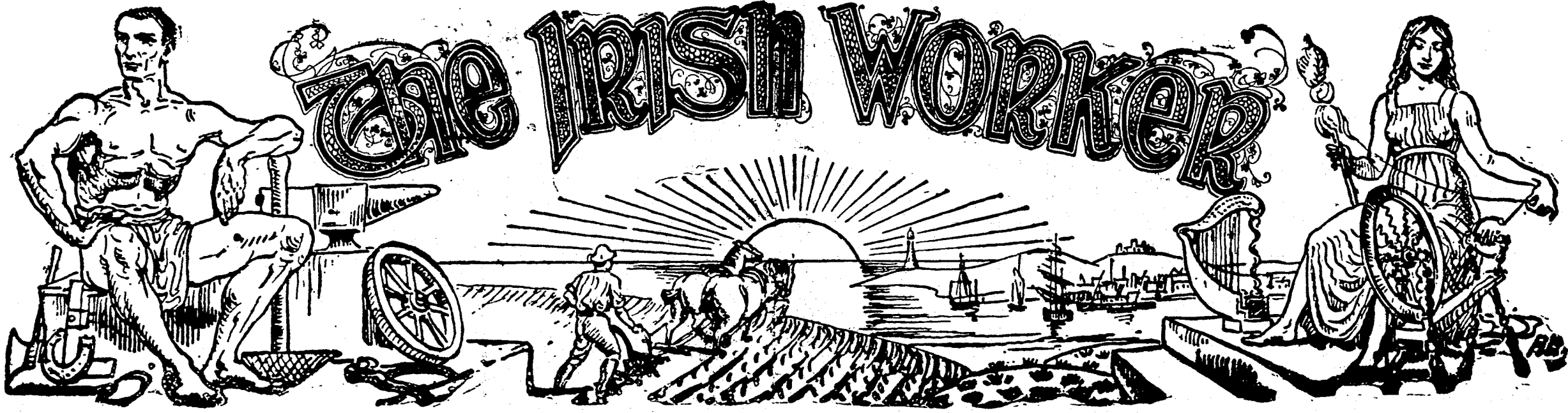


"The principle I state and mean to stand upon is:—that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland."
James Fintan Lalor.



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

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Edited by Jim Larkin.

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No. 2.—VOL. II.]

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, JUNE, 1st, 1912.

[ONE PENNY.]

Irish Trades Union Congress.

On Monday last the nineteenth annual Congress of Irish Trade Unions was held in the Town Hall, Clonmel.

The weather was summer-like, and there was a large and representative attendance from all parts of the country. Much interest was taken in the assembling of the delegates, and many were on the look out for Mr. James Larkin and Mr. P. T. Daly, who took a prominent part in the recent strikes. There were several ladies amongst the labour representatives. Photographic groups having been taken, an adjournment was made to the Council Chamber where the proceedings opened at 11 o'clock.

The Mayor (Mr. James Meehan), who was very cordially greeted, said it was to him a very pleasing duty on behalf of the Corporation and the citizens of Clonmel to bid the members of the Congress a very hearty *cord mille fois* to their midst. He sincerely trusted that their deliberations would be fruitful, and that they would carry away with them happy recollections of their visit to Clonmel (applause).

Mr. D. R. Campbell (Belfast) moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor. Speaking for the North, he desired to mention that they did not exactly march on the South (laughter). They came by various ways, expecting a genial and hearty welcome in the sunny South, and they had not been disappointed (hear, hear). That Congress was the Parliament of Labour in Ireland, and their object was to try and improve the conditions of workers all over the country. If they had to cross swords with those opposed to them they did it believing that the mission they were engaged in was an honest and just one, and if they had to fight they did so in the open (hear, hear). They trusted that the deliberations in Clonmel would strengthen the workers locally, and make them feel that in the near future they were going to be real citizens and real inhabitants of a real country (applause).

Mr. R. O'Carroll (Dublin), seconded the motion, which was passed.

The Mayor acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that as a worker he was proud to be in the position of Chief Magistrate and to have the opportunity of welcoming the Congress to Clonmel (applause).

The members of the Reception Committee then retired and the regular business commenced.

Mr. M. J. O'Lehane (Dublin) Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, was appointed Chairman of the Congress.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. O'Lehane, who took the chair amidst applause, congratulated Mr. Clarke on the judicious and very admirable manner in which he had got through the preliminaries, and proceeded to deliver his opening address. After thanking the delegates for having honoured him by electing him to the chair, the Chairman delivered a lengthy address.

Mr. Murphy, Belfast, moved a vote of thanks to the President for his address, which he described as an excellent and comprehensive one (hear, hear). While all the delegates might not quite endorse what he had said in connection with Home Rule, there were very few of them who did not believe that the present position of affairs blocked the progress of the organised workers in Ireland, and that a change was eminently desirable in the government of the country (hear, hear). Most of them would be in agreement with what the President had said about the Insurance Act, and their special thanks were due to Mr. O'Lehane for his work in connection with that measure (hear, hear). The reference to education also merited the approbation and admiration of every trades-unionist, because education had been sadly neglected in this country, and the board was as fossilised, ancient, and useless as it could possibly be (hear, hear).

Mr. Egan (Cork) supported the motion, which was put by Mr. Daly, secretary, and passed.

INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR.

Mr. James Connolly (Belfast Branch Irish Transport Workers' Union) moved—That the independent representation of Labour upon all public boards be and is hereby included amongst the objects of this Congress; that one day at least be hereafter set apart at our annual gathering for the discussion of all questions pertaining thereto; that the affiliated bodies be asked to levy their members 1s. per annum for the necessary expenses, and that the Parliamentary

Committee be instructed to take all possible action to give effect politically to this resolution." He said Ireland had been deprived of the greatest of all the benefits of the Insurance Act—the medical benefit—and that was the one benefit on which there was no divergence of opinion amongst the working classes (hear, hear). They could not blind their eyes to the fact that the proposed change in the government of the country would mean that the old parties were going to be disrupted, and he asked, as a result of the new arrangement, what part were the workers going to take? Were they going to allow their class to remain unrepresented in that new body in Dublin? They were not going to tuck themselves on to some political party of their masters in order that they might swell the fortunes and help the ambitions of their employers. They were going to enter the new body to represent a definite organised labour opinion. The years in which they would be waiting for Home Rule should synchronise with the preparation of labour for Home Rule (applause).

Mr. Moore (Belfast) seconded the motion.

Mr. Larkin, in supporting the motion, said there was no argument against a policy such as was outlined in the resolution. In that resolution they had a lever to do their own work. They were not humbugged in the least by people who said that Home Rule meant the millennium, but they believed that Home Rule would give them an opportunity of expressing themselves physically and mentally.

Mr. Rimmer (Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants) said that in view of the Osborne judgment he would not vote either for or against the motion, but would remain neutral.

Mr. Greig (Belfast) said the resolution was undoubtedly one upon which very fine speeches and appeals to sentiment might be made (laughter). They were there to look to the practical and not to the sentimental side. If the resolution was carried it would have a very disturbing effect on the trades unions, and it would lead to the shedding of many members. He thought that the resolution was premature and should be postponed until they knew exactly where they were.

