

THE CLERKS AWAKE.

IRISH OPINION

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ONE PENNY

Played-Out
Parliaments.

How J. E. Redmond
Saved (?) Kynoch's.

Teachers of the Island of Scholars.

By CITIZEN.

Ireland Falls Behind.

It is education which has loosed Russia into the leadership of European liberal ideas. The moral is plain for Ireland. Tradition, which goaded them, should be to us a spur. There was one century when our country was the intellectual powerhouse of Europe. Russia has groped from the immense darkness and reels in the blinding light. For long the student of literature has had his ear to the ground for the tramp of her vanguard. She has achieved a higher distinction than any in her record under the Czars.

But from the point of view of Ireland let us candidly make the poor mouth. In the things of the mind she has receded. We are emerging from the dark ages of ascendancy, but intellectual conquests comparable to those of the Irish schoolmasters of Western Europe are no longer in our ken. The clan chief who bade the wise man sit on the right hand of his throne had more worldly wisdom in his little finger than is incorporate in our modern Ard-Ri's of Hume Street, who dispose of our children's lives much as the Roman patrician condemned the flabby slave as food for his lampreys.

Under the system of education ordained by officialdom in Ireland your child is defiled. He is condemned to intellectual stagnation.

Newsboy and Nurseling.

The world is too wise now to estimate man by his purse—that was one of the practices we called Victorian. In the hinterland of decent men's minds the only differentiation will be an intellectual one. Between the boy who sells me my evening paper, the page I glimpse at the hotel door, and the stockbroker's son taking the air with his governess, the difference is primarily one of education.

In an intelligent democratic state education should not be

purchasable except with the desire of the student for wisdom, and there should be no purple screen to bar out the bookman in rags. Wealth yields its privileges but slowly, and if education is no longer a class monopoly, the pursuit of it is made vexatiously hard for the workingman's son.

The first essential for a fair and efficient educational system is a state profession of teaching. In Ireland up to the present the lay teacher has never been anything but the second best. No man will willingly stay in an avocation where he cannot maintain his self-respect. Secondary teaching is taken up in Ireland in the hope of being escaped from quickly, with the result that no dignity attaches to the calling.

Money Misapplied.

The Birrell grant was given on the understanding that certain qualified lay masters should have £140 per year. In a small percentage of cases only did the schools which took the grant apply it for the purpose for which it was intended. Did they accept the money under a misapprehension, or are they guilty of wilfully withholding it? They have made unlawful gain from the grant. If they have not wilfully distorted the grant to uses for which it was not intended, they have misunderstood and misapplied the terms of the Act.

How glaring the distortion or error has been may be seen from the published statement of salaries of secondary schoolmasters in Ireland. We find that three non-Catholic schools in Belfast pay £300 a year to certain members of the staff. Next in comfort comes the staff of a Dublin non-Catholic school. These schools, and others, Catholic and Protestant, have interpreted the Act in the spirit in which it was conceived—that is, a minimum of £140 for qualified lay teachers, one to every forty boys. Not alone does the statement referred to prove that the rule was more honoured in the breach than in the observance, but there were even certain glaring cases where men were returned as £140 men, but were being actually paid considerably less.

Police versus Education.

The new Intermediate Grant of £50,000, the terms of which were published recently, no longer stereotypes the description "lay," so that clerical teachers become candidates for a lay teacher's grant. The layman henceforth has no locus standi. He exists only on sufferance. If he is tolerated at all he should be honourably installed. As matters are, an increasing number of secondary masters cherish the ambition to get to England, where the conditions of employment are more comfortable. Every reputable headmaster in England works his teachers four or five hours less per week than the teacher in Ireland has to endure. The result is that the

schoolmaster in England is more efficient, because he is more reasonably treated. The schoolmaster in Ireland has to teach all through the school day without a decent interval. The average teaching week for the schoolmaster in France is 13 to 18 hours. The wonder is that Irish schoolmasters are able to maintain their self-respect at all, and that the greyness of their outlook has not a more demoralising effect on the conditions provoked in the boys.

In certain Dublin schools qualified men are paid less than £50 a year, live in. Ill must fare the land where the police, the officers of repression, are better paid than the teachers, the mentors of the youth of the once proud island of saints and scholars.

Decadence of Parliaments.

By . . . MAUD . . . GONNE . . . MACBRIDE.

Among the lessons which the present iniquitous war is forcing on the consciousness of mankind is the failure of parliamentary governments.

It matters little now which of the governments of the belligerent nations actually applied the match which set fire to the pile, where the whole civilisation of Europe is being destroyed. All the capitalistic governments did their part in preparing the pile, by their secret treaties and diplomacy, and all except the present Russian Government have their part in the responsibility for the continuance of the fire.

The parliaments of the nations are elected by the men of each nation on a more or less wide base of suffrage, yet they do not represent and they do not carry out the wishes of the majority of the peoples. If they were elected by universal adult suffrage of both men and women I believe the results would not be very different, for the members of parliament themselves, taken out of their natural environment, change, as plants, when transplanted, change their character and appearance in accordance with the new soil and atmosphere which surround them.

Undoubtedly the majority of the population in all the belligerent countries did not desire war, yet parliaments were powerless to avert the war.

Undoubtedly the majority of the people in every country long for peace, yet parliaments are powerless to make peace.

In our own country the parliamentary representatives certainly in no way represent the wishes of the Irish people.

In Russia (where to-day the intellectual and vital energy

of Europe seems concentrated, as it was more than a century ago in France), the Soviets have been obliged to dissolve the Rada because it was in contradiction with the will of the majority of the people.

To-day, Europe is threatened with the most appalling famine the world has ever seen. Already hundreds of thousands of human beings in Eastern Europe have died of starvation. The famine is the inevitable result of the war and it does not require the wisdom of the economist to understand that when the greater part of the men of Europe are taken from productive occupations and turned to the work of destruction, when every resource of the nations is pledged and the money spent in ammunition and armaments, which go up in smoke, death and famine must result when the accumulated stocks of past industry are exhausted. Parliaments know this, yet they are powerless to make peace. They have become only wheels in the capitalistic machine, which is grinding humanity.

If humanity is to save itself it will have, as the Russians have done, to overthrow the existing governments, and if the true wishes of the peoples are to prevail, some new form of government will have to be discovered, by which the elected representatives or delegates will be continually in touch with their electors, and the electors should have the power to suspend them at once if they fail in carrying out their mandate. The solving of this problem should occupy the best thinkers in Ireland, where we are on the eve of a new era, and where we hope soon to establish a free Republic.

CRACHT IN REBELLION.

By PAUL SARADINE.

The Irish Clerical Workers' Union has come under the searchlight of criticism in connection with the Boland dispute. Abandoning the child's game of forming professional associations to preserve the social status of the black-coated proletariat, the Irish clerks have boldly formed a vulgar trade union which is out for hard cash—the members having found by long experience that status is expensive, and, if it must be maintained, higher salaries must be got and kept.

The constitution provides for the enlistment of all Irish clerks in one big union, and to ensure that no sectional interest is overlooked, the members are grouped in guilds according to the industry or profession in which they work. Hence there are in the I.C.W.U., Legal, Banking, Insurance, Stockbroking, Government Department, House Agency, Auctioneering, Building, Shipping and Transport, Engineering, Food, Drug and Printing Guilds.

The organisation is being tested in the present struggle, but a steady influx of members proves the awakening of the collar and cuff brigade.

