the system

of organisation we suggest is that which has enabled the Industrial Workers in America to defeat the Steel Trust, the most powerful Trust in the world—to defeat it in the very hour of its victory over the old style Trade Unions; it has enabled the French Confederation of Labour to win last year 88 per cent of its strikes; and it gave victory to the agricultural labourers of Parma, Italy, despite all the military power of the Government, which aided the landlords and used the military as scabs in the harvest field

Let this thought sink into the minds of our readers. The organisation we propose should have an ideal no less noble, a thought no less comprehensive, an aim no less grand, than the elevation of the Working Class to be Masters and Owners of Ireland. And that the gathering of all the toilers into one fold, under one direction, is an absolutely indispensable preliminary to that achievement.

One other question we propose to drop here as a seed in the minds of the toilers of Ireland, to germinate and fructify until the time comes to harvest it. It is this: We have often heard our fellow-workers in the ranks of organised Labour in Ireland complain about City Councils, Poor Law Guardians, Rural and Urban Councils, Catholic and Protestant Churches, Railroads, Dock and Harbour Boards, and other public bodies, as well as private capitalists, importing into Ireland articles which could be produced as well in Ireland, and the production of which on Irish soil would keep at home many thousands who are now compelled to flee to the moral abyss of American or British cities. Now, suppose you had a national organisation of Irish workers—a Workers' Union of Ireland—controlling all the building and transport trades, as well as the others, and suppose the Executives of the Union were issuing an order to its members to refuse to handle, transport, or work beside anyone engaged in handling or transporting such imported articles, and suppose the toilers of Ireland responded to such a call—as the farmers of Ireland had responded to similar calls in Land League days—how long do you suppose such importation could continue?

Some Socialist will accuse us of being Chauvinistic. We are not. But we believe that the toilers of each country should control the industries of their country, and they cannot do so if these industries have their location for manufacturing purposes in another country. Therefore, after long and mature deliberation upon the matter in all its aspects, we affirm it as our belief that the Working Class of Ireland should prevent by united action the conquest of the Irish market by any capitalist or merchant whose factories or workshops are not manned by members of their organisation—all foreign manufacturers and all Irish employers of scab or blackleg labour.

Notes and Comments

Food Control.

The Irish Food Control Committee is now, for all practical purposes, a thing of the past. With the resignation of the Co-operative and Labour representatives the Committee has lost all actual touch with reality and all claim to be considered either representative or trustworthy. The Committee, we judge from press notices, still exists; though it now represents nothing but the Irish Land Commission. What Commissioner Wrench's qualifications for food control are we are at a loss to know, as we are also about the qualifications of his clerks who have been appointed controllers of various articles of daily consumption. So far as we can discover none of these people have ever had even the remotest connection with trade or industry of any kind whatever. They probably despise distributive trade, reserving for it all that fine contempt with which we in Ireland are only too familiar. We should ourselves prefer even the rawest recruit to a distributive co-operative society's committee to any light, however brilliant, of the Land Commission or of the entire Civil Service. For work such as ought to be that of the Irish Food Control Committee we would desire a Labour co-operative body. We should like to see all branches of the co-operative movement, agricultural and industrial, wholesale and retail, supply the expert knowledge with Labour representatives supplying expert knowledge of a different kind and also acting as a corrective to any possible leaning towards high prices. We want a Food Control Committee and we must have one which at the same time is competent and trustworthy. **It must have complete authority in Ireland and not consultative only.** The Wrench farce must be ended as soon as possible and the Irish people must get control of their own food supplies and interchanges. Irish Labour must make its voice very clear upon this subject. It represents that section of our people which suffers most cruelly from existing conditions. It must, therefore, think and act.

Smillie's Warning.

We hear a great deal about the queue system of food distribution in England, and much also of its inequity. We have heard of people standing in one of these food queues from 7 o'clock in the morning till 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and then going home empty-handed. It is not uncommon for people to wait for such a long time for their allowance and when they reach the shop discovering that everything has been sold out. We are greatly surprised that the English people have so far quietly acquiesced in this treatment. The whole question of food supply and distribution has been hopelessly muddled from the start. There was no system whatever; those in charge seem to be quite incapable of thinking or of devising a scheme that will ensure equity in distribution. The grocer Devonport was no better than the coal-owner Rhondda. Time and again has

organised Labour in England protested, but its protests, like those of the Irish Food Control Committee, have been ignored by "the men higher up." The Controllers are all comparatively wealthy people who are not in the least interested in the sufferings of the worker. If the worker cannot buy food he can save money to invest in War Bonds. That would appear to be the method of reasoning of the Rhondda circle in England and the Wrench clique in Ireland. They must both go if the worker in either island is to have food. We are pleased to note the protest raised by Robert Smillie at the Convention on the Food Supply held on Saturday in London. He warned the Government that a great crisis was pending, "and that there might be an outbreak at any time unless the Government acted fairly towards the people." We trust that this is no empty boast and that English and Scottish Labour will act as well as talk. If it does some relief from an intolerable position may come to us in Ireland. Whether English Labour acts or not we must. The position is becoming much too critical for merely passing resolutions warning the Government.

The Crisis.

The crisis is not pending in Ireland, it is upon us. During the week-end Dublin had no butter, and even in a comparatively small place like Ballyhaunis as much as 4s. per pound had to be paid for butter. The price fixed is 238s. per cwt.; the price paid in Ballyhaunis is 448s. per cwt., and it is not uncommon to hear of 350s. per cwt. being paid. Ireland is not to have any butter to eat because English merchants defy the English Food Controller, and Irish producers defy English and Irish Food Control as well as Irish sentiment and Irish need. It is very well known that there is not sufficient butter produced here during the winter months to satisfy our own demands. Yet such as is produced may be exported and none may be imported from foreign sources. The whole thing is a scandal. Everybody knows that it is; the creameries know it and have asked for prohibition of export; the consumers know it and have made the same demand. Yet nothing is done. We feel certain that the Government is deliberately allowing our butter to be exported without reference to our feelings or even needs. Coal is also very scarce and consequently very dear. Less than half last year's quantity has been imported this winter, with the result that coal in Dublin is now 3s. 6d. to the worker, who, even if he has the money to purchase in large quantities, invariably has not the space to store it. Surely the crisis is upon us, and it devolves upon ourselves to take action. In some parts of England we have read of food supplies the property of one trade being commandeered and given to others. This is done because of the popular need. Can we not do the same? Can the food being shipped from Irish ports not be stopped by our organised workers for the benefit

of their own people? All other methods of protest have failed, and crisis invariably compel action. Have we not arrived at the compulsion stage? In our opinion we have, and we trust that the Unions as well as the traders will defy Wrench and Rhondda and prevent necessary food leaving our shores.