Mr. W. J. Hill (Railway Clerks) said that it was the duty of leaders to lead, and if they did not take up a policy they could not bring the rank and file of their unions up to that policy. If they had not defeated the Osborne judgment by the time they were putting into force the resolution then they must do the work they were resolved to do whether that judgment was defeated or not (applause).

Mr. Coady (Dublin) said he would oppose the resolution. He would never again support a Labour Party in the City of Dublin. He had been a victim of the railway strike in August, and he succeeded in getting a position in the Corporation, but because he supported the United Irish League candidate against Mr. Larkin, the Socialist, the Labour Party objected because his name was not on the Labour Bureau. That was not the real reason why he lost the position, but because he simply had the courage of his conviction. The Labour Party in Dublin were as great tyrants as the Czar of Russia, and Mr. Larkin had him hunted and had him banned in the City of Dublin and had made him a victim of trades unionism.

Mr. Larkin said he would require Mr. Coady to prove his statements or one or other of them should withdraw from the Congress. Mr. Coady claimed to speak for the railway servants, but he (Mr. Larkin) challenged him to meet him before the members of that body and take their verdict as between the two of them. He was elected a Labour representative in Dublin on the straight ticket as against all other parties. He had been called a Socialist, but he had also been called an Atheist and an Anarchist. He was a Socialist, but he had never in the course of his life injured any man. Mr. Coady, an alleged trades unionist, worked for the United Irish League candidate though he was an Orangeman.

Mr. Larkin said—Not because of his principles but because he got his price. He, as Chairman of the Amiens street Branch A.S.R.S., was supposed to have some influence in the North Dock Ward, and while acting as chairman of strike committee, receiving full strike pay of 16/6 per week was appointed foreman of distress work though he had applied for relief work. Nor had he fulfilled the regula-

tions laid down in the Act. Then his friend, Ex-Mayor Alderman Farrell, President of the Corporation Labourers' Union, who is always protesting publicly against men being appointed as foremen or even being employed in the Corporation service without being enrolled on the books of the Labour Bureau, jobs Coady into a job as foreman in the Paving Committee supervising men with thirty years' service. When my attention was called to the matter, I attended the Paving Committee. Alderman Cotton, M.P., was in the chair. I asked had they a man named Coady acting as foreman. The chairman denied that any such man was employed. The secretary, Mr. Tobin denied the fact too. Mr. Lawless, engineer, denied he had employed any such man. The wages book was produced; no such man's name appeared in the book.

When I challenged Alderman Farrell he admitted it was he (Farrell) who got Coady appointed, explaining that Coady was a wounded soldier of the railway strike. I asked for the books of the Bureau to be produced. Mr. Heery, the clerk of the Bureau, brought the books. Coady's name did not appear in them; therefore Coady was working under another name. He had no right to be employed according to Standing Orders, and if it had been my own father I would have him dismissed. But Mr. Coady, the Orangeman—the alleged trades unionist, the man who will never vote for a Labour Party and never voted for a Labour Party—sold whatever principles he had; worked and voted for Ryan, the U.I.L. candidate, not because he believed in him nor the United Irish League, but because he (Coady) got his price, a job in the Corporation through his friend, Alderman Farrell. Within two days of my raising the objection Mr. Mackie, Assistant Engineer, stopped Coady and told him, according to Coady's own statement to me, Larkin is on the job and you must go, for when Larkin means business he will succeed and all of us will get into trouble. Mr. Lawless, engineer, asked me why did you not come to me, Councillor Larkin. I told him (Mr. Lawless) I do my work in my own way. I am sent here to wipe out jobbery, and will do it. This, then, is the impoverished trades unionist, Coady, a corrupt place-hunter. I would do the same if-morrow if necessary.

Mr. Larkin added that it was for those reasons that he got Mr. Coady's services dispensed with.

Mr. Greig said that it was not necessary that the Congress should hear all the details of a personal matter.

Mr. Campbell (Belfast) said that he rose at the same time as Mr. Coady, but gave way to him. He would not, however, have done so if he had any idea that the unpleasant incident which had just been enacted was contemplated. He represented a body before which he was arraigned, indicted, and brought to judgment for having the temerity at the last Congress to support a somewhat similar resolution to that now under discussion. Now he came, however, instructed to support the resolution. It had been thrown in their teeth that if they were men they would have their own representatives. They had proved that the Nationalist Party would not support their interests if there were stronger interests at work. They had proved that the Unionist Party paid little attention to their interests at any time, and they had proved that the British Labour Party would only help them at certain times. They had got to do their own work for themselves.

Mr. Whitely (Belfast) said that it would be a better plan to send the resolution back to the societies for the purpose of eliciting their opinions on the matter. It had been shown that Irish workers differed not only on political questions but on labour matters.

It was decided to postpone further discussion on the resolution until next morning.

The Secretary of the Standing Orders Committee stated that he had scrutinised the credentials of 72 delegates, representing over 70,000 workers.

The Congress then adjourned until Tuesday.

TUESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

When the Congress re-assembled at 9.30 the following morning,

Mr. Drummond (Dublin) said the resolution was very cleverly drawn up and would tend to alter the whole aspect of affairs in Ireland. It stated that they were to come there for one day for the purpose of discussing political affairs, but at every Trades Congress at which he had been, practically speaking, they had discussed nothing but Parliamentary affairs. Was the trades union movement in Ireland going to become a mere political machine? Mr. Milner (Dublin) spoke against the resolution, which, he said, was a question of Socialism versus the old trades unionism.

Mr. Nolan (Dublin) was in favour of direct representation for labour. The working classes were being made the victims of political exploiters, and the capitalistic classes were seeking to create differences amongst them for that purpose. They had made a fine start in establishing a decent Labour Party in Dublin in January last, which had the power of checking the political hunters in the Dublin Corporation. The speaker was proceeding to refer to the introduction of personal remarks by a delegate at the Congress on the previous day, when the President saved the time limit, and he sat down.

Mr. John Murphy (Belfast) said that year after year and time after time they had passed resolutions in favour of labour representation. He held that they would be better off if they destroyed its utility if they converted that Congress into a political party. He suggested that the resolution be withdrawn, and that the Parliamentary Committee prepare a scheme of proportionate representation for submission to the next Congress.

Mr. Flanagan (Belfast) said the Nationalist Party had been spoken of as a Labour Party in the absence of a Labour Party in Ireland, but it was quite possible for a member of the Nationalist Party to be a sweating employer and to be opposed to the principles of trades unionism generally. Now was the moment to form a separate Labour group. They expected to have a separate form of Government very soon in Ireland, and it was for them to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them to do something towards organising labour forces. If labour representation was ignored it would get a very poor show in the Irish Parliament when it came into being. It was an undoubted fact that the Nationalist Party—the heads of the Liberal and Nationalist Parties—were capitalistic in their views, and it was quite possible that Mr. John Redmond and his Party might be more reactionary than the present Ulster Tory Party. Some arrangement must be come to to have labour directly represented.

Mr. William O'Brien (Dublin) said every resolution sent forward from that Congress had been treated with contempt by both Parties, and it was time for labour to resent it.

Mr. Connolly, the mover of the resolution spoke at some length in reply and the President, in putting the motion, expressed satisfaction at the high level to which the debate had reached.