As the Bakers, Vanmen, Carters and other workers have rallied to the support of Boland's Clerks, it is hoped that trades councils all over the country will help in spreading the Clerks' organisation over the country. Let us have no more of the scandal of permitting a fellow worker to slave for twenty-nine years to strive to rear a family, "in the purlure and admonition of the Lord," on twenty-five bob a week. Up, Cracht!

Mr. O'Donnell, 1 College Street, Dublin, will gladly send particulars of the union to all inquirers.

THE WAR THAT IS TO END WAR.

To those who believe that the Allies, under the inspired leadership of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, are engaged in making arrangements for the millenium, the preparations of Japan for that event may be of some interest. The "Neue Zürcher

Zeitung" reports that with the New Year "Japan has begun to carry out plans of immense scope for the perfection of her land and sea forces. The programme anticipates an increase in the number and strength of the military units. There is to be an augmented force of mountain artillery, as this arm has been proved of such paramount importance in the present war. Special corps of armoured cars and flying machines are to be created. The Japanese already know from experience the utility of poisonous gas, and its remedies. It is evident from these preparations that Japan certainly does not consider this war to be the bankruptcy of militarism. On the contrary she is increasing and improving her forces in order to found upon them her position in the world." This looks like something for Woodrow Wilson, if he were not so busy militarising the United States.

DOCTOR MacENRIGHT has removed to 24 Victoria Avenue, Donnybrook Road.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

The Real Dope for Neutrals.

Since the beginning of the war the "Journal de Geneve" has been one of the leading organs of neutral opinion on the Continent. Being a Geneva paper, its bias has naturally been pro-French, but its columns have been open to internationalists like Romain Rolland, whose name is execrated in the press of his own country. A large part of his "Above the Battle" appeared in this Swiss paper, which may be regarded, therefore, as fairly tolerant compared with the average Bitter End newspaper. Yet, in the issue of the 5th February there is an article on Ireland which, for malicious distortion of facts and suppression of truth, could not be surpassed by the "Irish Times" or the "Morning Post." The resignation of Carson is described as an act of noble self-sacrifice, prompted only by the belief that "he will render greater services to the nation"—that is the English nation—"by resuming the leadership of his party than by remaining in office." After a touching eulogy of the three "disinterested patriots," Carson, Redmond and Plunkett, "profoundly Irish, but above all loyal citizens of the Empire," the Swiss public is told that the Irish question has really only a secondary importance in Ireland itself, whereas "for the Irish abroad its importance is capital." Here, at least, is an interesting clue to the sudden desire of England to shelter behind the Convention from the effects of her policy in this country on the minds of the Irish in America and Australia. But the supreme touch is left for the end.

Ireland Not Interested in the Irish Question!

The reason why we are so little concerned about our freedom, it appears, is because "The inhabitants of the Emerald Isle are enjoying at the present time exceptional advantages. The war hardly affects them. They are escaping the conscription which weighs so heavily on all the other Allies. They are represented at the front by volunteers who are but a fraction of the total number which Ireland owes to the British cause." As for the people, never have they enjoyed such prosperity, so that "it is not for material grievances that the Irish rebel against the gentle authority of their old conquerors." The writer expatiates upon the foolish leniency of the English after Easter Week, which is described as an incitement to Sinn Fein and a guarantee of impunity, and he describes the demands of Ireland as "puerile or criminal," a menace to those who are "the real champions of human liberty." Wherefore the British Government must "clearly state the reasons

why England cannot, in the interests of all the Allies themselves, and of all the free nations who are now fighting Germanism, accord a political status to Ireland which would enable the enemy to Prussianise this island, the outpost of Europe in the Atlantic."

Carson Has Been Doing His Bit.

Enough has been quoted from this lengthy article to show how effectively the Propaganda Department is doing its work, and we may be sure that business will be carried on as usual under the new management, that of Lord Beaverbrook, whose "Daily Express" shares with Northcliffe's "Mail" the honours of London journalism. The importance of Switzerland as a sounding board for war ideas is emphasised by the fact that "La Revue Suisse," the most prominent neutral monthly in existence, and one of the oldest European reviews, is amply supplied with official dope on all questions relating to the war. One sees the names of all the familiar hacks, and an Irishman, H. C. O'Neill, who writes the London correspondence, lives up to the standard of the sample quoted above from the "Journal de Geneve." There is practically no antidote to this poison, and thousands of perfectly well-disposed, impartial students of European politics are at the mercy of such propagandists for their facts. In Spain alone is there a counter-offensive, thanks to the efforts of Irishmen, and particularly women, resident there. Those of our critics who despise the Labour International as the medium of intercourse between Nationalist Ireland and Europe may have some other channels of communication abroad. If so, we can only hope that they are as effective as they are hidden. The Continental press, as we see it, is a triumph for Carsonism.

Gott Strafe Bolshevism!

With intense relief, mingled only with a little uneasiness as to the ultimate consequences, the world-wide anti-Bolshevist federation of capitalists has witnessed the collapse of Lenin and Trotsky. Thank God, they say, our trusty friend, militarism, has proved the futility of revolutionary diplomacy and democratic internationalism. "The Bolsheviks make a separate peace at last," cries "Justice," which suggests that Hyndman has been uniting his orisons with those of Curzon, Milner and Balfour, hoping that the Lord would help Trotsky to realise the thought to which their wish has been father. The first foreign Government to mention Ireland's freedom amongst its peace terms has had to give way under the combined pressure of Ukrainian nationalism and European capitalism. So far as we can hear, the event

has been unwept and unsung by many who were not so discreet when it was a question of acknowledging the Bolshevik declaration concerning Ireland. But in this country the tendency is to view European affairs exclusively in terms of pure nationalism. Whereas capitalism is, at bottom, the determining factor. In Eastern Europe this fact is clearly brought out by the present complications in the border territories of Austria, Germany and Russia. The propertied and landed classes in the Ukraine, in Poland and the Baltic States combine with the German industrialists in resisting the Bolshevik demand for universal self-determination for all oppressed nationalities. They all realise that this would involve social revolution in every country affected, and they prefer anything to the advent of social democracy. Hence the capitulation of Lenin and Trotsky before forces which they could control only with the co-operation of the working classes in all the belligerent countries.

The Inter-Allied Socialist Conference.

After the preliminary meetings in Paris, the Inter-Allied Conference has met in London to discuss the international situation. Four commissions have been appointed to discuss (1) British war aims; (2) economic and territorial problems; (3) the League of Nations; and (4) an international conference. The composition of the meeting is not particularly promising, for example, the misrepresentative of American Labour is Gompers, the Blatchford of America. But it might have been worse, had Clemenceau and the French Ambassador at Rome had their way. Merrheim, the secretary of the French Metal Workers' Federation, asserts in "La Verité," that after the Italian Government had granted passports to three members of the Italian General Confederation of Labour, the French Ambassador, Barrere, refused to give them the necessary visa to travel in France. He made no difficulty in the case of other delegates, one representing a blackleg union, the others belonging to the Italian Socialist Union, a phenomenon akin to the Socialist party of Briand and Millerand. It is worth recalling that this Barrere was the most active agent in the trap laid for Caillaux. He is an ex-Communist turned clerical-royalist, a truly typical representative of the Poincare-Clemenceau regime. In the end, these delegates were allowed to travel to England via Paris.

The Memorandum on War Aims.

The issue of this document is described by Arthur Henderson as a success for the Conference, but it is difficult to see in it more than an agreement amongst the Allies on terms which will not recommend themselves to the Central Powers. Naturally enough, there is satisfaction for the Allies in the knowledge that they have now agreed to a common programme,

(Continued on page 164.)