Action in Ennis.

The Ennis Sinn Fein Club has inaugurated a scheme for the distribution of potatoes to the poorer people of that town, and last week 150 families were supplied with potatoes according to their needs. Each family is provided with a ticket endorsed with the quantity of potatoes necessary, and upon presentation of this ticket the potatoes are supplied at cost price. Our informant writes: "Some twenty prominent men in Ennis have each advanced £5 to the club on loan. The club purchased large quantities of potatoes at the current market price. The farmers delivered them at the Sinn Fein Market. The Food Committee distributed them at cost price, cash down. There is no credit and no charity." By "buying at the market price and selling at cost the club carries on from week to week at trifling loss." We are pleased that such an enterprise should be undertaken, but we cannot commend the method. We do not at all comprehend why there should be any loss at all if the club sold at purchase price with cost of distribution added. But why did the club itself undertake the work? Was it not possible to start a distributive co-operative society for the people of Ennis? Is the object political or economic? We agree with our correspondent that the scheme "teaches a lesson to the working man," and we hope the workers of Ennis will profit by it. Let the workers of Ennis get together and have a genuine co-operative organisation for food distribution controlled by its own members and containing within itself neither the germs of charity nor of snobbery. "Not one of those concerned in the planning or working of the scheme belongs to the working class. Therein lies material for another lesson." So says our correspondent, and with him we agree. Further comment is needless, though we might point out to the people of Ennis, workers and otherwise, that Sinn Fein has a more than political significance. We hope the workers will understand.

Victory for the Teachers.

The decided attitude taken up by the teachers upon the question of converting the Duke scheme into a war bonus has resulted in at least a moral victory for them. And, in addition, a material victory in the shape of a new war bonus on Civil Service terms. The first payment will be made with the January salaries on 15th inst., and three-quarters of the Birrell grant will be paid on the same date. If the teachers are treated identically with Civil Servants this war bonus will mean an increase of 9s. per week from January 1st to December 17th,

Allotments and Garden Plots BY PLOTHOLDER

LAYING OUT THE PLOT.

Work has been proceeding steadily during the holidays and much digging and trenching has been done despite the holiday atmosphere. We are not such a lazy lot as some would pretend, and we are glad to have had this, all-too-brief, rest from our labours in order to do our bit on the land in preparation for the next holidays, when planting and seed-sowing will be in full swing.

The demand for allotments is still far greater than the facilities given for obtaining them: one wonders why our local authorities are so slow and undemocratic in this matter and also why landowners in and around the towns and cities of Ireland are so conservative. In England something like 183,000 allotments have been added during the past year. Most urban and other local authorities are exercising (where necessary) the powers vested in them, and arrangements have been made by the Food Production Department for this work to be stimulated and supervised by officers of the Department. In Ireland the local authorities appear to be asleep, and even more in need of something stimulating.

Cropping the Allotment.—Various schemes of cropping a plot are from time to time set out, but most of them are unsatisfactory if regarded as patterns to be copied. Each plotholder must decide this problem for him or herself.

The demands of one household are totally different from the demands of another, both as regards quantity and variety. Therefore when reading of or hearing about plans and schemes of cropping, consider how they fit your own particular case, then modify the scheme to suit your own requirements. In drawing out a rough plan to suit the general requirements of a house various points are taken into consideration.

1st.—The size of the plot. In a large plot (one-eighth acre, 600 square yards) it may be advisable to fill one-half with potatoes, and the other half with various other vegetables.

In a smaller plot (one-sixteenth acre, 300 square yards) one-third may be all that can be spared for potatoes, and two-thirds for the other and more expensive vegetables.

2nd.—The kinds of vegetables in de-

mand throughout the year. Here there will be a big divergence of opinion. I have found that there is usually a season of scarcity and high prices about the months of February and March, and I usually try to grow sufficient winter vegetables to have a surplus at this time of the year, when they will sell readily, rather than in July, when supplies are abundant. It is well to aim at growing: 1st, those vegetables which are absolutely necessary, and, secondly, those which may be wanted from time to time and which are extremely expensive to buy. Taking potatoes and cabbages as absolutely essential—but not growing more of the latter than are actually needed, we may then consider other vegetables worth growing for various reasons. **Root Crops**—Carrots, parsnips, beet, turnips—these one find to be in constant demand, although beetroot does not appear to be generally esteemed. They are valuable because they can be had during the season of scarcity of green vegetables. **Leaf and Stem Vegetables.**—Perhaps the most profitable crop on the allotment is the onion—whether grown as Tripoli or spring-sown onion, as shallots or potato onions, and plotholders will find this a crop which pays especially well in war time. Leeks are also worth growing. These are an accommodating crop, and can be planted out in the onion bed just as the Tripoli onions are beginning to ripen in July—or on the portion previously occupied by the early potatoes. Celery is often in demand both as “pot herb” and for table use; at present it costs about 6d. to get a stick, which is hardly worth the name of celery. Plotholders will find this crop well worth growing, either in small or large quantities. The various plants of the cabbage tribe, apart from ordinary York cabbages, are also worth a place—as these can be obtained in succession throughout the year: broccoli for winter and early spring use, cauliflower for summer and autumn, Brussels sprouts, savoy cabbages, curly greens, and a few pickling cabbage for winter use.

Amongst other desirable vegetables might be mentioned rhubarb, beans and peas, various “salad” crops—lettuce, radish, spinach, cress and mustard—for summer; and herbs, such as parsley, mint and thyme, for use all the year

round. It has been urged that workingmen do not, and cannot, appreciate some of these, so-called, “fancy vegetables,” which were only intended for the tables of the rich. To this I would say, visit the allotment and cottage gardens of the working men and find whether or not, especially after the first few years of cultivation, most of these vegetables are being grown by the plotholders. In foods as well as in other things labour is justly demanding a greater variety than hitherto. An enlightened democracy will not be content with potatoes and cabbages only, while their “betters” sup butter with globe artichokes and take asparagus and cauliflowers laden with cornflour sauce, etc.