The motion was carried by 49 to 18.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION.

The Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee said that on the previous morning an application was received from the Dublin Branch of the Irish Women Workers for affiliation. The affiliation fee had been paid, and the delegate, Miss Larkin, was, therefore, admitted as a delegate to the Congress.

Mr. Murphy (Belfast) asked if the Standing Orders Committee had taken into account the bona fides of Miss Larkin's Union? So far as he was aware this organisation in Belfast was a counter one to the organisation of the textile workers. In Belfast a considerable amount of friction existed in regard to the matter.

The Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee said the Committee had inquired into the matter, and found that Miss Larkin's Union was a bona fide organisation.

THE INSURANCE ACT.

The next business was the consideration of the report of the Parliamentary Committee, copies of which had been supplied to the delegates. In their report the Committee strongly protested against the efforts which were being made and the assistance which was being given by the Insurance Commissioners to establish county societies under the

Insurance Act, which was contrary to the spirit of the Act and altogether at variance with the promise given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer during the passage of the measure in Parliament.

Mr. Johnson (Belfast) proposed the adoption of the Committee's report on the subject.

Mr. Clarke (Belfast) said that the Committee referred principally to the society started by Lady Aberdeen. She occupied in Ireland the same position occupied by the Queen in England, and her social influence was being exerted to further the interests of the society referred to; to the detriment of trade union societies. She even made an attempt to make use of the Labour Exchanges before her society was approved of; but in that attempt she had been frustrated by the Parliamentary Committee.

Miss Galwey (Belfast) said they in Belfast had to contend against burial societies and church societies, and in addition they had to meet the competition of so-called trades unionists who were making an attempt to further divide the workers. They had organisers only recently arrived in Ireland increasing the trouble which sectarian and political bigotry were causing to the genuine trades unionists of Belfast.

Mr. Quirk (Clonmel) said he knew that the clergy in the South of Ireland did not take the matter up until they saw the apathy of the workers themselves.

Mr. Larkin (Dublin)—May we take it that the gentleman who has just spoken is in the confidence of the hierarchy of Ireland?

Mr. Egan (Cork) said the workers in his city were doing their best to form a local trades union society under the Act.

Mr. Campbell (Belfast) said he was altogether against Insurance Companies or rural societies having anything to do with the administration of the Act. The introduction of the competitive spirit in regard to the Act was, he thought, to be deprecated.

The Committee's report was adopted unanimously.

MEDICAL BENEFITS UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT.

The Parliamentary Committee in their report expressed their dissatisfaction at the action of the Irish Party in insisting on the elimination of medical benefits from the Insurance Act. They (the committee) were at a loss to know on what public opinion the Party based their decision, and recommended the introduction into Parliament of a one clause Bill to remedy this grave defect.

Mr. Greig (Belfast) proposed the adoption of this portion of the report, and said that the Irish Party had in this matter acted in a most undemocratic fashion by arrogating to themselves the right to decide that Ireland was to be excluded from the medical benefits. They were told that there was no public opinion expressed in favour of the inclusion of those benefits, but the fact was that there was no public opinion about the Act expressed in any shape.

Mr. Flanagan (Belfast) seconded, and said that the matter was a striking proof of the necessity for an Irish Independent Labour Party.

On the same subject the following resolutions were grouped and passed in globo:—

That this Congress, speaking on behalf of the organised workers of Ireland, protest against the action of the Irish and Labour Parties in allowing the Irish workers to be deprived of medical benefits under the National Insurance Act; and we now demand that a one clause Bill be passed this session to remedy this grave injustice.

Continued on page 3.

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WOMEN WORKERS' COLUMN.

"THE SACKMENDER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE IRISH WORKER

DEAR SIR—The parable written by "No" on the above in last week's IRISH WORKER is so real that I desire to express my admiration of the manner in which he puts the conditions of Messrs. Keogh's sack factory before your readers. I have been through the place many times, and a more lucid and indisputable comparison could not be drawn. The only omission he has made is that the two young slave-drivers did not pass through the gloomy area while the visitor was interviewing the sackmender and the witch.

The women workers and their supporters are fully justified in the attitude which they have taken up—the only mistake is that they should have moved earlier (but I suppose Mrs. Keogh and the boys will occur with the tinker's motto: "It is never too late to mend," so will we all). I saw the women workers as they came to work, and I saw them to day, and there is not disputing the fact that their condition has improved. It is a great pity that Lady Aberdeen did not see them. I am quite sure she would have learned a useful lesson, which would have been a fine illustration for her next meeting of the Women's National Health Association. I am quite satisfied that had her ladyship seen these women and girls then and now she would be convinced that one ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory. Your action towards the strikers since they struck against objectionable conditions and starvation wages has proved that it is not an empty combination of the workers safeguard. I therefore desire to submit that should Messrs. Keogh and the other firms of sack-makers have a prolonged fight they can have it. Every workman when passing by the offices of the Women Workers' Union will willingly hand in a response in support of the principles of trade unionism, because that is the principle that the employers are trying to defeat, and your readers can rest assured that when the Sack-makers Association require their workers they will find to their grief that the improved condition of the girls health since they left Keogh's gloomy, unsanitary concerns has enabled them to obtain more suitable and remunerative employment.

Yes, Mr. Editor, this is what I infer from the last appraisal you made on behalf of our helpless sister workers, who have a very young but a very useful organization. Three thousand people weekly will give these women and girls a holiday, and will help to put down for ever the tyranny and sweating. It was never intended at the meeting when man was sent forth to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow that woman was to become a slave. Nor was it intended that when they abolished the black slave trade that white men and women should supplant the black slaves; and I think your readers—ray, even the Keoghs—have not disputed the fact that it is really what has been going on for years among the women workers.

I would also beg to remind the gentleman who has promised to stand by the firm of Keogh that there are 30,000 women in Dublin who would willingly supply the women strikers with 30,000 people with which to start a Co-operative sock-making and repairing factory, the whole of which could be bought at its market value.—Yours truly,

DEMOCRAT.

We are repeatedly receiving requests from domestic servants engaged in Dublin and other parts of Ireland to help them. They state that their conditions are bad, their hours long, and rate of wages very low. We know all this to be true. But if the domestic servants are sincere in their desire to better their conditions they must be prepared to help themselves; it is no use their calling upon outside agencies for help. They must be prepared to fight for their freedom, and to do this effectually, and well they must combine. It is only through organization that they are going to do anything worth while.

Let the domestic servants understand that the Irish Women Workers' Union is the means by which they can fight their wrongs; let them come forward then and join this organization, and through their combined effort, and the combined efforts of all women workers, the whole system of white slavery which exists among all classes of women workers, will be forever stamped out. The officials of the Irish Women Workers' Union are always ready and willing to place their services at the disposal of all women workers. The Executive of this Union can be seen any day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Due to want of space this week I am only able to write very little on our dispute. The fight is still going on; our women are as loyal as day as the day they came out, and as determined. When in Wexford on Sunday we met with the heartiest congratulations on the attitude shown by the women workers, and a resolution was passed that no mock or other article marked with the name of J. P. Keogh would be handled by any man or woman. I was also selected to convey a message to the women strikers of Dublin that not only did the Wex' d people give their moral support, but would also give their financial support if required. In fact messages such as this have been sent from all parts of Ireland. This may be on a small dispute in itself, but it means a lot for the women slaves of Ireland. It has also roused all women workers to a sense of their responsibilities. Sympathizers of all classes are interested in it, and the results.