ANTI-GUFF.

The Unity of Irish Democracy.

Mr. E. Guff's article, "The Revolutionists," has provoked a healthy discussion, which should help to clear away some prevalent misunderstandings. The correspondence that has reached us is free from all trace of that factionism for the avoidance of which we are reminded in last week's "New Ireland," Father Gaynor himself pleaded at the Mansion House Convention. Mr. Guff's right to the vigorous expression of his extreme views is conceded. This tolerance of contrary opinions is a proof of the mental revolution through which our country has passed since Easter Week, and a proof that the rank and file of our people can no longer be led or misled by political wirepullers and party hucksters.

Mr. H. Burke, Church St., Claremorris, writes:—

"Mr. E. Guff attacks the Revolutionists by pulling to shreds Fr. Gaynor's pamphlet, 'The Faith and Morals of Sinn Fein.' Much of his criticism is true and just, but on the other hand a great part of it is unsound. The only interest that we, as labourers, take in Sinn Fein is that in its doctrine we find ideals and strivings and ambitions akin to those held by Labour.

"Labour is independent of every country, of every society, of every race. It is international: the world is its country, all the races of the world its subjects.

"The Irish branch of Labour is not Sinn Fein, nor is it Orangeism. Here there are no politics; our ambitions are the same. We are comrades; to us Labour holds first place. Sinn Fein struggles to shake off an oppressive military power. Until Ireland is a nation, the Irish branch of Labour cannot take her right place in International Labour. Therefore we have sympathy with Sinn Fein.

Connolly and Government.

"Says Fr. Gaynor, 'We shall set up an Irish Government and it will have the same right to command the support of the Irish people as the Belgian King and Government have to command the support of the Belgian people.' Says Mr. E. Guff, 'The Irish Government will have just the same right, but I know what "Governments" mean—they mean force.' Well, our comrade, James Connolly, gave his life and the lives of his comrades in the Workers' Army to set up the Irish Government that Mr. E. Guff despises. They gave their lives because they considered that such an Irish Government would do much in the carrying out of the Labour programme. Our comrades lie in their lonely felon graves—not the first nor the last martyrs of Labour—the project for which they died remains unrealised. That other men have stepped in to realise that project does not detract from its importance.

"Sinn Fein aims not only at political and economic freedom for a part of the Irish nation. It aims at political and economic freedom for the whole of the Irish nation. Under a Sinn Fein rule there shall be revived the best of all the old laws and customs that made Ireland in olden times the most cultured, the happiest, the most free country in the world. There shall be revived the essentially Gaelic system of society, that is the communal system."

D.O.R.A. Forbids.

A. P. McG. (Rathmines) who has not read Fr. Gaynor's pamphlet, agrees that the current presentations of Sinn Fein require criticism which will be nowhere more welcome than in Sinn Fein headquarters. He challenges E. Guff to say in what do the ideals of Sinn Fein and the Republican Proclamation differ. "Let Mr. Guff ask any (even the most reactionary) of the members of the Sinn Fein executive why they do not re-issue that Proclamation as their programme, and I'll venture to wager that he'll be answered in four letters—D.O.R.A. . . . I grant of course that the Sinn Fein of pre-Insurrectionary days did not stand for the ideals of Pearse and Connolly, but it is academic absurdity to try and convince people that Sinn Fein as we know it now stands for anything else. Undoubtedly I am conscious that there are reactionaries in Sinn Fein. Are there none in the Labour world? As well ask the proletariat to abandon organised unions on account of Havelock-Wilson and Captain Tupper as condemn Sinn Fein because there are a few reactionary Sinn Feiners.

"Mr. Guff says: 'Sinn Fein represents only a part—and that the least important part—of the principles held by those dead heroes of a glorious past. Sinn Fein aims at the political and economic freedom of a part of the Irish nation—the Irish manufacturer and industrialist.' Again I challenge. I say definitely, Pearse and Connolly died for the ideals and principles of Tone and Emmet—'The driving from Ireland of the last remnant of foreign domination,' and more, 'The full economic and political freedom of every man and woman in Ireland—a social revolution if you like to call it so. And it is Pearse and Connolly and their ideals that Sinn Fein follows (no matter what your academic theorists may say to the contrary). Does Mr. Guff think that Sinn Fein would have any hold in Ireland to-day if its leaders repudiated the Insurrection of Easter Week, 1916?"

"Has Mr. Guff read Connolly and Pearse? Does he remember Pearse's 'Rebel'? Let him re-read the last verse. There spoke Pearse as I knew him. Pearse loved and died for the people. We in Ireland are tired of academic dis-

JOHNSON ON DEVLIN.

Much surprise was caused by the appearance in "Freeman's Journal" and the "Irish News" of an eulogy on Joseph Devlin, pronounced at a Sinn Fein meeting in Belfast on 21st ult. by Thomas Johnson. A report which has reached us shows that the phrases quoted in these journals have been torn from their context.

In the course of his address, Mr. Johnson said there was every sign of a big campaign in favour of a Sectarian Labour Party in Ireland, and attempts to form Sectarian Trade Unions were mooted. Any such efforts must be opposed by the workers at all costs. No greater political crime had been committed by any body of men than the formation of the sectarian organisations, such as the A.O.H.

Mr. Devlin had been nominated by his friends as a future leader of labour in Ireland. He differed from some of his colleagues in his judgment of Mr. Devlin.

He believed Mr. Devlin to be sincerely sympathetic to the working class, or rather to the poor, and he has given assistance on many occasions, particularly in parliamentary action, when other help was withheld. But this sympathy conveniently coincided with his local political interests. He has never shown the same sympathy with labour aspirations outside Belfast. He has never stood by labour in political fights in England, wherever there was an English Liberal in the field. He has never supported Labour in an industrial fight outside Ulster. We remember his attitude and that of his organisation, in the great struggle of 1913, that touchstone by which Irish Labour judges the professions of many besides Mr. Devlin. A careful reading of his recent speeches reveals an utter absence of any principle of working class action and an ignorance of the labour movement, which quite unfits him for any claim upon the confidence of Labour.

inctions and destructive criticism. That is one of the bad points of present Irish political parties. Don't let Labour be another case of the same."

Seumas MacGowan, in a lengthy letter too long to reproduce, counters Mr. Guff's interpretation of the parts played by Silken Thomas and Grattan. He asks why, if Sinn Fein has repudiated the Insurrection, are Socialists like Cathal O'Shannon and insurrectionists like Madame Markievicz engaged in promoting the election of Sinn Feiners?

"A Clonmel Stoker," and other correspondents, cover the same ground, but space forbids quotation. We believe discussion in a frank and open spirit can only lead to a fuller realisation of the oneness of all our people in their hatred of foreign domination and of native economic oppression. To that discussion Father Gaynor's pamphlet is a contribution which none should neglect to study.

The Faith and Morals of Sinn Fein, by Rev. Fr. Gaynor. Post free, 1½d., from the Secretaries, Sinn Fein Club, Ennis.

AN TALAMH ASUR AN DUINE. :: Le C. U.

Díor uair amháin ag éirteacht le léigeacht ar ceirt an talamh do chúg hainmhaoi Seoirre, .i. poncánac oille do fuair b'áir b'éirí síde bliadaín ó foim. Di pé ag cur 'na luigé oiriainn sup le daoine i gcaitcheann an talamh agus ar éiríochú a léigeacht do chúg pé cuiread do donduine a ceirtmá ar don cur dá léigeacht. D'eirig fear mór pánar agus cur pé an ceirt seo ar an Seoirreac, "Goiré an t-eolar atá agat ar talamh?" "Tuige nac mbead?" ar an Seoirreac, "nár comnuigear ar talamh ar fead mo fásgail?"

