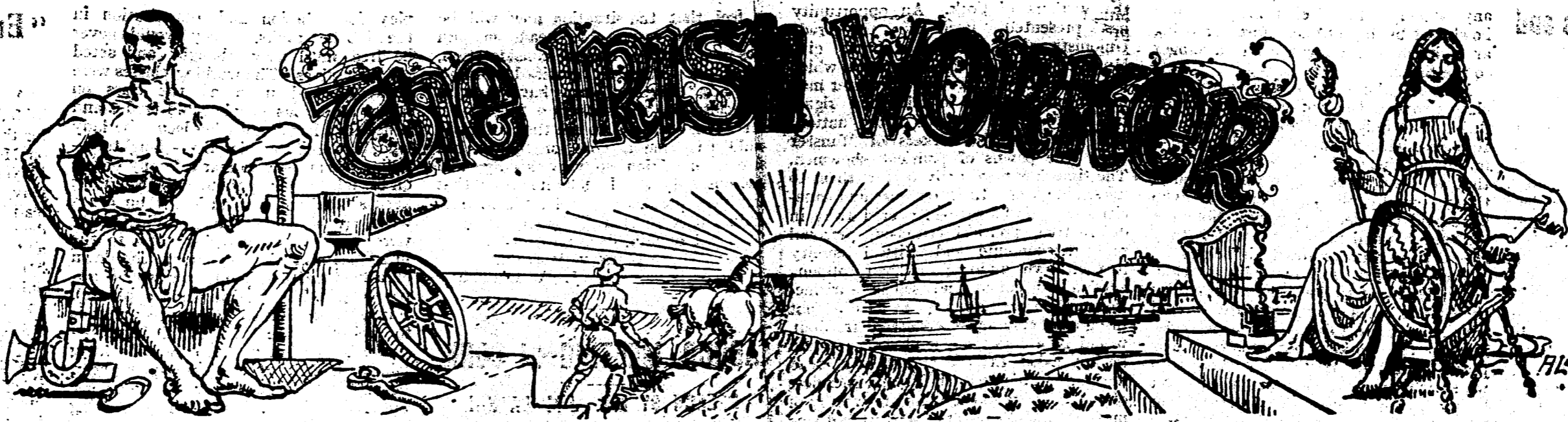


"The principle I stand upon is—that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland."
James Fintan Lalor.



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.

No. 52.—Vol. II.]

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, MAY 17th, 1913.

ONE PENNY.]

The Irish Trades Union Congress.

The twentieth annual Congress of Irish Trade and Labour bodies was opened in Cork on Monday.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Henry O'Shea) in welcoming the delegates to the city by the Lee, paid a tribute to the Labour movement, which he described as the greatest body in the country.

The High Sheriff Councillor (Tilson), Alderman Meade, Messrs. Egan, and P. Lynch, also joined in the welcome.

Mr. Maurice Healy, M.P., thanked the delegates of the Irish Trades Union Congress for the invitation they had given him to be there that day at the opening of these proceedings, and he cordially joined in the expressions of welcome to their city which had fallen from the Lord Mayor and High Sheriff. The Lord Mayor had referred to the fact that the interests represented there that day were not a small body or an insignificant body, and that the combined trades of the United Kingdom had become a great practical force. He thought he might have gone a little further, and said that the combined trades of the United Kingdom were the greatest political force in the land (hear, hear).

Mr. Healy went on to refer to the politicians of the past, whom he said paid to Trade Union principles what was little better than lip service, mouth honour breath, and contrasted the position now with what it was in the past, and declared that the dominating factor in the Councils of the Empire were the combined Trades of the United Kingdom.