IRISH WORKERS' CHOIR.

Choir practice will be as usual on Monday and Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Irish Language Class on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. Irish Dancing Thursday and Friday evenings.

Irish Women Workers' Union, Liberty Hall, 18 Beresford Place, Dublin.

Entrance-Free. Contributions 6s. 2d. per week. Intending members can see the Secretary any evening after 8 p.m. All communications for this column to be addressed to—

"D.L." Women Workers' Column, Liberty Hall, 18 Beresford Place.

"An injury to One is the concern of All."

Irish Worker.

EDITED BY JIM LARKIN.

THE IRISH WORKER will be published weekly—price one penny—and may be had of any newsagent. Ask for it and see that you get it. All communications, whether relating to literary or business matters, to be addressed to the Editor, 18 Beresford Place, Dublin. Telephone 3421. Subscription 6s. 6d. per year; 3s. 3d. for six months, payable in advance. We do not publish or take notice of anonymous contributions.

DUBLIN, SATURDAY June 1st, 1912.

LABOUR'S PARLIAMENT.

We have had a strenuous time with in the last few days, having been honoured in holding the position of Delegate to the Irish Parliament of Labour which was held in the historic ospital of Tipperary. Within the walls of the City Hall were met together some of the ablest women and men from amongst the Trade Unions of Ireland—National and International; men and women of strong opinions drawn from every province in Ireland, imbued with the divine spirit of discontent; holding different opinions; of different creeds, different races. For amongst the heterogeneous gathering we had Scotchmen and Englishmen, with credentials from the Executives of International Unions; Orangemen, Hibernians, All-for-Irelanders, United Irish Leaguers, Sinn Féiners, Labour Party men, Socialists, all agreeing in principle, but agreeing to differ on the methods of putting their principles into action. Men who have made their mark, not only in this country, but who are known as capable men and administrators in the Labour circles the world over. As the Mayor (Mr. Meenan, a tailor by trade) stated that the high level of debatable and oratorical ability exhibited by the Delegates, and the manner in which the Congress was conducted, reflected the highest credit on the Chairman, Mr. Michael O'Lehane, the Delegate, but above all on the Unions, who had selected such admirable representatives. Admitted that once or twice a flare-up occurred, the personal element entered into the discussion, but taking the debates right through for the whole of three days, everything was done in a most business-like manner. We who were interested in the advanced movement can congratulate ourselves that not only did we succeed in carrying all our resolutions but one—i.e., Federation of Irish Trade Unions—but we are of the opinion we convinced those in opposition, that our proposals are not only sane proposals, but are necessary and timely.

We were informed some few weeks back that if we dared to enter Clonmel we should require some arrange for our interment. When we arrived on Sunday evening and entered Wagner's Hotel, the lady manageress said, "I am nervous about taking you in." Then on Monday rumours were prevalent that if we dared to speak on Tuesday night at the mass meeting there would be a riot. Extra police had been ordered in; even the local committee were fearful, and we were informed we would not be on the list of speakers. Of course we let it be known that if we were denied the right to speak at the arranged meeting, we would get a wagon and hold our own meeting. On Tuesday night we attended, on the invitation of the Committee, and found it was the largest meeting (vide local men) that ever had been held in Clonmel. O'Lehane, Campbell, Connolly (who made the best speech I have ever heard him deliver) Flanagan, Councillor Lawler, and O'Carroll, having addressed the meeting, we were called upon; and in all the towns and cities we have had the pleasure of voicing the demands of the workers, we never received a more courteous and enthusiastic a greeting than in Clonmel. With the exception of two drunks, who had scabbed during the dispute in Murphy's Brewery last year, and a Mr. Ronald Moore, a prominent Unionist, a D.L. for the county, and a public nuisance generally, who was guarded by four policemen; and a D.L. stood at the fringe of the crowd, shouting interjections, asking what about the money we stole from Cork. This was the "contumacious interruption" reported by the "Daily Lyre." At the close of the meeting nothing would satisfy the crowd but they must parade the town carrying ourselves on their shoulders and led by the pipers' band. We had to submit to Casey, the blacksmith, Lozergan, and the rest of the boys making a triumphal arch of their shoulders, and then into the boat club were up to the early hours of the morning under the chairmanship of the Mayor (a jovial soul, himself a "rale Tip.") We had a real Irish night. Lyach,

of Cork, exalted himself gave us four songs of the best; Oorib, of Wexford; Flanagan, of Belfast; White, of Newry; Campbell, of Belfast (who played a base trick on us) he recited "The Orange Nation"; and Brendan Roger's son played divinely. A night to be remembered. What with songs, recitations, speeches, and jokes, we had the night of our lives, but apart altogether from enjoyment, we carried through the need for an Irish Labour Party. We, who had been exalted by a clique from the Limerick Trades Congress three years ago, have lived to see those who were responsible for that respectable business cost into the water darkness and by the unanimous vote of the Parliament of the Irish workers were elected to the highest position in the Trade Union world in Ireland. We are determined during the coming year, supported as we will be by the organized workers of this country, to uphold the honour and dignity of that position and do all we can with our limited capacity to advance the cause—the only cause worth fighting for—the cause of the common people.

SCULLY AND THE ORGAN.

Jobbery in South Dublin Union.

We have often dealt with the question of corruption perpetrated by public bodies in this country, but the latest perpetrated by some of the Guardians of the South Dublin Union eclipses any previously dealt with by us. Some short time ago the name in charge of the schools at Pelletstown where the children of the South Dublin Union are maintained applied to the Board of Guardians for a piano, and the application was referred to the Pelletstown committee members of the Board of Guardians—who were supposed to look after the affairs of that institution. The committee considered the application, and resolved to report in favour of granting it. In the meantime one of the lady Guardians—a Mrs. Money, who owns a piano-office in Lombard street—approached the chairman, Mr. Scully, and informed him that she had in pledge in her office an American organ that she would be glad to get rid of. The chairman was agreeable to help in the job and before the Pelletstown committee reported in favour of granting the application for the piano, he suggested at the Board meeting that an organ which would be less expensive would suit. Some few days after, the chairman telephoned to the Workhouse for the address of a mechanic who does some work for the Guardians, and when he received it this tradesman was communicated with by some one in the know and was requested to act as agent for the disposal of the organ to the Guardians. The organ was then removed to his address, and two of the runs from Pelletstown were brought in by the Workhouse servants to inspect it and they were told to accept it in lieu of the piano, to which they assented. The agent communicated with the Board of Guardians and offered the organ for sale to them, and a committee was appointed to visit his place, consisting of the chairman, Mrs. Money (the owner of the organ), Miss Williams (a friend), Mr. Holkley and Mr. Mestral. They in due course inspected the organ, and after some delay caused by the last two gentlemen—one of whom brought his wife to test it—recommended the Board to offer £15 for the organ, provided some repairs were executed on it, which sum was, of course, immediately accepted. The organ was in due course delivered at Pelletstown, and a cheque drawn for the amount in favour of the agent. It is hardly necessary to say there was a nice profit netted by the transaction, as it was pledged for £4. We may add that a high-class, well-finished new organ can be bought for £15. Will deeds such as this be allowed to exist and continue? Are the Dublin public so blind to commercial integrity and honour as to sit down and make no effort to wipe out of public life people who should be guilty of such conduct?