Slighe beacha na nDaoiné.

D'fíor do an fheadaigh agus comnuigearnao gac duine ar an talamh. I' fíorí do daoiné ar na hainmhaoi atá ann anoir comnuide ar an uirge, nó faoi an uirge, nó eirge 'ran aer ór cionn talamh agus uirge, ac i' go fealaodac i' fíorí na puoa seo do deanaí. Caitríó duine teact arair ar an talamh daingean arir: agus san talamh nó toirad an talamh ní fíorí do neac maírtin ar an tpoagal. Sé an talamh an tluige beata do ceap Dia do'n éinead daoine nuair cur sé iad d'aitheabac an domáin. Níor cur sé ríatanna oirca lé heitíoll ran aer nó clairínte le rnam ran uirge. D'íonn sé an talamh tihm ar píl adáim agus chúg cumáct agus ceannar dóbta ar gac éreacúir eile a comnuigear ar talamh.

An Talamh agus an Siuazh.

I' mar gheall ar pín sup leir an éinead daoine an talamh agus gac a mbaineann leir an talamh. Ní leir an té seo nó an té úo an talamh ac linn go léir. Tuigear an méro seo go maírt nuair atá fíorm lena chúgbead. Tuigearn Mr. Píoteiró é agus tuigearn Tomár Ruiréal é an t-am beirneann ríad ar na fíir-medírib i Sapanair agus i n'éirínn tullead de'n talamh do éreabac i móo i' go ríacáir an toirad dár dcairbe go léir. Tuig Miceál Mac Dáiríó ar puo ceurona nuair cur pé Cumann an Talamh ar bun in 1879 agus cur amac an gairmítoile, "an talamh fá coinne an tluais."

Dearmad Pánnell.

Ac i' mímé, mar an gceurona deantar dearmad de'n fíirne

b'íogháir seo go haitíro mar i' anílair go mbíonn d'eam ann i gcomnuide sup maírt leobta i do dearmad, .i. na daoine a bfuil feitb an talamh aca. Agus i' pó-fuar dóbta seo bíoráin puain agus bíoráin meairgíche do cur i gcuairib an dooir-pluair Na fíirmeoirí, cur i gcar, do curí le Miceál Mac Dáiríó agus do tós an gair-cata b'íogháir úo "an talamh fá coinne an tluais," baineann b'íig ar an gair pín nár dam Miceál ar, agus cur Pánnell agus Gláoríon agus luic Párlamare Sapaná an éiall pín i n'gníom dób. Da dead an éiall do baineann na fíirmeoirí ar an gairmítoile chúg Miceál Mac Dáiríó dóbta "an talamh fá coinne fíirmeoirí." agus fuairadair an talamh ar a doir fém. Ní bfuair na rílabairde ríac de agus ní bfuair áitneabairde na mbairtí móir a d'ac de buntairte ar ceannac an talamh. Bliadanta 'na d'éirí pín fuair na rílabairde parití talamh mar pócáir le toige bíg ac ní táimíg don tpoacáir do mairtín ná mbairtí móir pór. Feuc an puo atá ag tuitim amac i mBaile Áta Cliaç opá lácar. Tá ganncur bíó oiriainn agus ríam-luigearn go maírtí an ganncanar ar fead pínnte áitíge bliadaín. Tá na mílte d'feairib Baile Áta Cliaç fonnmar ar píora talamh do faoírí le bíad d'fásgail ar. Tá an talamh ann agus i' na luige bán ac ní' cead ag don duine bairt leir muia d'íud-paríó pé ceirre luaca ar mar éior. Nuair do bí na tígeairnaí talman ann bíó na teanóntaí ag gearán agus ag clámpán mar gheall ar £2 an acra do tabairt dóbta mar éior; agus i mbliadna tá na teanóntaí ceurona ag íarráir £30 an acra mar éior ar an talamh ceurona!

Sean Olighe na nGaedheal.

Faoi an fíirneacáir .i. Sean-Olighe na nGaedheal ba leir an éinead .i. ríogáct beag, nó pó-ríac, an talamh; agus do ba díeagáct do gac fear pínnte d'íorad na d'fásgail mar buan-gabalcar le n-a. faoírí. Ní fíirínn don puo níor fearí d'íinne 'ná an fear-nór d'áitbeobairt agus do cur i b'fíorm arir. Tá neair talamh i n'éirínn do cáe, ac é do pínnte i gceairt. San cead dul amac ní fásgairn ag don duine fearann talamh nár b'fíorí do fém nó d' élainn do faoírí. Gíannad pín na

híngéitíochí móra amac agus íarríro na tígeairnaí talman a bfuil parití agus talamh bán in a feitb; agus gearraíad pé annar na fíirí móra nár b'fíorí iad do faoírí san rílabairde cuairíad d'íorad, d'íagáir pín leac de talamh na n'éirí-eann ar lán agairn agus deannpánn é d' áirínnac ar teagláirí ar maírt leobta fíirínn d'fásgail. Dead éior íoméubairí oirca do'n Stát dár ndóige (agus pé an Stát do dead ann an Stát Gaedhealac). I doairí na mbairtí móir gearraínn amac fearánn fá leir tímeíoll gac baile móir agus tímeíoll gac caírac i n'éirínn agus d'fásgairn an fearann pín faoírí agus Coirde an Baile nó Coirde na Caírac le hagarí úrarde na caíruigí-íochí. Cur i gcar Baile Áta Cliaç, deannpánn na bulláin do tapairt ar fíne gail agus pínnte de Cilldara agus Cialann agus leactáinn amac; teoir na caírac go ndéannad rí leactéaríacal ó Baile-Dreacáir íreac i gCo. na Míre agus i gCo. Cilldara, agus tímeíoll bun na ríeíde go b'í Cialann. Agus deannpánn pó-ríac de Baile Áta Cliaç go b'íoradair a ríoga puo do héanad leir an talamh pín-toigíche do tógáil ar nó gabairtar beaga do gearad de nó é do faoírí faoi gíear comóiríge ac cór, faoi Coirde na Caírac.

Miceál Mac Dáiríó.

I' ead pínnte mío-íochíom na talman cionntíocair leactíom na tíre; pín agus an t-uíac cánaç atá írtaí fá lácar; agus ní bíro íac oiriainn i n'éirínn go ndéannar an talamh d'áirínnac. Túg a lán agairn an méro pín nuair "pócúigead" an ceirt in 1881 ac cá íad gair d'íinn labairt. Labair Miceál Mac Dáiríó agus ní éiríro leir. Ar cuma ar bíe b'íú cur móir na fear-tígeairnaí (na bíearmaí) do d'íbirí. In don áirínnac buó ceairt cúití do tabairt do na daoiné a bfuil feitb aca ar an talamh má díoladair don puo ar éar an tairbe fuairadair ar.

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Notes and Comments

Kynoch's.