Mr. William O'Brien, Tailors (Dublin) was elected Chairman of the Congress, and delivered the following address:—I have great pleasure in presiding at this, the twentieth, Annual Congress of the Trade Unions, and I must express also the great gratification of the delegates at the fact that this Congress has at its meeting place, the historic old Southern Capital, Cork, as anyone versed in the history of the working class of Ireland should know, has been famous for its fights for industrial and agrarian freedom, long before its activities in the fight for National liberty earned for it the name of Rebel Cork. In the eighteenth century the streets of Cork were often stained with the blood and the jails of Cork were often packed with the persons of humble fighters for social freedom. Those unknown, and almost forgotten, martyrs of the poor, who, under the name of Whiteboys, Spaniards, and Caravats, fought and struggled against their local tyrants all during the dark days of the eighteenth century; fought against brutal and relentless greed, and in spite of laws, merciless in their savagery and devilish in their conception, those men were in a very real sense, our forerunners in the field of working class endeavour. Under the sanction of law as we are to-day, with our unions legalised and in possession of certain well-defined rights, we have still to complain of class bias in the administration of those laws by the partisans of the master class upon the Bench. How much more dreadful than must have been the position of those workers in town and country who, in Cork and district, in the eighteenth century, dared to move for more humane conditions? With every law upon the Statute Book frankly denying the human rights of the labourer, and with every bench of magistrates occupied by the very men against whom they were conspiring, without a Press; without a vote; without the right to combine; outlawed and trampled upon as dirt, the lot of these forerunners of ours must have been a lot of black and utter misery. If we to-day are somewhat improved, have won for our class some rights, and secured in the civic and political world some foothold which we can use as leverage to win still greater rights in the future, we owe much of our betterment to the fact that the long-continued battle of our class, here in Cork as elsewhere, has proven to the master class that no amount of persecution, and no laws however cleverly framed, can daunt the spirit nor stem the advance of Labour. The delegates here to-day will be called upon to discuss many subjects, and I cannot but call attention to the fact that the resolutions call for action which will be

with the class hatred shown against us by the magistracy in every recent strike or lock out, all drive home to the workers the same lesson of the need for an effective linking up of all the powers, rights and energies of his class. In conclusion let me say that I trust that the deliberations of this Congress will serve to still further elevate the status of the bodily taking part in it by continuing to set a high standard of debate and conduct. We should never forget that we are here, not to air or exploit our petty aims and ambitions, but to serve as the spokesmen and women of our class. Unworthy, indeed, would be the man or woman who would forget that, or who would make of a great movement a stepping stone to his or her personal ends. We Irish workers now, at this crisis in our country's history, are facing the future with hearts filled with hope and steeled with determination. We see approaching the day of the emancipation of our class, when the toilers, so long ground down and exploited, will arise at last and possess the earth; and when we read of the workers elsewhere, and what they have done and attempted, surely we have a right to resolve that Ireland and the toilers of Ireland will not lag behind in the forward march of Labour. If Ireland has been a veritable Isle of Sorrows, surely the sorrows of the toilers of Ireland must have been agonising, indeed. But at last we see the end of our tribulations; and setting before ourselves no smaller task than the ownership of Ireland by the people of Ireland, as we set our face forward to the battle, can we not say, as was said of Erin in the days of yore, 'brothers, surely this is a land worth fighting for.' (Applause.)

Mr. Larkin proposed that the best thanks of the delegates be extended to one whom he felt sure, Corkmen must be proud of, and whom he felt sure, all felt honoured to have as occupant in that day's chair, Wm. O'Brien, and no one felt more honoured than their humble servant. It would be useless for him to tell them why he put aside the honour of sitting in the chair. He would have been the first labourer who ever sat in the chair. It was not because of the men on the Parliamentary Committee. There was a reason—a little difference of opinion. His colleagues could not see his point of view. There had been no dispute with anybody in Cork. He proceeded to say that there was no man in the country who could excel the man who was sitting in the chair at the present moment. He was one of the most intelligent, best-read, and most consistent Trades Unionists in the country. He always put himself in the background. He (Mr. Larkin) was proud of the comradeship of William O'Brien and to be sitting under his direction that day. They had got a man in the chair who was fit to sit in any Parliament in the world, and he felt exceptionally honoured in that day's chair. It marked an epoch in the onward march of Labour; he concluded by saying that Mr. O'Brien was worthy of his name. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. R. P. O'Carroll, T.C., P.L.G., seconded the resolution, and characterised the address as an inspiring one, and he hoped his advice would be followed in connection with public representation on the various public Boards in Ireland.

CAUTION.

The Pillar House,
31, HENRY ST., DUBLIN,
—THE DEPOT FOR GENUINE—
BARCAINS BY POST.
We do cater for the Working Man.
No fancy prices; honest value only.
Watch, Clock and Jewellery Repairs
A SPECIALITY.