IRISH INDUSTRIES.

The Educational Co. of Ireland and their double-dealing over the Question of Irish Manufacture.

This company are members of the Irish Industrial Development Association. Mr. Editor of "Leader" is booming them this week. Perhaps they will explain why they imported 15 boxes of stationery within the last month. Why did they import the following this week:— 48 blackboards imported from Glasgow. The firm of Bennett Bros. supplied them. No. 1 circle signs penny books—a few gross made here; over 200 gross in Glasgow. Here is a copy of the forwarding tag on £240 of rope— JOHN & EDWIN WRIGHT, Ltd., Rope and Twine Manufacturers, BIRMINGHAM.

Carriage Paid. Messrs. The Educational Co. of Ireland, Ltd., 89 Talbot Street, Dublin.

Per L.N.W.R. Of course we have no rope works in this country now in the city.

TRADES SOCIETIES,

Football Clubs, and any other Working Class Societies requiring rooms for meetings, &c., would do well to call on Caretaker, LIBERTY HALL, 18 Beresford Place.

National Insurance Act and Other Things.

AN OPEN LETTER TO "FERGUS."

Dublin, 25th May, 1912.

MY DEAR FERGUS—When you suggested that before dealing with above subject I should (to use your own words) "learn a little of the facts," did it not strike you that the suggestion was a bit superfluous in view of your further statement that, "We may say, too, that Mr. Richardson has opposed the measure all through."

Before proceeding to deal with the very few portions of your letter, which are really relevant to the Insurance Act, I am going, by way of preface, to dispose of the side issues.

May I begin by assuming that your literary peregrinations have carried you through "Dokens," and that you have encountered, amongst the characters sketched by the "Master hand," our amiable friend "Mr. Dick." It should be then hardly necessary to recall to your mind that "Mr. Dick's" finest literary efforts were spoiled by the fact that into everything which he attempted to write he was bound to introduce "The Head of King Charles the First." Might I, my dear Fergus, suggest to you that a striking similarity exists between our "Dietonensian" friend, "Mr. Dick," and some writers connected with THE IRISH WORKER, who seem to find it impossible to discuss any subject, under heaven, without introducing the words, "Scab Shelter," and harping on my supposed connection with that institution.

Some months ago I explained in the columns of THE IRISH WORKER that my visit to the Mountjoy Ward Branch U.I.L. Rooms, otherwise styled the "Scab Shelter," was one of two. One paid on the occasion of the public discussion of the Insurance Bill; the other, on the night that the present Lord Mayor delivered his address on "Our Much Abused Corporation." On the first occasion I think I can claim the credit of having, next to Mr. Astor (the Lecturer), spoken strongest in denunciation of the proposed Insurance Bill.

On the second occasion (the Lord Mayor's Lecture) I found, to my amazement, that the critics of Corporation extravagance, jobbery and maladministration, were conspicuous by their absence, and that the gentlemen who had been assuring the people of Dublin, through the Citizens' Association and other bodies, that they could govern the city so much more economically than the existing body, flunked the direct challenge issued to them by the Lecturer, and even by the title of the lecture.

So much for my alleged identification with the "Scab Shelter."

To carry the matter a little further, my dear Fergus, what is your justification for styling the Mountjoy Ward U.I.L. the "Scab Shelter?"

Who are the prominent men associated with the alleged "Shelter," and what are their records?

Let us take the Lord Mayor, Councillor Sherlock. It may be permissible to describe him as a "Scab" Lord Mayor, on the ground that he took the job at a smaller salary than some of his predecessors but, surely, the taunt should not be hurled by a sympathizer with, and supporter of, the Labour Party, which proposed to DEPRIVE HIM OF ALL SALARY, and thereby leave the office open for a "CAPITALIST."

The designation of "Scab" can hardly be applied to Councillor Mahon who is record as a Trades Unionist; who is possibly rival that of "Fergus."

I am not aware that Councillor Briscoe or Mr. T. P. Roch, P.L.G., have ever, in their public or private capacities, struck a blow at Trades Unionism which would warrant them being described as "scabs."

Finally, on this matter, my dear Fergus, I am aware that the name "Scab Shelter" has been sought to be justified because Mr. T. P. Cullen, is President of the Mountjoy Ward U.I.L.

After all, what was his offence? He remained at work during the timber carters and railway strike last year. Why, in doing so he was only acting as did the railwaymen's "brother" members, with this difference in his favour—that he belonged to no union or society, while the English and Irish railwaymen belonged to ONE ORGANIZATION, and the Englishmen looked calmly on while their Irish "brothers" were being wiped out. This, my dear Fergus, may seem rather disquieting, but you can console yourself with the thought that you have provoked it.

You introduce St. Paul for the purpose of again quoting, "Show me your company and I will tell you what you are," the inference being because I have been on two occasions mentioned in the U.I.L. Rooms in Rutland street that I stand condemned ipso facto.

Now, let us apply this to our everyday business. Within the past week there appeared in the Dublin daily papers a report of a meeting held in connection with the promotion of the Newmarket Pig Market Scheme

On that platform were Messrs. Thomas Lawlor, T.O., and John Sturnis, Kelly, T.O.; Alderman T. Kelly and Mr. William Field, M.P.

I have not yet heard that Alderman Kelly has been fired out of No. 6 Ha'court-street by the National Cou. club because he dared to stand on a platform with Mr. William Field, M.P., and this morning I passed through Beresford Place and failed to discern the body of Mr. Thomas Lawlor, T.O., hanging in chains from the front of "Liberty Hall," because he dared to stand on the one platform with J. S. Kelly, T.O.

Surely, if it is a crime for an humble private in the ranks like myself to attend the discussion of a matter of public importance at the U.I.L. Rooms in Rutland street, it is a much more serious crime for a public representative like Mr. Thomas Lawlor, T.O., to fraternize on a public platform with that abomination of all good Transport Workers, Mr. John Sturnis Kelly, T.O.

You are kind enough to sympathize with me as regards my defeat in the North D of W and a half year ago. The value of your sympathy can be gauged by the fact that it is offered for the purpose of giving you an opportunity to hang on the sly an insult to a representative of the North Dock Ward, who did his level best to fasten attention on the Glasnevin scandal.

His sole crime seems to be that he is young.

Don't you think, my dear Fergus, that is a fault of which he will mend very soon. Twenty years ago you and I might have been accused of the same crime. Now, alas! a visit to the mirror shows us the tell-tale "silver threads." Don't be so hard on youth, my dear "Fergus." You were young once—no matter how long ago.

However, it is now time to get back to the Insurance Bill.

Your article in THE IRISH WORKER of May 11th has been so completely ignored in that of 25th inst. that I am forced to ask you to refer to the opening lines in the article of May 11th.