For the moment the men employed at Kynoch's Arklow works are to be continued in their employment there. Some have been discharged and many more will be discharged in the course of the coming months. But instead of a wholesale, bulk, dismissal the employees are to be reduced in number gradually. We assume that the number of men employed by Kynoch's at the Arklow works must sooner or later be brought back to the pre-war level. The present great number of men employed there depends entirely upon the continuance of the war; and no sane human being desires a prolonged continuance of the war, nobody but those who are profiting financially by the war desire its prolongation by even another day. Since the outbreak of war the number of men employed at the Arklow explosive works has risen from a few hundreds to several thousands, and when the demand for the particular war material manufactured there ceases, employment will cease also. Arklow will be one of our difficult post-war problems, but, fortunately or unfortunately, we in Ireland will not have the problem in the aggravated form in which it must present itself in other countries. But with us it will be difficult, and we must make preparations for its solution. When the war ends men will be returning to us from the battlefields of the world, from the war industries of Great Britain, and people will be discharged from the munitions works in our own country. In addition we shall have to face squarely the woman in industry to an unprecedented extent. The discharge of the Arklow employees should rouse us to some effort to provide alternative employment for the immediate post-war period. Cork motor works, Dublin shipbuilding and Kilkenny coal mining will all help in the solution of the immediate difficulties, but we ought to set ourselves definitely towards a policy of co-operatively capitalised and controlled industry for the ultimate solution of the problem.

Trade Unions and Demobilisation.

The only bulwark at present in being for the protection of the worker is his trade union. Since the Arklow works became the tremendous employment centre that it is, trade unionism has made great progress there. We think we are right in saying that the great majority, practically all, of the men employed by Kynoch's at Arklow are now members of a trade union. Organisation has made great progress there, but organisation in this particular case is not quite enough. It was well known when the great numbers went to Arklow that employment there would not be permanent, that the employment was dependent upon the duration, and to some extent also upon the intensity of the war. Yet, despite that, large numbers of men left other employment to go to Arklow, attracted by the comparatively high rates of wages offered. As industry is at present con-

structed, a margin of unemployment is essential, and this being so, we believe that all unemployed workers should be maintained during unemployment, not by their own trade unions, but by the industry to which they belong. This being so we think the maintenance of men and women who have been drawn into war industries should be undertaken, when they become unemployed at the end of the war, by the British Government, for which they worked. Some time, long or short, must elapse before these people can place themselves again in their old grooves, if they can ever do so, and during this period their maintenance should be a charge upon the war funds. Newspapers, posters and speeches, all said that the worker at the bench was just as essential as the soldier in the trench and both must be kept from want and destitution by their employer. Such maintenance will not add very much to the total cost of the war, and it will undoubtedly preserve hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of human beings from destitution. We think organised labour should press forward this claim and see that it is acknowledged.

Sweating.

During the week several employers have been prosecuted in Dublin for offences under the Trades Boards Act. Wage rates have been fixed by the boards in Ireland, and these employers have been caught in their efforts to avoid paying the minimum rates fixed in the tailoring trade. This has long been one of the most sweated of trades, more particularly in its factory and home-work sections, and the wage boards were set up in an effort to improve the wage conditions of the sweated workers. However, feeling had failed to bring the sweating master-tailor to a sense of duty towards his workers, so compulsion had to be resorted to when the wage boards were set up. However, even the wage board decisions are being defied, and we are at last given an indication that these decisions are to be enforced. These sweating employers were evidently of the opinion that the minimum wage rates were merely pious hopes to which they would, under no possible circumstances, respond. We are pleased to note these prosecutions at last, and trust that all offenders will be found out and prosecuted in due course. Mr. Lupton's remarks may have a wholesome effect upon the sweaters. One firm, Messrs. Ireland, police and tramway uniform contractors, have to pay up arrears of wages to the extent of £60, to four workers, and at the same time pay fines totalling £38. "He did not wonder," Mr. Lupton is reported to have said, "that this firm was in existence for 60 years, when they were keeping all the profits and giving very little to the workers." A particularly mean case came before Mr. Drury. In this case a Jew named Benjamin Rosenberg, not only did not pay the wages due when warned to

do so, but in addition he admitted he had forged a receipt on behalf of the worker concerned. This man, according to his solicitor, had been in business for 20 years without any previous offence. His conduct in this instance proved he is not a fit man to be in business at all, and we are sorry, with the magistrate, that the sentence could not be more than three months' imprisonment. We hope, however, that the worker whose name he forged, will add something to that in the future. Another Jew, named Harris, instead of paying 3½d. per hour to a worker, paid 7s. for 49 hours. He was fined £13 and ordered to pay £2 10s. 6d. arrears. It is about time some strong measures were taken against such people.

The Cost of Living.

The following figures are given in the current "Labour Gazette" as representing increases in the cost of food since July, 1914:—

Eggs (fresh) ...	245	per cent.
Fish ...	218	" "
Sugar (granulated) ...	189	" "
Mutton (frozen) ...	135	" "
" (frozen) ...	163	" "
" (British) ...	95	" "
Bacon (streaky) ...	142	" "
Beef (frozen) ...	110	" "
" (chilled) ...	137	" "
" (British) ...	101	" "
Butter ...	108	" "
Milk ...	102	" "
Tea ...	93	" "
Cheese ...	92	" "
Margarine ...	67	" "
Bread ...	54	" "
Flour ...	52	" "
Potatoes ...	36	" "

These are the official figures of the British Board of Trade. When one considers the figures one wonders why there is not much more marked labour unrest than there is now. It costs twice as much to live now as it did in July, 1914, and wages have a long way to go yet before the averages are doubled. However, we are moving.

Bolands'.

At the moment of writing, Mr. T. M'Kerrall is in Dublin attempting to settle the dispute between Bolands' clerks and—whom? Boland's lay the blame on the Food Controller, and, knowing the antics of his Lordship and his Dublin troupe of Civil Servants, we would not be surprised to learn that Bolands' are right. We hope M'Kerrall has not lost his old-time zeal for justice, displayed on many an I.L.P. platform, and that he will force a settlement upon the dogs-in-the-manger of Kildare Street and, if need be, on Messrs. Bolands. The solidarity of the bakers, vanmen and other workers in this dispute is worthy of the best traditions of Trade Unionism and affords a generous welcome to the clerks on their entry upon the field of class struggle.

IRISH OPINION

THE VOICE OF LABOUR
A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

EVERY THURSDAY, ONE PENNY.

Literary communications should be addressed to the Editor, and business communications to the Manager, at the Office, 27 Dawson Street, Dublin.

Matter intended for publication in the following issue must reach the Office not later than Monday forenoon.

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The Clerk Wakes.

The most conservative section of wage-paid labour in this country is beginning to rouse itself into serious action. For generations the clerk has been a slave; a slave without even the consciousness of slavery. Placed in the industrial system somewhat closer to the capitalist owners and controllers of industry than the majority of workers, and with some place in the scheme of direction, the clerk's position was very badly defined. Most clerks thought their interests were coincident with the interests of their employers than with the interests of those who were in reality their fellow-workers. A black coat and a white linen collar created a chasm between the ordinary worker and the clerk, which was very difficult, indeed, to bridge. Not even in his own mind was the position of the clerk very clearly defined. He did not mix freely with any other type of worker, his mode of living was nominally different, whatever it was in reality, and, generally speaking, he had had a better educational outfit. In his office he was probably addressed as "sir" by the workers, and that mode of address aided him in siding with the capitalist class. The clerk's position was very much akin to that said to have been occupied once by Mahomed's coffin, midway 'twixt earth and heaven. And just as that coffin would certainly gravitate towards the earth if not detained by other forces, so would the clerk gravitate towards the wage-worker's organisation when the patronage of the capitalist was removed.

To retain this patronage, clerks have lost much of their manliness and a great portion of their self-respect. But anything evidently was better than sinking to the level of the mob. To identify himself with the manual worker was too much for the clerk's pride, and that pride was the great possession of clerkdom. It has had very little else.