The scheme of cropping will depend, therefore, mainly on the kinds of vegetables grown. Generally speaking, it pays to carry out a rotational arrangement, placing potatoes on one-third of the plot, cabbages and greens generally—cauliflowers, sprouts, etc.—along with turnips on the second third, and the various other vegetables on the other third. Then in the next season the cabbages go on to the potato plot, the various items on the cabbage patch, the various potatoes on the various portion, etc. While there are many good, scientific and practical reasons for so rotating the crops, it cannot be denied that many good gardeners manage, by means of deep and thorough cultivation, heavy manuring, and the frequent use of lime, to grow crops such as onions and cabbages continuously on the same ground. In arranging the scheme it may be possible to fit in such crops as lettuce, radish and spinach—all of which are quick growing crops—between the rows of cabbages and other plants as intercrops, cutting them out before the more permanent vegetables become unduly overcrowded. Also to arrange for a successional crop to follow the early vegetables: leeks, broccoli, cabbage after early potatoes and spring cabbage. Quantities of seed necessary and food produced will be dealt with in next article.

PLOTHOLDER.

HELD OVER!

Several articles and letters of interest.

NOTES AND COMMENTS—Continued.

1917, and 14s. per week from that date. The bonus is payable to all teachers, including lay teachers in convent schools. We heartily congratulate the teachers upon their victory. The Trade Union affiliation and the Trade Union method has not been tried in vain. The Dublin Branch of the Irish Assistant Teachers' Union has decided to accept the bonus provided it is identical with the Civil Service terms. It was also decided that there could be “no lessening of the opposition to the proposals contained in the

“White Paper.” Thus does the Trade Union method carry victory. We regret to notice that the moment of victory should be chosen by some teachers to throw over the Organisation that has wrought so much for them. These people evidently think themselves much too good for such a plebian institution as a Trade Union. Their snobbery is beneath contempt, and it is, unfortunately, too common among the “black-coated” proletariat. Clerks also suffered too long

from this peculiar disease, but are now, it seems, on the way to a perfect cure. Today our clerks are becoming Trade Unionists in increasing numbers. Even the aristocratic bank clerk, the acme of clerical snobbery, is thinking of Trade Union organisation. We wish their efforts every success, and we have pity enough for those Northern teachers who are above Trade Unionism. They, too, will learn in time. We trust it will not be long.

International Notes.

The success of the Conscriptionists in Canada inspired "The Irish Times," with the incredible thought "What is good enough for Canada ought to be good enough for Ireland." But when Australia rejected conscription the aphorism no longer seemed applicable, and the Kildare Street Club was gravely assured of the necessity for Australia to decide the question in accordance with local conditions. The Sinn Fein policy is good enough for Australia, therefore it is good enough for Ireland, is a variation upon the theme of "The Irish Times," which we recommend to the editor of that Imperial advertising sheet. Meanwhile, it is interesting to recall, for the benefit of President Wilson's devotees here and elsewhere, the statement current in the American pro-Ally press, namely, that the Washington Government was most anxious for the success of the conscription campaign, as it was felt that the existence of the voluntary system in Canada would not be to the advantage of compulsion in the United States.

The eminently orthodox and pro-war weekly, "The Nation" of New York, devotes an article to the victory of Sir Robert Borden and the Conscriptionist Liberals, and says they gained their ends "by the worst juggling with suffrage rights ever beheld on the American Continent." The measures adopted to secure the Conscriptionist majority are certainly calculated to prove the superiority of these charming young "democracies" of the New World, as compared with poor old Europe, when it comes to the destruction of liberty. Our reactionaries have a lot to learn from America, as anyone who has studied Labour conditions in the United States can testify, and as the manoeuvres of the Canadian Conscriptionists have demonstrated. To begin with, they enfranchised all women who had relatives in the army, thereby securing a vast horde of those "Separation Allowance Women," whose activities are so familiar in this country. To these were added all soldiers in the Canadian forces, irrespective of nationality, and, as there are thousands of these men who have never been in Canada, their regard for the welfare of the Dominion may be imagined. As a further guarantee of the utility of such voters, it was arranged that the soldiers could choose the district in which their vote was to be cast. This ensured the casting of votes wherever most required by the Bordenites.

Having displayed this prodigality in the matter of enfranchising, the Canadian authorities were equally zealous in the disfranchisement of all possible opponents of conscription. The conscientious objectors were disfranchised, also citizens of enemy birth, even though naturalised, and all sects whose religious principles forbade service. This measure disposed, not only of the Quakers, but also of the Donkhobors, the famous Russian pacifists, of whom many fled to the New World to escape the violation of their faith; and the Mennonites, an equally historical sect of conscientious

believers in the Christian doctrine of non-resistance. Numbers of these disfranchised people had sons in the trenches fighting for France, but that fact did not save them their vote, any more than the antipathy of the Ruthenians to Austria could relieve them of the stigma of being alien enemies, because subjects of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and they were also forbidden to vote. No wonder the Toronto "Globe," by no means a Nationalist or otherwise heretical journal, described the measures referred to as a "betrayal of democracy." The possible secession of Quebec is apparently the price which Borden will have to pay for his triumph. In any case he has now saddled Canada with a sort of Ulster problem, by bringing about a definite cleavage between Quebec and the Dominion on racial and religious lines. Meanwhile, we are gratified to know that the world is being made safe for plutocracy, as witness the case of Sir Joseph Flavelle, head of the Imperial Munitions Board of Canada. This patriot displayed heroic virtue in cutting down the profits of the munition-makers, but the operations of his own firm, the William Davies Company, were overlooked, by one of those strange coincidences which occur in the best-regulated capitalistic administrations. The William Davies Company traded in foodstuffs, and had a capital of 2,000,000 dollars, on which a net profit of 1,827,494 dollars was realised. By their profits ye shall know them.

At the present time France is occupied with a political-patriotic scandal which threatens to equal the infamous Dreyfus affair, and has already divided the country on lines roughly corresponding to those which split France on that occasion. Clemenceau has succeeded in persuading the Chamber of Deputies to withdraw from M. Joseph Caillaux the parliamentary immunity which exists to protect public men from the persecution to which their prominence exposes them, and Caillaux is to be tried for treason by a court-martial. On the evidence so far submitted, the accused seems to be guilty of pacifism, and of frequenting persons suspected of treasonable activities, but he does not appear to have been guilty of any act which could properly be described as that of a traitor to France. The anti-Republican newspapers are howling for the shooting of Caillaux, and the great body of reactionary anti-socialist opinion—including the one time anti-militarist Herve—is supporting Clemenceau in his attack upon a political opponent, whose lack of caution seems to have played into the hands of his enemies. The case is one of great interest to all who are concerned for justice and the liberty of the subject, for it cannot be said that Caillaux is getting the benefit of either. The war has, to some degree, affected the alignment of parties against the suspected "traitor," but, in the main, the old division of the Dreyfus case has been repeated.