You write—"The consideration of the manner in which Ireland has been treated under the National Insurance Act is a fair index of what they can expect until such time as they wake up and show a determination to look after their own interests." Further on you wrote—"And still we have heard it stated that we do not need an Irish Labour Party."

Now, if any one tries to pain me then another it was that an Irish Labour Party would save Ireland from all the evils which accompanied the passing of the Act.

I took the liberty of pointing out that the men really responsible for the application to Ireland of this pernicious Insurance Act were the all-god "Labour" leaders who were thinking not of the interests of the people but of themselves.

And my dear Fergus, in quoting this portion of my letter, why did you quote the part in which I stated that some powerful members of the Irish Party connected with certain sectarian and other societies saw a chance of increasing their membership?" etc?

And why stop and lead the public to believe that the Irish members were responsible for the extension of the Act to Ireland?

Why not have the common honesty to finish the quotation. "But these people would have been powerless to secure this were they not reinforced by the heaven-sent 'alleged' leaders of Labour, the men who sent the telegrams and organized deputations for the purpose of conveying to Lloyd George the unalterable and fixed determination of hundreds of thousands of Irish workers to do SOMETHING DESPERATE if he didn't take immediate steps to compel these same workers' employers to drop 31 from their already ever abundant wages."

Did you really rate the intelligence of the readers of the WORKER so low as to think that they would be deceived by such a transparent dodge or did you think that I was "mog" enough to allow you to misquote me without objection?

You are good enough to admit that a number of the provisions of the Act are injurious to us; but you, to use your own words "recognizes the possibilities of the measure"—very consoling, no doubt—and I hope you will be able when the Act has been in force for twelve months to convince the ordinary workers of the "advantages" and "possibilities."

Now, Fergus, give "Scab Shelter," and other side issues the go by, and please answer the following questions:— 1. As a Democrat do you believe that a contributory scheme in which the employer is compulsorily made the buffer between the worker and the all-god State, is one which should be accepted?

2. Do you not think the worker pays enough in direct taxation with mauling him weekly?

3. Had Lloyd George proposed to work the Insurance Act through the Post Office or the Civil Service how many of our "Labour Leaders" would have been found championing the measure?

4. Do you approve of a measure which not alone threatens penalties in case of "conscientious objection" but cleverly leaves your employer no option but to dismiss you from your employment or be mulcted in heavy penalties?

5. What justification can you offer for the shoving into the Post Office as depositors the delicate persons—in other words, those who need assistance most?

6. If, as you assert, Mr. M. J. O'Lehane's friends, by whom you mean, I presume, the Parliamentary Committee, urged him to resign his position on the Advisory Committee, why do you find fault with me for putting in print what you are all thinking?

7. Have you read the editorial sub-leader in this week's WORKER on the Insurance Act?

Now, my dear Fergus, I propose to wind up with a personal reference. In the course of your article you put the question if I were appointed to one of those jobs would I resign?

(To be continued next week.)

TO THE EDITOR IRISH WORKER. Sir—Will you through the medium of your valuable paper give publicity to the following Army Order, dated 12th March, 1912:—

Army Order 110. 1912. *Special Reserve. It has been decided to introduce a new category in Section B, of the Special Reserve, to be known as Category C, and to be composed of men of certain branches of the services who, when serving, will be required to perform duties similar to those performed by them in civil life, and who will consequently need no instruction as soldiers. They will be enlisted into the Special Reserve under Part III. of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, 1907, and, therefore, subject to the same conditions of service and liabilities as the regular reserve; but they will not be called out for annual training.

When called out on mobilization they will become in all respects soldiers of the regular forces.

I think that you will agree with me that no more sinister piece of legislation has as yet been attempted by our benevolent Liberal Government and that it consists of nothing less than an attempt to form a blacking army, to be used in the interests of the capitalists in the event of a strike. Of course this is quite in keeping with the record of the Party guided by the leadership of "Featherstone Aquilith."

*Issued as a special Army Order, Dated 24th March, 1912.

Something of Interest to Women Workers.

Garrick's Boot Stores. 61a TALBOT ST. (under Railway Arch), DUBLIN. 22 ELLIS'S QUAY, DUBLIN. Are now showing a Grand Variety of Shoes in all the Latest Shapes and Colours at 1/11, 2/6, 2/11, 3/6, 3/11, 4/6 and 4/11 to 7/11. Ladies' Boots, 2/11, 3/11, 4/6, 4/11 to 10/6. Value Extraordinary.

Comments unnecessary where our Men's Boots are concerned.

M. SULLIVAN, Bootmaker and Repairer, 62 1/2 Lower Sandwith Street, Hand-Made Work a Speciality. Best Leather and Workmanship Guaranteed.

Comfortable Lodgings for Respectable Men. 3/- WEEKLY, 7 Marlborough Place, City.

BOOTS FOR MEN, Box Call & Champs Boots at 6/11 as sold elsewhere at 8/11. Hand-Pegged Bluchers at 4/10 AS SOLD ELSEWHERE, 6s. THE SMALL PROFIT STORE, 78b Talbot Street.

JAMES (Irish) 2lb. Jars, 6hd.; Raspberry, Strawberry, Black Currant. BISCUITS—Jam Filling, Butter Creams, Berrands, 6d. per lb. LEYDEN'S, 89 BRIDE STREET.

STRONG BOOTS FOR WORKINGMEN. Army Bluchers—Sprigged or Nailed, 5/- Whole-back Bluchers—Hand-Pegged, 6/-

NOTE.—These Bluchers are solid leather throughout and will stand plenty of hard wear.

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When You Get on a Good Thing Stick to it. Get in and Stick to Irish-Made Boots.

JOHN MALONE, Irish Boot Manufacturer, 67 NORTH KING STREET, DUBLIN.

Ferideacht Day. Sunday Next, June 2nd, At Dolphin's Barn, Commencing at 3.30. Admission, 3d.

Best and Brightest Entertainers. Sinn Féin Amáin.

Votes for Women.—Ancient Concert Rooms, Saturday, 1st June, at 8 p.m. A MASS MEETING of Irish Suffragettes to demand the passing of a Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Home Rule Bill. Addresses by Irish Women representing the Suffrage Societies of all the Provinces. Admission, 1s. and 6d.

Parents anxious to save their children from the cruel operation of Vaccination should read the "Vaccination Inquirer," One should read the "Vaccination Inquirer," or Penny Monthly. Order it from your Newsagent, or send three half-penny stamps to the Irish Anti-Vaccination League, 42 Westland Row, Dublin. Leaflets and information on how to avoid vaccination, sent free to parents on receipt of a stamp. Write at once and save your own child. Do it now.

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 FOR IRISH ROLL AND PLUG.

HORAN & SONS,
95 & 96 Great Brunswick St.,
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8 South Great George's Street and 17 North Earl Street, DUBLIN.

Irish Workers should support an Irish House by bringing their Watch Repairs to
P. J. KAVANAGH,
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 28, UPPER ORMOND QUAY. Estd. 1887.
 Good Work. Prices Moderate.

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 Pure Wholesome and Butter-milk Squares a speciality
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 ASK FOR LARKIN'S LOAF.

Made by Trade Union Bakers.
EAT FARRINGTON'S BREAD.
 SWEETEST AND BEST. THE IRISH WORKERS' BAKER.