Pride has been the great barrier to combination, as it has also been the great barrier to pecuniary advancement. The clerk was a man of intelligence—at least so he thought—and he could talk to his employer as man to man, and things would come alright. Things did not come alright, and if the clerk spoke to his employer as man to man, he soon discovered that there existed such a thing as an open door. He would

be informed that thousands like him were being produced by our schools and our commercial colleges annually, and that in fact a girl could be got to do his work at perhaps half the salary. And this was, and still is, strictly true. Our educational system seems to have been especially designed for the production of clerks, and our people as a whole are keen upon respectable employment. A clean, soft hand and a permanently clean collar are priceless possessions in this country of ours. In no other country, except perhaps France, is the clerk and the official so appreciated and so highly regarded. Our industrial tradition was ruthlessly broken and consequently we do not prize the artisan, the producer, as he is prized in any country with an atmosphere of industrialism. There were few outlets for anybody in Ireland outside agriculture, so thousands upon thousands of the best and brainiest of our young men were forced into clerical employment. All these circumstances tend to make the economic state of the Irish clerk very far from enviable. Once a clerk, it was probable he would remain a clerk to the end. From office boy to junior, from junior, perhaps, to chief clerk, such is his life, with perhaps, though most likely not, a pension at the end. It is not a life for men, as any man who has gone through it will freely admit. It is a life of drudgery such as few other occupations, even the most laborious, can equal; it is a life to shun, as it would be shunned if we had alternative employment.

The clerk is of the worst remunerated sections of Irish labour, and the reason for this may be found in the comparatively unorganised and unregulated state of the work and of those doing it. Few may call themselves carpenters, bricklayers or tailors, but all, if they so desire, may call themselves clerks, and may seek employment as such. It is this deplorable lack of organisation that is responsible for the low rate of wages clerks as a body receive. Recently our newspapers contained a letter from a law clerk with twenty-nine years' service, whose weekly wage was 26s. More recently still we have heard of clerks with fourteen and twenty-six years' service with 25s. and 29s. per week respectively, and we know from experience that these are not isolated cases. We doubt if the average wage of Dublin clerks at present exceed £1 per week. The commencing salary in even a large firm in Dublin, noted for its generous treatment of its workers, is only £55 per annum, and the low salaries of bank clerks is notorious. It is time surely that the clerks got a move on. It is time they got rid of their pride and their attachment to the bosses. Their place is in the labour movement, side by side with their fellow workers. The new forward move has not come a moment too soon. The combination of clerks, bakers, and transport workers is powerful enough to do things, and we know from their determined attitude that they will make the world for clerks a little more pleasant to live in. One word, however, we would say in warning. There is a tendency to multiply clerical unions, and this we think will prove a source of weakness in the future. Let all the unorganised clerks, no matter what type of clerk they are, get into one union, rather than start new unions on every occasion. That way strength lies. In this present fight we wish the clerks every success, and may it be a beginning only.

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

SOCIALIST PARTY.

Mr. P. Coates delighted a large audience in the Trades' Hall on Sunday, 17th ult., by a lecture on "Socialism," delivered, as he said, without fireworks. A vigorous discussion followed, in which Mr. P. J. Redmond, A.S.E., participated. Mrs. Rose McKenna will lecture in the same place on 9th inst.

The business meeting of the party on Friday was marked by a large accession of members, there being a generous response to the advertisement in "Irish Opinion." Arrangements have been made to purchase a banner which will be brought into use on May Day and on Marx's birthday, May 5th.

Mr. W. Carpenter lectured on "Labour Organisation in Ireland" on Sunday, 24th ult.

TRANSPORT WORKERS.

The Transport Workers' Union is on a wave of organising at present. Seventy branches are in existence, the newest being at Naas, Newbridge, Sandyford, Skerries, Donabate, Balbriggan, Pettigo, Clones, Bishopstown, Riverstown, Ballinacraig, Aghada. Ennis and Clare Castle are about to form branches. Kilrush, Killaloe, Clane, Athy, Dunlavin, Eyrecourt and Athenry are also working.

Wexford, where Alderman Corish is in command, is another centre of activity. On Sunday last he opened a branch for agricultural workers at Oylegate and enrolled 70 members, most of whom receive 7s. a week in addition to their food. It would not be out of place to suggest as a subject for Lenten lectures in Co. Wexford Leo XIII's encyclicals on the living wage.

Enniskillen.—On the invitation of the local labour movement, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour held a public meeting here on 14th ult. and was successful in starting a new branch in which it is hoped to gather all grades of workers. A good start was made and new members are being enrolled weekly.

Farm Labourers cannot expect, it wage unless organised. The minimum wage unless organised. The minimum wage ought only to be a basis which the workers' organisation can build upon, until the agricultural labourer stands on the same level as the skilled worker of the town. We want to know what the National Wages Board is doing to enforce its own decisions. We ask Mr. Nolan Ferrall to tell us.

Irish Lightermen have relied in the past on the patronage of M.E.P.'s to have their grievances removed without result. Recently they decided on doing their own work, joined the I.T.W.U., and have already secured 3s. a week increase. The award has not been made retrospective, but at least the coins are there.

BELFAST NOTES.

The I.L.P.

are on the look-out for larger premises in centre of city. They want a hall that will accommodate 600 or 1,000 people. Of course, they don't intend to give up North Hall as this hall is the property of the I.L.P. and is well suited for business purposes and for social gatherings for the members and sympathisers who live in the north end of the city. There is a great future for the I.L.P. if the members and friends rally round and help to take advantage of the big wave of divine discontent now in our midst.

RURAL ACTIVITY.

The Workers' Union have appointed two additional organisers in the persons of Mr. Neal O'Donnel (Coalisland) and Mr. R. McClung (Belfast). A number of agricultural branches of this Union have been formed at Hillsborough, Donaghadee, Greenisland and elsewhere. I have been informed that there is one big union in the Isle of Man; skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled are all members of the one big Union, "The Workers' Union."

The Belfast Trades Council has undertaken expense and trouble to arouse the workers against the robbery of the people by the coal ring in Belfast. So far, they have met with indifferent success and the same state of affairs exists in regard to the Labour Housing Association started by the Belfast I.L.P.

But on the question of more wages, the workers of Belfast are always ready to down tools and we have an instance of this in the present strike of wood workers. On Tuesday, 19th February, all the woodworkers in the local shipyards struck work to secure an increase of 4s. 6d. per week to bring them on a level with other time-workers in the city. 4,000 woodworkers are involved.

BRIEF COMMENTS.

A Protestant "Rebel."—Your protest sent to the wrong office. The Editor of "The Voice of Anti-Irish Protestantism" will be found at 61 Middle Abbey Street. We never pass on compliments to the "brilliant writer of our International Notes." Will ask W. B. W. to read Matt. 23.

"The Student," the magazine of the National Students' Club, Cork, for February, is to hand. The interesting article on "Sinn Fein and Capitalism" enumerates the advantages possessed by Ireland in planning its industrial future. In his advocacy of State capitalism the author forgets the handicap of bureaucracy and petty corruption that infects our municipal life.

Lector.—Perhaps next week.

Derry Strike.—The Shop Assistants' Union, after prolonged negotiations, has been compelled to call a strike at J. J. Pollock's Drapery Warehouse. Several firms in the city were approached by the Union, and all have conceded the reasonable demands but Pollock's. A leaflet to this effect has been published by the Union:—

"Messrs. J. J. Pollock's, Ltd., Twenty-one assistants are on strike for an advance of wages and to be paid weekly. Their total wages are £24 6s. 3d. per week. Three of these workers receive £8 3s. 3d. per week. £16 3s. to be divided amongst the other eighteen. Who said excess profits?"