In these circumstances, it was pathetic to find a paragraph in "Nationality" last week, in which an attempt was made

to reduce the whole question to the primitive proportions of a Grand Orient bogey. Clemenceau is described, and rightly so, as "one of the leading lights of the Grand Orient," as if that fact had any bearing on his attitude towards Caillaux, himself a member, and an important one, of the same institution. We remember, when Madame Caillaux shot the editor of the "Figaro," that her acquittal was attributed by the anti-Republican and Royalist press of France to her husband's Masonic relations. As a matter of fact, the worst enemies of Caillaux in France are precisely those who see the hand of "the Jews, Protestants and Freemasons"—the great formula—in every department of politics. We shall be happy to furnish the Editor of "Nationality" with copies of the anti-Masonic newspapers of Paris, if he wants to know, as he obviously does not, the really truculent opponents of Caillaux. The fact is, Caillaux has been hated by the Jingoists ever since the Franco-German Morocco crisis, when he saw that the cession of a part of the French Congo to Germany was necessary if France was to have a free hand in Morocco. His Income Tax scheme, based on the English model, has also earned him the enmity of the capitalists, who regard him as "one of those scoundrels that want to tax the rich," to quote a well-known phrase of Anatole France. There are more things in European politics than are dreamt of in the Grand Orient philosophy of "Nationality."

We trust the British Labour Party and Trade Union Congress will be happy when they observe how beautifully their international policy coincides with that of Count Czernin, so far as small nations are concerned. Both advocate a plan which leaves the case of Ireland untouched, and the wisdom of those who scotched the Stockholm Conference is justified . . . from their point of view. We have already urged the absurdity of trusting to the professional diplomats of the capitalist Governments of Europe for a settlement of the Irish question. The peace terms offered by the Central Empires to Russia are a proof of our recent contention, that the Powers will not disturb the skeletons in their respective cupboards. This is exactly what is proposed by the idea to limit discussions of the independence of small nationalities to those countries whose independence has been lost since the war, or has been involved directly in the war, as in the case of Alsace-Lorraine. We believe that the only tribunal of an international character which could conceivably do justice to the Irish claim is International Labour. As the "Koelnische Zeitung" very properly states: "If democracy is to be promoted, why not begin in Ireland? Why not in Egypt? Why not in the Boer Republics? Why not in India? The fact that these democrats pass resolutions about Alsace-Lorraine, Constantinople, and Poland, with which they have nothing whatever to do, is a consequence of the unalterable arrogance of the English way of thinking."

HUNGER IN IRELAND! HOW

By THOS. JOHNSON, Ex-President Irish

"The right of each nation to the defence of its own economic interests, and . . . the conservation for its own people of its own supplies of food stuffs and raw material cannot be denied."—(British Labour Party Manifesto.)

If any justification were needed for the policy of conservation of Ireland's food supplies for Ireland's people advocated by the Irish Labour Party, it may be found in the above quotation from the draft manifesto on war aims drawn up by the British Labour Party and Trade Union Congress executives.

A year ago at the special Labour Conference on Food Supplies, held in the City Hall, Dublin, a definite Labour policy on the food question was proclaimed, and was based on the principle that the needs of the people of Ireland must be provided for before any food is allowed to be sent out of the country.

The danger of an actual shortage of food is growing daily. Butter, sugar, tea, bacon, margarine, and in some districts bread and flour, are obtained only after long waiting outside shops, and often not at all.

The submarine is taking a heavy toll of the world's cargo carrying ships, and if this continues these islands may experience actual famine before next year's harvest is gathered.

Ireland has produced food more than enough to feed her people, and yet there is the possibility of famine! According to the estimates of the Department of Agriculture there have been grown potatoes enough to give every family in Ireland two cwt. per week for the year round, and cereals, i.e., oats, wheat, barley and rye, enough to provide every family with six stone per week for the year. In addition to these there are immense quantities of turnips and hay and grass to be converted into beef, mutton and dairy produce, not to speak of garden crops.

In view of these facts our rulers must be made to realise that it is a crime for which they will be held to account if our people are not made secure against hunger.

"The right of IRELAND to the conservation for its own people of its own supplies of food cannot be denied."

What is to be done to ensure that there shall be no hunger in Ireland?

The recent sinking between Dublin and Liverpool of the SS. "Hare" announced in the House of Commons, point to the solution. Ireland must be treated by the Irish Government as a blockaded island. There is a risk that the blockade may be absolute, and a sane national policy will tell us to deal with the food problem with this possibility in view.

We point to the Irish Labour Party's resolutions of last December, and say they are just as applicable to-day as they were then. We repeat the demand that, as the basis of any effective action, an official census of all food supplies be taken, both in the country and in the stores of our towns and cities. We give our hearty support to the attempt being made by Sinn Fein to obtain a food census, but at the best, with the present imperfect organisation, such an unofficial report can be only an indication of the supplies available. In the Counties of Antrim, Down, Derry and Tyrone, where potatoes and oats are grown in abundance, and where practically all the potatoes exported are shipped, it is impossible to get for a Sinn Fein census the requisite information from the farmers and merchants of those counties. An official census is therefore necessary.

The Trade Union Conference also demanded that an Irish Authority should be set up to have full control over all imports and exports of food. This Authority, when the census was completed, and after an estimate had been made of the people's needs until the gathering of next year's harvest, would so regulate exports and imports—balancing food values with food values rather than monetary values—as to secure that there would always be retained in this country enough food to feed our people. It would also see to it that a sufficient variety of food would be available—beef and pork as well as potatoes, oats and butter—and that exports of this home produced food would be allowed in proportion as tea, sugar, wheat, etc., etc., are imported.

It will be seen that this is not, as has been alleged, a demand for the stoppage of exports—it is a demand for the regulation of exports to accord with imports and the requirements of the people.

The Department of Agriculture and the Irish Food Control Committee have done something towards meeting these demands, and probably are anxious to do much more. But the Department considers its functions are confined to production, and it has nothing to do with distribution. The Food Control Committee is an advisory body, and its function is merely to advise the Food Controller in London. The Irish Committee cannot act without the consent of Lord Rhondda. This means that if the interests of England and Ireland came into violent conflict Ireland's interests must succumb.

We have noted with satisfaction that several large cargoes of grain and flour have been landed at Irish ports during the past few weeks, and we are glad to give credit to the Irish Committee for

SHALL WE AVOID IT?

Let the Unions
Act at Once.