He felt sure that the two Scottish Fraternal Delegates were well worthy of any respect they could show them. He referred to the fact that the previous day they had listened to bad economics and bad oratory, but that evening they would have an intellectual treat. These men were in the forefront of the fight for Trade Unionism—two good Scotchmen—two men of whom any Scotchman might be proud of. He referred to the fact that some of the delegates preferred to go to the banquet, but that was a banquet that though it might not fill their stomachs, would fill some of the empty heads in that room (hear, hear).

Mr. Greig said if they listened to bad economics the previous day they listened to a lot of rot now.

Mr. Larkin—You are a good authority on rot.

Mr. Greig objected to sanction being given to the sending of the Fraternal delegates to Scotland. He proposed that twenty minutes be allocated to the reception of the Scottish Delegates.

Mr. Drummond seconded.

Mr. Daly said that the Parliamentary Committee endorsed his action in sending those greetings to the Scottish Trades Congress. It was done last year and the year before, and he hoped they would do the same next year and the year after, and the year after.

Questioned by Mr. Drummond (Glasgow).

Mr. Daly said he always sent fraternal greetings every year, and he intended doing the same every other year that he was in office.

The Congress endorsed the action of Mr. Daly, and approved of the recommendation of Standing Orders.

Mr. Greig's amendment was declared lost by 59 votes to 11.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR REPRESENTATION.

The Chairman said last year the Congress passed a resolution to secure the independent representation of the working classes on all Public Boards, and in future it was to be included in the objects of Congress. However, no action was taken to give effect to that. It would need certain machinery; but no machinery was submitted or adopted to have it carried out. If they would give effect to the resolution, they would have that machinery. He moved the following—

That in view of the widening of the scope of the Congress, consequent on the adoption of the resolution at last Congress, including amongst its objects the independent representation of Labour upon all Public Boards, the Standing Order to draft a constitution and such alterations in the standing orders as this change renders necessary; and in the meantime, in view of the additional duties imposed upon the Parliamentary Committee, that Standing Order be deleted, and that effect immediately on being passed.

(Continued on Page 2.)

The Value of Trade Unions and Agitators.

BY SHELLBACK.

It is generally supposed that there was somewhere, and in some sort of a way, a something in the nature of a system by which a fair wage was regulated.

They argued that as there was plenty of labour to be obtained at the price, they would be foolish to pay more.

We are of a different opinion, but for ages the worker was so spoiled. They were ignorant and were kept so.

They were entitled to all the high positions, and made all the laws that still are so much respected.

Thanks to the Agitator, that day has long gone past, and surely you know it.

Soon a common level will be reached on which all men will be equal, and all men will have to contribute their share of labour to the common needs.

For all the past years men were content to trust to what was termed the honour of a thiefing ruling class, full of dirty little tricks.

Collective bargaining was unknown, and individuals were made to work for the Church of Rome.

any attempt to alter things he was howled at by both these bodies for being an agitator and a menace and a danger to the State.

For all those ages the employing classes robbed the workers of their just due. Not only did they rob them, but they murdered them by the thousand.

They founded and maintained that Social Evil that to-day is represented by the endless hosts of unfortunate women whose lives are a living death.

For ages this robbery, murder, and violation of the workers went on, without let or hindrance, until at last, in Trade Unionism, a spirit of revolt arose.

Trade Unionism by its sectional fights has won many victories and improved the lot of many thousands.

Freedom, Love, and Humanity.

the workers of Cork. An opportunity has presented itself to the Trade Unionists of the Rebel City to give Munster a lead in the new vista which presents itself to our view.

Councillor A. R. Turner, of Glasgow, states, as one of the Scottish Trade Union Congress fraternal delegates to the Irish Trade Union Congress.

Councillor John Stanger Kelly's speech. Partridge's contentions in defence of the innocent labourers of Dublin are indicated by Dr. Murphy, at the special meeting of the Railway Workers' Union reported in Friday's Press.

ANOTHER REVIEW.

Reviewing the work of Congress now that the battle is over the deepest impression left upon the mind is that the spade work of the forward movement amongst Irish trades unionists is practically over.