The Union demands a minimum wage on the following scale:—

Age.	16	17	18	19	20
Boys ...	12/-	15/-	18/-	20/-	22/-
Girls ...	11/-	14/-	16/-	17/-	18/-

The strikers were paid their first week's strike pay from Union funds according to rule, but the Derry members who have secured settlements with their own employers made up the payment to the amount the strikers would have received from Pollock, except in the case of five juniors, who received 7/6 instead of 5/-, their usual weekly pay. This splendid example of solidarity is worthy of notice. We understand Pollock sits in the Derry City Council. We don't know his politics, but we hope Derry men will take notice of Anglo's letter in last week's "Irish Opinion" and prepare a purgative for J. J. P.

Military Service.—Alderman A. Byrne, M.P., has published a useful pamphlet on the application of the Military Service Acts to Irishmen in Great Britain. Free copy may be had from him on application at 63 North Strand Road, Dublin.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

(Continued from page 159.)

which is practically identical with that formulated by British Labour in December last. Unfortunately this is reckoning without the Austro-Germans, who will be only human if they resent this exhibition of smug self-satisfaction, for, once more, these Allied democrats are sublimely unconscious of the imperialisms of their own governments, and have eyes only for the misdeeds of Germany. The December War Aims Memorandum has already been blessed by the Knock Out Blowers, and is consequently suspect, yet here it is, furnished up again for international consumption. Ramsay Macdonald expects that this pronouncement will have "the effect of a miracle touching the dumb lips" of Austro-German democracy. Both he and Henderson show a truly British capacity for dodging uncomfortable criticism, as witness the Henderson correspondence respecting the Convention published in these columns last week. It did not require that exposure to convince us in Ireland that there is no difference between being "stewed a la Lloyd George or baked a la Henderson," as the "Neue Freie Presse" described the terms of the British War Aims Memorandum.

MORE LIVELINESS IN CORK.

Bad News.

The worst news from Cork this week is that one of the Transport Union organisers, Denis Houston, has been put out of action for a few days through illness. This illness has been brought on by over-exertion in the work of organising the county. All friends of the workers in the South will wish comrade Houston a speedy recovery.

The Front Line Trenches.

Messrs. Dobbin and Ogilvie are now the villains of the labour drama in Cork. Some thirty-seven girls and twenty-five men are on strike in this firm. The issue is clear cut and definite whether Sir Alfred's out-of-date decree against Trade Unionism is or is not to prevail in Cork. The strike arose out of the victimisation of a number of girls because of their membership of the Transport Union. This is the firm's mean way of retaliating on the girls because through their Union they squeezed a few shillings extra in the week out of the profits of the firm in a struggle before Christmas.

Base and Bloody Tyranny.

Events are moving too fast to allow of anything like a proper record of strike happenings. When history is being made there is no time to write it. Sir Alfred Dobbin makes no secret of his desire to destroy organisation amongst his employees. But on this occasion he has met more than his match. The Transport Union, Sir Alfred, will take a deal of crushing, and in the long run wisdom will dictate to you that it was a sorry day you turned down the offered intervention of the Lord Mayor.

The Sinews of War.

From all quarters the material means of war are pouring into the strikers. Most of the Unions in Cork are contributing a goodly share and thus helping to supplement the strike pay. In fact, some of the workers are receiving more in strike pay than they ever received in wages! A notable contribution to the strike fund last week-end came from the shipyard workers at Haulbowline, whose collector, Domhnall Barrett, handed in more than £22 with a promise of more to follow. Several local branches of the Union have levied their members in aid of the strike funds. Many members of the Union are assisting in picketing. The Catholic Social League, with Dr. Coholan as its moving spirit, has called for a settlement, and the Corporation has adopted the League's call and asked the Lord Mayor to intervene a second time. Prominent members of the Trades Council, including Messrs. Kelleher, Lynch and Good, have strongly condemned the action of the firm.

Sunday's Rally.

Although heavy rain spoiled the evening, Sunday's rally in support of the strikers made a fine show on the Parade. A very earnest and determined gathering listened with close attention to the speakers, Mr. P. Lynch, Chairman of

the Trades Council, presided, and the speakers included Mrs. Pete Curran, Messrs. L. J. Duffy, Cody and O'Shannon.

New Ground.

On Wednesday night Messrs. Houston and T. O'Donovan opened a new and promising branch at Queenstown. On Sunday Mr. O'Shannon opened another new branch for agricultural labourers at Upper Glanmire. Other centres are sending repeated calls for the organisers for the opening of new branches. The Trade and Labour Council at Charleville has come over in a body and others are clamouring to be swallowed up. This is excellent business and shows that Bolshevism is all the rage in the South. More power to it!

The S.P.I.

Several enquiries have been made with regard to the Socialist Party of Ireland. Cathal O'Shannon, 8 Camden Quay, Cork, will be glad to enrol members and supply all information asked for. There is no better way of helping in our propaganda abroad than by joining the S.P.I., which is in direct communication with the International, the Socialist Parties in the various European countries and, of course, the Bolsheviks. Of course!

Moladh.

Cork readers are congratulating "Irish Opinion" on its recent lively spirit, especially the cut and thrust in certain of last week's articles. And, like Oliver Twist, Cork wants more!

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CONNOLLY'S VERSE.

We have seen an advance copy of a
booklet that Irish men and women will
treasure, "The Legacy and Songs of
Freedom," by James Connolly, just is-
sued at 3d. by the Socialist Party of Ire-
land. Connolly was the founder of the
Party. For its sake, he was starved out
of Dublin, to re-create it he risked a like
experience on his return, and for the
furtherance of its principles he laid down
his life, and the Party has no worthier
purpose than the guardianship of his
work in life and literature.

"Labour in Irish History" is regarded
the world over as the beginning of a
new Irish literature, unfolding the
causes of those malign events that in
ignorance we have attributed to Blind
Fate. "The Re-Conquest of Ireland,"
"Labour, Nationality and Religion," and
the mass of his writings in the Labour
press will for many years provide the
advocates of Freedom with an armoury
of weapons, but this book of verses will
reach the hearts of common men and
women.

Connolly will have no place in the re-
cords of the so-called Irish Literary re-
naissance. He did not exploit the Celtic
mist or torture English prosody to ex-
press Hinduism in verses with Gaelic re-
frains. Fletcher of Saltoun cared not
who made a country's laws if he might
write the people's ballads. Connolly
knew the power of the ballad, and was
careless of literary forms, seeking only
to set his message in song on the lips of
the people.

Every line in this booklet has a mes-
sage, the hatred of oppression, the cour-
age of freedom's champions, the love
of Ireland, the hope of the rebel, the fel-
lowship of the lowly. The words are
wedded to popular airs, "Boys of Wex-
ford," Moore's Melodies, etc., which are
known to everybody. We have here
songs that may well prove to be the Irish
Marseillaise. Get this booklet into the
hands of the people. Sing Connolly
songs on the march, at the ceilidh, at
union gatherings, everywhere, as the
Citizen Army sang them outside the
Mansion House the other night.

We sing no song of wailing and no song
of sighs or tears.

High are our hopes and stout our hearts
and banished all our fears:

Our flag is raised above us so that all the
world may see,

'Tis Labour's faith and Labour's arm
alone can Labour free.

MAC.

"The Legacy and Songs of Freedom,"
by James Connolly. (Socialist Party of
Ireland, Room 3, Liberty Hall, and Irish
Labour Press, 27 Dawson Street, Dub-
lin.)