Trade Union Congress and Labour Party.

this and also to them and the Department for the restriction on the export of milk and milch cows, belated though it be. But we are concerned for the coming months. We see arising in England and Scotland a demand for the relaxation of these restrictions, because cows are so scarce that they are selling at £70 a head. We know that sellers in Ireland are anxious to have a free market for cows as for butter, potatoes and oats, and the pressure from Irish sellers, combined with that of English buyers, may overcome the resistance of the Irish Control and the Department.

Our demand should be, therefore, that the Irish Committee must be strengthened and vested with executive authority instead of being subordinate to the London controller.

But even if all these demands are conceded something more is required. It will be a great thing to ensure that ample supplies of food are in the country, but it won't be much satisfaction to the Dublin dockworker or the Belfast spinner to know that there are potatoes in plenty in Tyrone and fat beeves in Meath. We must devise some means of distribution, the potatoes and beef, butter and milk must find their way easily to the Irish towns and cities as required for consumption. For this purpose the Irish Food Control must be given power to arrange transit facilities between the place where the food lies and the place where it is needed. Last year, when Donegal was short of potatoes, Mayo had plenty to spare; when Antrim farmers wanted to ship their surplus to Scotland, Dublin was calling in vain for supplies.

And though the best possible arrangements regarding Irish produce may be made, it will still be necessary to regulate the distribution of such foods as are limited in quantity, whether imported or home grown, such as sugar, tea, coffee, milk, butter, bacon, margarine and possibly wheaten flour. In times of scarcity the free play of the markets leads to the survival of the richest, the poor must go short.

We, therefore, claim that the demand of the Trade Union Congress still holds good and must be pressed viz., that the municipal authorities shall be empowered—and compelled—to organise the distribution of food supplies in their respective areas; that every family should be rationed, and that all should receive a fair share of all the food that is available, and that none should receive more than a fair share, irrespective of wealth or social position. Where certain foods are scarce, for instance, eggs, and selection must be made in the distribution, the poor, the sick, nursing mothers and children must be given the preference.

For such foods as milk, eggs, butter, essential to the sick, where the supplies are restricted, municipal depots should be opened and distribution be according to needs. For other commodities, flour, potatoes, bacon, sugar, tea, beef, etc., the ordinary channels of distribution may be used, but every family should be made to choose the shop where they prefer to deal, and every shop will be allotted a supply in proportion to the registered requirements of his customers and the available supplies.

Only by such means will the workers of Ireland be secured against hunger. Many powerful influences will work against us in the next few months, not necessarily with malice. But the elemental demand from our hungry neighbour for food will surely draw from our shores every ounce of sustenance if no counteracting force is in operation. Every influence must, therefore, be brought to bear in support of the demand that an Irish Food Control be established with supreme authority over exports and imports and the distribution of food in Ireland.

Let our Trade Unions branches discuss this matter, and having done so, let them send resolutions to the Irish Food Committee, Dublin, the Department of Agriculture, Dublin, and the various political parties in Ireland demanding that immediate action be taken on the lines suggested. If this is done we may be saved some of the suffering which follows in the wake of prolonged war.

The practical collapse of the Irish Food Control Committee, as a protest against the refusal of Lord Rhondda to follow the advice of the Irish Committee, should strengthen our demand that an Irish authority, with full executive powers, be established at once.

CO-OPERATORS' PRACTICAL COUNSEL.

The following is a copy of a circular letter which has been sent to all Irish societies who are members of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association:—

The Irish Sectional Board at their last meeting had under consideration the question of garden plots and allotment holdings in towns in Ireland. **In view of the fact of increasing food scarcity it is of the greatest importance that societies should do all they can to encourage the taking of plots by their members, and, if necessary, to take collective action to secure vacant land for this purpose.** Where ploholders' associations are in existence, societies should endeavour to get into touch with them with the object of marketing produce, and where associations do not exist, societies might help by the formation of such associations so that production may be increased and facilities provided for the distribution of surplus produce.

W. J. M'GUFFIN, President.

WM. M. KNOX, Secretary.

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London, Vienna and Democracy.

"It is inconceivable," says H. N. Brailsford in the "Herald," "that the Germans or any other Imperialist race can accept the Russian idea in the form in which the Bolsheviki propound it. To agree to plébiscites all over the world wherever there is any degree of discontent—from Ireland to India, from Alsace to Bosnia—is the extreme claim of the ideal." Such an apology for the Labour Peace programme submitted to the Conference on Friday last is not calculated to inspire one with faith in the democratic protestations of at least one imperialist race. Up to six months ago Russia might have been counted an Empire and its people as an imperialist race, and in that short period of time all its views have, so far as the world outside Russia is concerned, undergone a revolutionary change. Other imperialist races could if they were so determined change their views also, but so far as we can see the imperialist race in Great Britain has no such determination. So long as it listens to the framers of the draft proposals submitted to the London Conference, and to such experts in foreign affairs as Mr. H. N. Brailsford, we shall not be able to register any change in British imperialism or in British imperialist aims and ambitions. We said last week that these people were no less imperialist than Lord Lansdowne, and the proceedings of the London Conference confirm us in that view. Making the world safe for democracy is a very easy undertaking if democracy is to mean nothing more than the present-day thought and practice of England or America. In both places the people have as much to say to the making or conduct of war as we in Ireland have in the internal affairs of China. Democratise the world, we wish we could. We would begin with an attempt to make the English Labour Party understand what the word means, we would try to make that Party safe for democracy. It would be a big undertaking, but from appearances we judge it necessary. The Russians have really undertaken the task that President Wilson thinks he has made his own. So long as there are peoples governed by others than themselves, so long will a world democracy be an impossibility. The peoples of all lands must be free to determine and condition their own governments, no less legislation than administration. Not only will democracy be unsafe so long as there are subject nations and subject races but an obvious cause of future international conflict will remain in the body politic. A medical prescription is tendered where a surgical operation offers the only possibility of a permanent cure. It is a duty incumbent upon anything

calling itself a democracy to be free. Freedom is the basis of democracy, at least in its political phase. Freedom is the right of democracy as well as its duty. The British Labour Party has genuflected before the Russian formula, but surely even an "imperialist race," to use Brailsford's term, cannot believe that sufficient. The Party's War Aims Memorandum talks about the "general principle of allowing all people to settle their own disputes," yet it shrinks from the application of the principle to any but the subjects of Germany, Austria, and Turkey. A general principle is not subject to limitation in this way, and nothing but the childish thinking or wilful dishonesty can so subject it. The Russians gave the principle to the world and they have recognised that it is unconditional. To them is it more than a party cry; to them it is the only permanent basis for the world's future peace and the only possible basis for a League of Nations. So much do they believe in it that they now confront the armed might of Central Europe with their formula only. As compared with their opponents the Russians are naked and helpless, but they have at least the moral courage to believe what they profess to believe. They may be childlike in their faith but they are also no less childlike in their honesty.