Labour and the Re-Conquest of Ireland.

IV.
 From a municipal point of view Belfast is a distinct improvement upon Dublin. This statement may come as somewhat of a surprise to those who have been interested in the recent journalistic campaign against the Northern city. Many English Liberal newspapers and magazines seeing that Belfast is the centre of resistance to the Home Rule Bill, and that Belfast has coupled its resistance with an unobtrusive self-glorification of its own achievements, have despatched correspondents to the city to discover the black spots in its record and to write them up for the benefit of the Liberal campaign for Home Rule. This is in strict accord with the capitalist conception of party warfare. In the past these same Liberal newspapers campaigned against Home Rule, and indulged in indiscriminate slander of the whole Irish race as a weapon in aid of their campaign; now they just as indiscriminately slander and vilify in favour of Home Rule. It is their conception of honourable warfare. We confess, however, that it overshoots the mark—overshoots it to such an extent, indeed, as to excite our nausea were it not for our knowledge that the Tory rulers of Belfast have brought it upon themselves by their hypocritical assumption of an exclusive ownership of all the virtues. Be it said then that Belfast is neither so horrible in its municipal condition as it is painted by its Liberal accusers, nor so perfect as it is represented by the Orange capitalist clique who control it. Municipally, it can compare favourably with any similar city in Great Britain and its industrial conditions are the product of modern industrial slavery, and can be paralleled wherever capitalism flourishes. The things in which Belfast is peculiar are the skillful use by the master class of religious rallying cries which, long since forgotten elsewhere, are still potent to limit and weaken Labour here, and the pharisaical spirit of self-righteousness which enables unscrupulous avengers of the poor with one hand in the pocket of their workers to raise the other hand to heaven and thank God that they are not as other men. When, therefore, we say that Belfast is an improvement upon Dublin from a municipal point of view we mean just exactly what we say, and nothing more, and would protest against more being read into our statement. The homes of the poor are better, house rent is lower, and the city is cleaner and healthier than Dublin.

Reasons for this comparatively favourable state of matters are many. Belfast as the price of its surrender of its national freedom, obtained every kind of legislative attention it desired for its municipal activities; Dublin has been as consistently denied such facilities. Belfast has been enabled to spread as far beyond its original boundaries as it desired, and to include its wealthiest districts within its taxable area; Dublin is still confined to a district not much larger than it covered before the Union, and its wealthiest traders have had the aid of the law in keeping their residential districts outside of the city limits. Bathrooms and bathgates, for instance, are scandalous examples of the areas inhabited by wealthiest traders and merchants who enjoy all the facilities offered by the city of Dublin; but the revilers, unfamiliar with the city of Dublin, will appreciate this gross injustice better when we say that a penny tram fare will bring a traveller from Nelson's Pillar, in the heart of the city, into the portions of the suburbs of Dublin occupied by the gentry of Dublin, but outside of the city limits. A penny tram ride in Belfast is easily twice as long as a penny ride in Dublin; but when a penny tram ride in Dublin will take you out of the taxable area of the city, a two-penny tram ride in Belfast will still leave you within the city boundaries; this necessarily makes Belfast, apart altogether from its greater manufactures, a wealthier city than Dublin, and leaves a much larger sum available for municipal activities and progress generally. Its taxation is more justly spread.

One other contributing cause is to be found in the circumstances that the greater part of the buildings in the heart of Belfast were built upon land originally acquired at nominal rents upon very long leases, whereas Dublin in its centre is occupied by old, houses originally occupied as town mansions by the rack-renting aristocracy, and when these gentry moved to London they, in pursuance of their rack-renting instincts, let the houses at the highest rents they could squeeze out of them. Such houses have been let and re-let, with an increase of rent accompanying each fresh letting, until Dublin is now confronted with the curious fact that although the tenant who hires the rooms is horribly rack-rented, yet the landlord from whom he hires may have but a small margin to live upon between the rent he receives and the rent he pays to the landlord from whom he had hired; and so ad infinitum.

One of the first things a Labour Party in Dublin Corporation should do is to demand the publication of the names of the several owners of house property in the city. Only by such publication and the investigation necessarily proceeding it

would the tangle of house ownership in Dublin be cleared up and the way cleared up for drastic enforcement of sanitary laws.

Our readers will see that the difference between the municipality of Dublin and that of Belfast is the difference between an old city inheriting accumulations of abuses and obstructed at every turn by a hostile legislation and a new city aided by a friendly legislation and unexpectably spreading over agricultural land highly valued and cheaply rented by its owners.

But Belfast has its own problems to deal with. In some respects these problems are more difficult than any Dublin knows; in some respects the horrors of Belfast life are such as Dublin may pray to be saved from.

With Belfast as with Dublin there is little need to go beyond official returns for any statements of facts. Dr. Baillie, Medical Officer of Health for Belfast, has on many occasions in his Annual Report set down in his dry official way some statistics as to the pressure of the capitalist system upon the Belfast workers, and these statistics, well considered, might well produce a crop of revolutionists in the Northern city.

In his official report for 1909, referring to the extraordinary number of premature births, Dr. Baillie remarks—

"The premature births were found to be most prevalent among women who worked in mills and factories, engaged in such work as the following—spinning, weaving, machining, tobacco-spinning, and laundry work. Many of the women appear to be utterly unable for such work owing to the want of sufficient nourishment and suitable clothing, and being through stress of circumstances compelled to work up to the date of confinement would be accountable for many young and delicate children found by the Health Visitors."

Dealing with consumption and the efforts at its cure he gives the following figures illustrating again how it is the poor who are the principal sufferers from this as from all the other scourges of life in Ireland—

"As in the previous year, the class of persons most severely attacked were housewives (280), the next in order being labourers (178), mill-workers (162), children (117), warehouse workers (107), factory workers (59) and clerks (34)."

Dr. Baillie further drives home the lesson of the causes of consumption when he says:—

"The districts suffering most severely from this disease are Nos. 3, 4 and 12 in which 136, 117 and 112 cases occurred respectively, and it is to be noted that in these districts textile industries are largely carried on."

"Of the total number of cases (1,317) coming under the observation of this Department, 708 were females and 609 males, showing the number of females to be 99 in excess of that of males. This is somewhat different to that which is found in most other cities, and may be partially due to the nature of the work, in which the female population is engaged."

"As in previous years it was found that consumption was most prevalent amongst the poor, owing largely to the unfavourable conditions under which necessity compels them to live—such as dark, ill-ventilated, and overcrowded houses, and insanitary habits, together with insufficient food and clothing."

This is confirmatory of the previous saying of Dr. Koch, of Berlin, that the chief cause of consumption was to be found in the insanitary houses and workshops of the poor. The Socialist contention that most diseases could be eliminated by the establishment of a juster social order, and that the capitalist system is mainly responsible for sickness and the poverty that follows from sickness, as well as the sickness that follows from poverty, is thus strikingly verified from impartial sources.

Of Typhus Fever Dr. Baillie says, and the admission is remarkable, that—

"This disease is extremely proved to be associated with conditions of privation, poverty, and overcrowding, bad feeding and intemperance."