J. CONNOLLY.

Rahilly House, Castlegarrah, and May, 1913.

Mr. Jas. Stanford, Sec. I.T.W. Union, Sligo.

DEAR SIR, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your very kind letter, with a vote of thanks to me, which your committee so very thoughtfully and so very kindly passed to me at their last meeting.

I am indeed very grateful for same, and for the very flattering references to any help which I was able to give in bringing the strike to a conclusion.

I feel that the situation now will be met by the responsible heads on both sides in a spirit of mutual consideration.

I remain, dear Sir, Yours very truly, J. A. COOPER.

LABOUR MEETING IN CORK. SPEECH BY MR. JIM LARKIN, TREMENDOUS RECEPTION.

Shortly after eight o'clock on Wednesday evening a meeting was held in the Grand Parade. There was no public notice of the meeting, but the news that Mr. Jim Larkin was to speak attracted a very large attendance.

Mr. Thomas Lawlor, T.C., Dublin, was the next speaker, and appealed for a proper working organisation to look after the workers in Cork.

Mrs. Gordon, Belfast, who was well received, said she was told that there were women in Cork who worked for 4s. a week.

Mr. Wm. Partridge, T.C., Dublin, said that when he first met Jim Larkin he met him as an opponent, whom he believed what papers like the "Examiner" wrote about him.

Mr. Jim Larkin, who was next introduced, had a tremendous reception. He said he was told when coming down there to Cork that he would be made mince-meat of in the streets.

Mr. Jim Larkin, who was next introduced, had a tremendous reception. He said he was told when coming down there to Cork that he would be made mince-meat of in the streets.

The meeting then ended.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Liberty Hall, Boreford Place, Special Performance by the Irish Workers' Dramatic Co., on Sunday May 18th, at 8 o'clock.

Made by Trade Union Bakers. EAT FARRINGTON'S BREAD.

plea for cohesion and organisation in the labour ranks. They would never be free until they thought and acted for themselves.

MR. LARKIN AT QUEENSTOWN.

Last evening at 7 o'clock a meeting was due to be held in Scott's Square by Labour organisers, amongst the speakers at which were to be Messrs. Larkin and Connolly.

In an interview with the Constabulary, our representative learned that that body had made special preparations for a tumultuous evening.

At 8 o'clock, contrary to expectations, and in many cases hopes, the body of Labour organisers put in an appearance.

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"Euchan" in a New Role.

"THE HERD'S WIFE."

A one-act play, named "The Herd's Wife," by A. Patrick Wilson, was produced for the first time in the Glasgow Alhambra on Monday by Graham Moffat's Scottish Players.

The author takes a part in the play, and Mr. Dickson Moffat has the leading role.

The scene of the little drama is laid among the Galloway hills, and a vivid picture is given of a shepherd's home, and of its utter wreck through the unjust jealousy of the old shepherd for his young wife.

We are sure our readers will join with us in wishing "Euchan" every success in his new role as playwright and actor.

At 8 o'clock, contrary to expectations, and in many cases hopes, the body of Labour organisers put in an appearance.



Irish Trades Congress.

Public Meeting

IN BERESFORD PLACE,

On Sunday, May 18th,

At 12.30.

SPEAKERS — Messrs. Jim Larkin (Chairman Irish Trades Congress, Parliamentary Committee); P. T. Daly, James Connolly, Wm. O'Brien, Thos. McPartlin, Councillors W. P. Partridge, Thomas Lawlor, &c.

COUNCILLOR TURNER, the Fraternal Delegate from Scotland.

Workers! Come and hear all about the Congress, and how the Transport Flag was again unfurled in Cork City.

Badges Up.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION, (Head Office - Liberty Hall)

Entrance Fee - 6d. Contributions - 2d. per week. Join now. Call in at the above Office any day between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Don't miss the Sunday evening Social held in Liberty Hall, Small Entrance Fee. All Friends Welcome.

Choir practice will be, as usual, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at 8 p.m.

If a Dancing on Friday evening, at 8 p.m.

All communications for this column to be addressed to— "D.L.", 18 Boreford place.

PROBES 2502.

For First-Class Provisions AT MODERATE PRICES, CALL TO

T. CORCORAN,

Capital T House, 27 North Strand Road.