To the Russian suggestion that subject peoples should have the opportunity of determining their own future the Germans have replied through Count Czernin that nations which were not politically independent States at the outbreak of war must conclude their disputes with their present governments. Count Czernin is evidently not a hypocrite. He has made no great fuss about world-democracy but he is more superficially sincere than the London Labour Conference. Czernin does not even propose to liberate other Empire's subjects, the British Labour Party does. Czernin will hold and make no promises, British Labour will hold on to its "imperialist race" heritage and make promises to all and sundry. It is possible that the Russian programme will not be adopted, but the Bolsheviki have given proof of their faith. What can we say of British Labour? We are disappointed, profoundly disappointed. High hopes have been dashed by an exhibition of moral cowardice such as it has rarely fallen to our lot to witness or record. We had hoped for an honest amendment at the London Conference, but the action of the Chairman precluded even that. To the Labour Party in England as to Count Czernin at Vienna, Ireland is a domestic question for the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." Czernin and Henderson are really at one, two hearts that beat as one. Henderson ought to rejoice at Czernin's reply to the Russians. Yet instead he asks the Russians to fight on. Fight on for what? To enforce their own terms? If so, they must fight Henderson and the 1,800,000 who voted for the draft Peace proposals also. Some weeks ago Henderson denounced what he called a "sliding-scale peace." He was not so severe at the London Conference; the proposals he submitted were in reality the making of nothing else. It is good to know that the British Labour Party admires the Czernin Peace Terms. Is it possible that Czernin saw them before he met Lenin's representatives? If so, his heart would be steeled against concessions and his hopes correspondingly elated.

Women Workers Win at Cork. By CATHAL O'SHANNON.

If there is any class of employers in Ireland more worthy of damnation, temporal and eternal, than another, it is the class that builds up its wealth on the exploitation of girl and women labour. Outside Belfast and certain other northern centres and a few factories here and there, the wages paid women and girl workers are the lowest paid in any country with pretensions to civilisation. In scores of Irish towns and cities the vast majority of women workers are giving of their sweat and blood and labour for wages ranging from five to fifteen shillings a week. And people wonder and shake their heads when some bright-eyed lassie takes another path and seeks forbidden pleasures because the inhumanity and greed and avarice of a wealthy employer deny her the wages on which she might live decently. But the real wonder is why womankind does not rise up in revolt and sweep the whole accursed order of exploiters into the hell that surely awaits them. The miracle is, not that so many but that so few of our women prefer the easier exploitation.

Thanks to the Trade Unions, Irish girls and Irish women are learning how to help themselves. If their sisters in the North can win comparatively high wages by organisation the women of the South, too, are learning the lessons of combination and militancy in Trade Unionism. In the new movement for the organisation of the women workers the women of Cork are well in the van. Under the influence of the Irish Transport Union the workers in the principal firms employing women in Cork are organised in a solid phalanx, and the workers in the minor firms are still trooping in. And they have already made their power felt with a vengeance. They are losing neither faith nor nationality, but winning a better and decenter livelihood and a holy spirit of pride and independence.

The girls of the Munster Laundry took the initiative and are very proud of their pioneer record. They showed the way and a score of other sections followed. The Munster girls have now carried another trench—in addition to a second increase of wages since they joined up they have won a week's holiday at Christmas with full wages, an unheard-of innovation in the industrial history of Cork. They are now running neck-to-neck in the race with the girls in the printing and paper-bag making trades.

The Munster girls won their laurels with the diplomatic weapon; the printing and bagmaking girls have won theirs with the weapons of industrial war. They struck, and when they struck they struck hard, and won handsomely in a short but sharp fight.

Some 120 girls and a score of men and boys were affected. About six weeks ago they made a demand for a wage of 17s. 6d. a week, upon the chief Cork houses in the trade. A few of the firms met the demand in a reasonable manner, but the Employers' Federation was adamant and refused to give more than 2s. to girls

with more than 10s. and 1s. to those with less. The offer was an insult, for not more than half a dozen were receiving the larger sum. In literal fact, the wages of girls from 17 to 27 years of age, with from one to seven years' experience, ranged from 4s. to 10s., and in a few instances to 11s. 6d. and 12s. Negotiations failed to better the position. In the midst of the storm of the second Sunday before Christmas, the girls met and considered the situation. Four firms were involved—Eagle Works, Guy's, Ryan's, and Purcell's—the latter, by the way, printers of the "University and Labour Series" of pamphlets, and the girls didn't let either the firm or the public ignore the fact! Each section arrived at a unanimous decision to strike and the decision was ratified unanimously by the general body. For strategic reasons the Eagle girls ceased work on the Monday, the other houses following suit on Tuesday.

From Tuesday until the Saturday before Christmas all Cork was witness to the splendid and heroic fight made by the strikers. The city was littered with leaflets explaining the causes of the strike, the wages, conditions and demands of the strikers, their rights as human beings and as workers, and the testimony of Popes, priests, and laymen was enlisted on their behalf. Pickets were arranged in two shifts, and as the houses picketed were in the main thoroughfares Cork literally rang with the exploits of the pickets as they marched in regular military file, singing gay songs, and with hearts lighter even than their pockets. Through storm and snow and rain—and the weather was the worst experienced this winter—the pickets kept to their posts with a firmness, determination, and withal, gaiety, that won them warm sympathy and support and the love of the best hearts in the community. It was hard work to turn out morning after morning with sodden clothes, thin boots, and the certainty of hours of steady trudging through muddy streets, but it was faced cheerfully and gleefully and carried through until victory was well won.

Thousands of inquirers stopped to question and sympathise, men handed £1 and 10/- notes to the pickets, women invited them to tea in restaurants, scores called at the offices to offer help, and other Unions implored in vain the strikers' officials to permit a general collection to be taken up, and many workers in other firms insisted upon making Christmas boxes. The women and a few men in one factory, not connected with the Transport Union in any way, sent in a large sum of money. Priests thanked God that the girls had "an organisation to fight for them," and even employers invited the girls into a fire out of the rain!