H. Crattan.—"Capital" is too often
treated as the Scriptures are by sects.
Jean Longuet has a chapter on Marx and
Ireland in his forthcoming book on Marx
and the World Politics. Read Connolly,
and exercise patience.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD.

MR. J. PAYNE (Glasgow) will speak on
SOCIALISM, in the Labour Hall, 77A Victoria
Street, at 3.0 p.m., and in the North Hall,
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There will be a Meeting as usual at
LABOUR HALL, 77A VICTORIA ST.,
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A little knowledge saves much medicine.

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WHAT ONE READER THINKS!

From "Irish Opinion."

We Must Have 20,000 Readers by May Day.

Our circulation campaign is bringing to our aid many friends and comrades who are unselfishly pushing the sale of "Irish Opinion"—not for the profit of the owners—but for the sake of the Cause. No profit is made on "Irish Opinion." There is a weekly loss, despite the growing circulation, and until we more than double that circulation the loss will continue. Therefore we rejoice to have letters like this arrive at the office.

Claremorris, 20th Feb, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I consider "Irish Opinion" well able to hold its own with any weekly paper, Irish or English. Not much credit is due to the man who supports it because it is a Labour paper. It is well able to stand on its merits.

I am very much interested in its success because it is really "The Voice of Labour." On that account, I would like it to be widely known and read throughout Ireland, to be, in fact, the weekly newspaper of Irish Labour. If it once gets into the hands of labourers, its success is assured and once a success it can do an enormous amount of good to our cause.

Therefore I enclose P.O. for 1/- and two addresses of Labour officials here. I wish you to send a few copies to distribute among the members of associations.

Note that the 1/- is a free-will and unsolicited offering—and all the more gratefully received on that account. We don't ask you to send cash—we shall never refuse it—but send us addresses to which we can send specimen copies.

Get together. Talk "Irish Opinion." Pass on your copy to non-readers and non-unionists. Boost it in club and union meetings. We want to touch the 20,000 limit before May Day. You can do it if you try.

MAC.

NOTES.

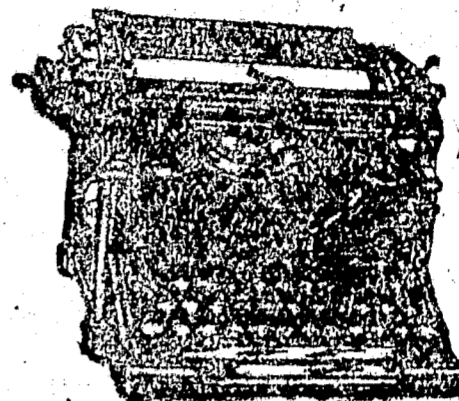
Sold out again on the day of publication.

Mitchelstown Drapers' Secretary has obtained an order from a local news-agent, Mr. Chris. Ryan, Lower Cork Street. "Irish Opinion" will be on sale there next Thursday. The old Sinn Fein firm in Glasgow adds another three dozen this week.

IF YOU WRITE.

The Broadberry One-Dip Pen relieves the labour. When tested by "Irish Opinion," it wrote 300 words with one dip of ink. Sinn Fein Club Offices and Trade Union Secretaries should use it. Irish Invention, made of Special Metal, with Holder. Post Free, 6D. Send P.O. to J. W. BROADBERRY, Dept. B., 32 Capel Street, Dublin.

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78 Talbot St., Dublin.

How Redmond Saved (?) Kynoch's.

We are surprised to learn, despite Mr. Worthington Evan's statement that Kynoch's works at Arklow have been kept open on the powerful intercession of John E. Redmond, lately "Leader of the Irish Race at Home and Abroad," that Kynoch's is practically closed down at the time of writing.

The story of the proceedings at Arklow is interesting. The unskilled workers there, the most numerous section, numbering about 1,200, made application on 13th February for the 12½ per cent. bonus, which has been granted to the same grade of workers elsewhere. For example, 5,000 members of the Workers' Union engaged in war work in Belfast shipyards have shilling for shilling with the skilled workers.

Ignoring the provisions of the Munitions Acts, the lofty management of Kynoch's sent this letter in reply to the Union:—

Kynoch, Arklow, Ltd.,
13th Feb., 1918.
12750.

Dear Sir,—

We are in receipt of your letter of 11th inst., and beg to inform you that we have already informed your local secretary that we do not intend, under any circumstances whatever, to recognise your Union.

Yours faithfully,

For Kynoch, Arklow, Ltd.,
P. J. GORMAN,
Chief Clerk.

The Secretary,
Irish Transport and General
Workers' Union,
Liberty Hall,
Dublin.

After this illegal document was written the kept Press of Dublin capitalism began screeching about another ruined

industry, and the valiant men of 39 Upr. O'Connell Street girded up their loins to make a heroic salvation that would prove the necessity of the Union to Ireland's industrial existence. The salvation stunt was duly performed, but nevertheless on 18th February notices to expire on Monday, 25th, were served out to all the labourers organised in the Irish Transport Workers' Union, without whose labour the continued employment of skilled men is impossible. Kynoch's is not saved. Kynoch's is practically closed. Hundreds of men are unemployed or under notice.

We hear much of Sinn Feiners disregarding the English laws. No more glaring contravention of laws has come to our notice than that contained in the above letter. What will Mr. Duke do? Will he enforce the law or join with P. T. Gorman and John E. Redmond in smashing the Transport Workers' Union?

USUAL BOURGEOIS LIES.

Dear Comrade,—I shall be obliged if you will give publicity to the following note.—Yours fraternally,

M. LITVINOFF, J.F.

According to the "Berner Tagwacht" of the 15th February, the "Vorwärts" refers to the telegrams and documents recently published in "Le Petit Parisien" on the Bolsheviks and "German Gold," and states that it is "authorised to declare in the names of Scheideman and Parvus, the former of whom is alleged to have addressed a telegram to Moor and the latter to Olberg, Stockholm, that these documents are pure forgeries."

E. Guff on A. J. R.—Mr. Guff protests against A. J. R.'s imputation of an attack on the Catholic Church. He refers readers to the text of his article, which shows a careful and, in Irish politics, well known and accepted distinction between the Church and churchmen. Mr. Guff regrets any error in his references to the Catholic Social League and the University and Labour Pamphlets, and accepts A. J. R.'s corrections.

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MULLINGAR TRADES COUNCIL.

A meeting to organise a Trades Council was held in the A.O.H. Hall, Mullingar, on Sunday, the 10th February. Delegates from the many Labour Associations were in attendance. The following officers and Committee were elected to carry out the organising and general working of a Trades Council:—Mr. J. Bennett (President), Mr. M'Keon (Vice-President), Mr. Thos. J. Redmond (Secretary). Committee—Mr. Ledwith, Drapers' Assistants' Association; Mr. Casey, Teachers' Association; Mr. Gavin, Postmen's Federation; Mr. Hutchinson, Mullingar Irish Asylum Workers' Union; Mr. Brady, Grocers' Assistants' Association; Mr. Carey, I.N.F.; Mr. Dignan, National Union of Railwaymen; Mr. Nolan, Milltown Land and Labour Union; Mr. Donnelly, Corralstown Land and Labour Union; Mr. Darcy, Carpenters and Builders' Association; Mr. Hynes, Mullingar Trade and Labour. After a long discussion the meeting decided on holding a public meeting. The date provisionally fixed was Sunday, the 17th March, which will be addressed by Mr. P. T. Daly, Secretary of the Dublin Trades Council, and other speakers whose names shall be announced later.

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