The disease in question does not claim many victims in Belfast, but it is interesting to notice that this medical gentleman places the responsibility for the disease upon the proper shoulders, those responsible for bad social conditions—a fact to be commended to the notice of those good souls who, when they see their children, parents, sisters or brothers murdered by disease, blasphemously attribute their deaths to the "Will of God." It is not to the Will of God but to the greed of man must such deaths be due.

To those who are acquainted, even upon hearsay, with the conditions in the mills of Belfast, it will be no surprise to learn that the poor are the chief sufferers from consumption, and especially the poor mill-workers. Imagine a spinning-room so hot with a moist heat that all girls and women must work in bare feet, with dress open at breasts and arms bare, hair tied up tight to prevent it irritating the skin, rendered irritable and tender by sweat and heat; imagine the stifling, suffocating atmosphere that in a few months banishes the colour from the cheeks of the rosiest half-timer and reduces all to one common, deadly pallor; imagine all the windows closed in such a place, or only opened for a few minutes when the advent of the Lady (Factory) Inspector is announced, and closed immediately she retires; imagine all the machinery driven at ever-increasing speed in such an inferno, and imagine these poor slaves at meal hours catching up their shawls and rushing out, perhaps amid rain or frost, to snatch up a few badly-cooked mouthfuls of badly-nourishing food and be back in their piteous inside of 45 minutes! Is it any wonder that such people, working amid such conditions, are subject to consumption? The medical authorities

issue long and minute instructions to the people as to how consumptive may be avoided, but the instructions are as a rule utterly valueless to the class most subject to the scourge. Of what use is it to teach people about the evils of overcrowding when their wages will not permit them to secure decent house room? Of what avail a paper telling how to cook and prepare food when they have only 45 minutes to come from the mill, cook a meal, eat it, and return to the mill—the mother being one of the bread-winners or wage-earners of the family? Of what avail insinuating into the worker the necessity of choosing proper food to counteract the tendency to consumption, and so increase the resisting power of the individual, when the wages are so small that only the poorest, easiest cooked, and generally least nutritious foods can be bought? We do not deny the benevolent motives of the good ladies and gentlemen at present crusading against consumption in Ireland, but we consider that the agitator who arouses the people to revolt against the conditions of toil and life for the workers is doing more to end the scourge than all the anti-tuberculosis societies ever dreamed of. Consider, for instance, the life of the sweated home-workers of Belfast, and imagine what poor resisting power their bodily frames must offer to the incursions of the White Plague. We quote again from Dr. Baillie—

"In the last week in December for instance, a woman was observed embroidering small dots on cushion covers; there were 308 dots on each cushion, and for sewing these by hand she received the sum of one penny. She said that for a day's work of that kind she would have difficulty in making sixpence. Nor is this an exceptional case. Quite recently our Inspector was shown handkerchiefs which were to be ornamented by a design in dots; these dots were counted and it was found that the worker had to sew 384 dots for one penny. Comment is needless, other classes of work are as badly paid. The finishing of shirts, which consists of making buttonholes, sewing on buttons, and making small gussets at the wrists and sides of the shirts, may be instanced. In each shirt six or seven buttonholes have to be cut and hand-sewn, and for sewing these by hand she received the sum of one penny. This work is paid at the rate of sixpence for one dozen shirts. Nor is this a cheap class of goods, permitting scamped work. The sewing has to be neat and well-finished, and the buttonholes evenly sewn, the shirts being of a fine quality for which the buying public has to give a good price."

"The making up trades in general pay very poorly, among the various kinds of badly paid work noticed may be mentioned children's pinafores, flannel and braided at 4d. per dozen, women's chemises at 7d. per dozen, women's aprons at 2d. per dozen, men's drawers at 10d. per dozen, men's shirts at 10d. per dozen, blouses at 9d. per dozen, and babies' overalls at 9d. per dozen. From these very low rates of pay must be deducted the time spent in visiting the warehouses for work, the necessary upkeep of the worker's sewing machine, and the price of thread used in sewing, which is almost invariably provided by the worker. . . . One penny per hour is the ordinary rate (of pay) and in many instances it falls below this."

The majority of the poor slaves who work under such conditions and for such pay, as the majority of the mill and factory workers amongst whom consumption claims its most numerous victims are, in Belfast, descendants of the men who "fought for civil and religious liberty at Derry, Antrim and the Boyne." If those poor sweated descendants of Protestant rebels against a king had to day one hundredth part of the spirit of their ancestors in question the re-conquest of Ireland by the working class would be a much easier task than it is likely to prove. At present, despite the fact that the capitalist class sweats Protestant and Catholic alike, crushing all alike, brazing all as in a mortar the memory of old feuds remains with the Protestant and keeps them apart from their Catholic fellow-sufferers, repulsing their overtures of friendship, and delaying the emancipation of both.

But into the minds of the wisest of both sections there is gradually percolating the great truth that our common sufferings provide a common basis of action—an amalgamation to face us all together, and that as we suffer together we shall fight together that we may be free together. Thus out of our toil and moil there arises a new Party—the Party of Labour, to

Tell of the cause of the poor who shrink
 Crushed grapes in the wine press,
 Whilst rich men drink
 And barter the trodden wine
 And pray.
JAMES CONNOLLY (Belfast).

TELEPHONES 1286 AND 597.
PAT KAVANAGH,
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National Sailors' and Firemen's Union.
 (DUBLIN BRANCH.)

THE INSURANCE ACT.
COOKS AND STEWARDS.
 Last week a warning was given to sailors and firemen, and not without warrant. We repeat the warning, that there is no compulsion in sailors and firemen to procure certificates of their birth. The National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain and Ireland will shortly become an approved society under the Insurance Act, and every member of the Union will be entitled to its protection, so that there is no need for members to fear the idle threats of the officers on board ship. Every man, a member of the Union, going to sea will have the assistance of the officials of the Union, inside and outside the walls of Europe, and they can command the services of such officials in any matter relating to the Insurance scheme in which they have any doubt. There is, of course, no need for members to be discourteous to their captains or officers, but simply tell them that the officials of their Union will look after their interests.

We hope to have the necessary forms (perhaps before these lines are in print) to complete all the requirements in connection with the Insurance Act, this week end, and every member should call or write to their respective branches for a form to be filled up by them. Or, for that matter, any office they may go to will give the required information. Members will, therefore, please ask for application forms at every port, but one application form will be sufficient to fill up.

When you have filled up the form you can feel satisfied that the Union will do the rest.

With regard to the cooks and stewards, let us remind them that they will require protection under this Insurance Act, and the only way that they can claim such protection and assistance is by coming up and joining the Union. A worse raid lot of toilers there is not sailing, and if they are men why not join at once the Union that is fighting the battle for every man that has to earn his living at sea. There are men sailing in weekly boats out of the port that are not paid for their labour, still they continue to take what is offered them lying down, although they are not satisfied with their lot.

Some are coming in daily to join, but we wait every man who has his own interest and that of his fellow man at heart to come up and be amongst us. Then the Union will take the necessary steps to safeguard their interest. It must be remembered that without a Union these employers' serfs will continue to remain in the mire, and there is very little use of their waiting and crying to members of the Union whilst they themselves remain outside the walls of the Union.

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