The most significant things in the strike were the grand fighting spirit of the strikers and their excellent discipline. They lacked nothing in go and

pluck and daring, but it was go and daring that was disciplined and trained, directed and almost regimented, to its purpose. The pickets were marshalled like soldiers, and their soldierly swing on the march and proud, independent carriage were a pleasure to behold and a delight to work for. What would you not do for girls earning 6/-, 7/-, and 8/- who refused to settle even when they were offered, as some of these were, a bonus of £5 in a lump sum. They were a veritable vanguard in a trained and disciplined army of Labour.

One other evidence of that comradeship and solidarity that win big battles deserves to be recorded. When their own day's work was done the girls of the Munster Laundry and of Dobbin and Ogilvie's volunteered, to relieve the pickets of all late duties and reinforced them in the general parade every evening. Dobbin's girls deserve special mention, for they offered themselves in the middle of a dispute with their own employer. They had their reward, for before the week was out their firm offered them double the increase they had rejected a month before.

By Friday victory was in sight. On that day, through Rev. Father Thomas, O.S.F.C., the employers made overtures, time workers to be paid on the scale laid down by the Cardboard Box Wages Board, in almost every respect the strikers' original demand, piece-workers to have their rates raised in proportion, the forewomen to be consulted in arriving at the new rates. At a meeting on Friday evening the strikers agreed to this, on condition that this proposal be carried out both in the spirit and the letter. Throughout Saturday negotiations proceeded. In the meanwhile there was no slacking in picket duty, and all concerned showed that until a victorious peace were achieved there would be no armistice. Late on Saturday evening, after careful and detailed revision of the rates by the strikers, agreement was reached, pickets were withdrawn, and peace with victory was won.

It was a splendid little fight, cleanly and bravely fought, handsomely and gallantly won. It was short, but had there been necessity would have been prolonged and fought wholeheartedly and spiritedly to the end. After all their suffering the girls were just as spirited, as keen, as eager on Saturday as on Monday night. Happier perhaps they were, happier because they had doubled and trebled their wages, happier because they were bringing good news at Christmas to many a home in Cork, happier because if they had learned much they had taught more than they learned, happier because they were going to spend "the merriest Christmas of their lives."

And those who helped them are not less pleased because they brought a little more pleasure, a little more happiness into Cork. Nor is the march over yet, but it is well the beginning is so good.

C. O'S.

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

DUBLIN NOTES.

The Theatrical Workers (who recently re-organised themselves as a branch of the Transport Union) have got improvements in their rates of pay as a result of their demands made on the Dublin Theatres on 14th December. The whole-day men get 4/6 a week, the night-men (those who assist at the performances only) get an increase of 6d. a performance, or 3/- to 4/- weekly on their present rates. The women employed as cleaners get an increase of 2/6 all round, or more where this does not bring them up to the minimum of 13s. agreed on. Ushers and barmaids get substantial advances. Casual day-men get a minimum of 5/- per day. The present working arrangements remain unaltered, but the managers expressed their willingness to arrange differences under this heading with their employes. The theatrical workers are to be congratulated on their spirit of loyalty which, in less than two months gained them increases in pay and prompt recognition of the right of collective bargaining. The Abbey Theatre was not included in the negotiations by mutual consent, not being a commercial theatre in the same sense as the rest. A separate arrangement will be sought with it. Above terms were arranged at the Theatre Royal on 22nd Dec., and came into force on Dec. 29th.

On Christmas Day 680 children attended an entertainment in Liberty Hall at the invitation of the Socialist Party of Ireland. A continuous musical performance and prize competition were carried out from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the amusement of those who were not actually engaged in feasting on the good things provided. A substantial Christmas dinner, followed in due time by a hearty tea, were served out to the children, who were marshalled by members of the Citizen Army and attended by a ladies' committee, among whom were noticeable the widow and daughter of the late James Connolly. The entertainment was called the Connolly Memorial Christmas Treat, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, many of whom were of the destitute class and bare-footed.

Christmas Day in Dublin was very quiet indeed from the public point of view at least. What life there was visible was centred round the Churches in the morning. The "knot" element has largely found its way into the army, and the scarcity of vehicular traffic reduced the circulation of the rest to a minimum. On the other hand, the high prices of food-stuffs curtailed the Christmas cheer, and the houses in which the population was cooped up gave forth little if any of the usual sounds or signs of gaiety. So true it is that the condition of our stomachs is the measure of our spirits; not a very poetic reflection, but a very true one. To add to the general quiet the weather was still though mild, and the sky overcast.

The mention of weather brings us at once to the coal question, which is becoming as acute as the food question. Coal

for the very poor is practically unobtainable, and even for people of money difficult to get at, the rate of 50/- a ton cash down. The Irish mines are not yet linked up or developed, and the ships are not there to bring in the English supply. The risk of life is making all those who "go down to the sea in ships" reconsider their position, and threatens to add a scarcity of labour to a scarcity of shipping. The only remedy for the case is to compel rapid development of the Irish coal supply, but only organised agitation can bring this about. The mine-owners and company shareholders who constitute the "democratic" Government of England, are not likely to trouble much about it.

BELFAST NOTES.

The shipyard strike has not fizzled out with the close of the Christmas holiday, as predicted by some. On the contrary, the men—the black squad—are very determined to force the Committee on Production to a better frame of mind. On Thursday before Christmas a mass meeting was addressed by the representative of the Ministry, who promised that the men's claim would be faithfully reported to the authorities if the men would, like good boys, return to work the next morning. The meeting decided, on the contrary, to adjourn for a week, until the Thursday after Christmas, in the hope that by that time the Committee on Production would have decided to concede the men's demand. That demand is for an advance of 12½ per cent. on piece rates, or something equivalent to the advance granted to time workers.

The adjourned meeting was held on 27th ult. The representative of the Ministry, an old official of the Boilermakers' Society, attended with a colleague, a lady, and after some parley was allowed to speak to the men. But a condition was laid down by the audience before he began that he was not to "come any patriotic stunt"—they were present to talk about wages! Unfortunately he had nothing to say, else the Ministry had been holidaying too and had not come to any new decision. So the meeting decided to give them another week to think the matter over, and unanimously, or nearly so—about 2,000 to 7—decided to adjourn for a further seven days!

This is an "unofficial" strike; there is no strike pay available, but the men are firmly resolved to compel the powers that be to give some thought to their claim. Three per cent. advance on actual rates is very like an insult to a boilermaker—sevenpence in the £—when the engineers have received 2s. 6d. That is how they view the question. Whatever the merits or demerits of the case may be it is a sign of grace to find a body of shipyard workers in Belfast prepared to take direct action in this manner and not to allow themselves to be wheedled by Government representatives, whether ex-Union officials or charming female aristocrats.

The Pawnbrokers' Branch of the Shop Assistants' Union succeeded in persuading the employers to close for three days Christmas holidays. Most of the employers anticipated the arrangement would break down, as unanimity had hitherto been unknown in the trade. Some of them, relying on the well-known recalcitrance of two individuals, made their plans to re-open on 27th December. Learning of this the Union organiser, Mr. E. Owens, called upon these two firms, and by judiciously hinting at a withdrawal of labour before Christmas, obtained signed agreements to observe the arrangements made between the Employers' Association and the Union. Thus complete unity of action was obtained. Belfast wants to know when the Pawnbrokers' Assistants of Ireland are going to come into line with Belfast. Any assistants who want to learn about the work of the Union should drop a post-card to Edward Owens, 1 Glengall Street, Belfast.

THE CONNOLLY MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREAT.

On Christmas Day the Socialist Party of Ireland honoured the memory of their great ex-member, James Connolly, by feasting and entertaining 630 children in his honour from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Many of these were bare-footed and ill-clad, but to them, as to all, tickets were issued which "requested the pleasure of their company" at Liberty Hall, where the Treat took place. As a preliminary, the secretary of the Party and some distinguished visitors addressed the children, and exhorted them to hold Connolly's memory dear, and to try to benefit by his teachings and heroic example. A substantial dinner of beef and vegetables, followed by plum-pudding, was heartily appreciated and rapidly disposed of by the little people. In the evening a further round of tea, with buns, cakes, and bread and jam, suffered the same fate.

While the batches were feasting, the remainder were entertained in the concert room with a continuous performance of musical items, interrupted only by the singing and dancing competitions, for which prizes of value were given. The Committee who arranged the treat deserve every congratulation. The trained skill of the Food Kitchen staff in Liberty Hall succeeded in tabling the food in the best condition and with the greatest promptness, while the unique atmosphere of comradeship caused a hearty co-operation of children and assistants which could bring nothing but success. Mrs. James Connolly and her daughters were noticeable among the helpers, while the Countess Markievicz aided by word and deed in the good work. She is ever to be found where work is to be done. The funds were mostly provided by "Casey," the famous Dublin-born violinist. A substantial sum was added to the cheque he presented by means of a collection made in Dublin, and so the supplies of good things were fully equal to demand, as the market reports would say, and in this case demand was good.

NOTAÍ. D. Ó R.

Faicim go bfuil ar gcara Liam Ó Rinn ag tabairt aige d'inn pan sclaidéan coiscir ó rom. Molann pé "Irish Opinion" go mói ar rúgáid. An comairle a tugad do'n luét oibre gan a veit a reapaí amac 'r amac ar cois oibre mar leigear a troiblóide aet murgin a veit aca ar an scoim-oibhu, aontuiseann pé ar pad leir ar méio rin. Seapann leam ar an scoim-oibhu mar vócar na ndoime agus ip píú a leigead an méio atá le pád aige 'na taob rin. Veit páilte ionne annreo don uair ip hian leir ró. nom don r'píobneor Saedéalac eile ar maic leir cup ríor ar cupraí luét oibre.

Tá cuir capaoide ag Liam, amtac. Sgriobead veas-focal pan gcead uinip de'n páiréar reo i meary na Notaí Eriop-naipianta i vtaoib An Spand Orient. Tá an ceart aige ar vealac aet ip leir nac vting pé go h-ionlán ceart aib i n-aighe an duine do r'píob na notaí ionn-páirte. Ni páid uair-pin a veanaí amac sup epann coranta do na reapaib oibre An Spand Orient nó an Republicanaçar péin. Eirigeann Liam an-éruaid nár naçair. Carépar a admail go bfuil cur de'n píunne aige nuair a veiréann pé sup luét caipitail atá i gceannar na v'pree-maronr pa v'píainne. Aet an v'vuirépar rearta go bfuil luét oibre i gceannar Sinn Féin i n'éirinn? Ip cuma linn an v'fuil an Spand Orient ann no ar. Ceapann péin go bfuil an ionanra páiméire le pád ag

doime áirite ar Vive Viviani agus mar rin de. So einnte ní mói mar duine é. Aet anoir péin eiréim go vtaimis aetá mói ar an laoc vó. Veit pé 'na éiréannaic maic le linn an coçair. Tá doime eile ann agus táro le veit 'na éiréannaic maic le linn an coçair. Tá vream eil agus ip airtéac an vream é. Na doime atá ar an vream reo víodar 'na Sopiatais nom an gcoçad agus veit 'na Sopiatais tap éir an coçair aet ip veacair aím oiréannac a éabairt oira pan am atá i látaip. Ip iongantac an raogal reo agus a bfuil le págail ann anoir. Ni gá' d'inn veit ró-éruaid ar éinne le linn na h-uair reo. Tá an cine doime veagan ar a inebair. Víod nac páid aet vream veas annreo 'r annpíob calma, rmuaintéac, Saedéalac go vti le goipio ní h-é rin le pád nac périp aetá tabaéac a veanaí ar a lán neite pan vti reo.

Da coip d'inn veit an-burdeac do muinntéar an Talbot 'Píer' ar "Doimán Dán" do cup amac le linn na Notaí. Leabair píúveacra ip reo é do r'píob do Sannac De Blacám. Sgilling an luac atá aip. Ni marla do'n uçair é a pád supad iad na píctiupí an cur ip reapi de'n leabair. "Saon" atá cionntac leo píú agus pinne pé ar mod uapal iad. Ni píle mói nó píle an-Saedéalac do go píll, pé r'geat é. Carépar admail go bfuil pé i n-ann píúac veapa agus rmaointe taiteannaca do ceapad 'na teanga péin. Tá a píloct aip.

D. Ó R.

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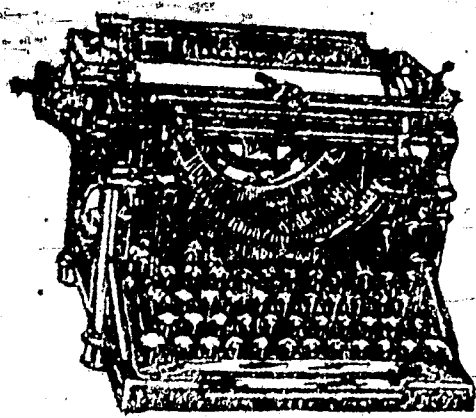
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