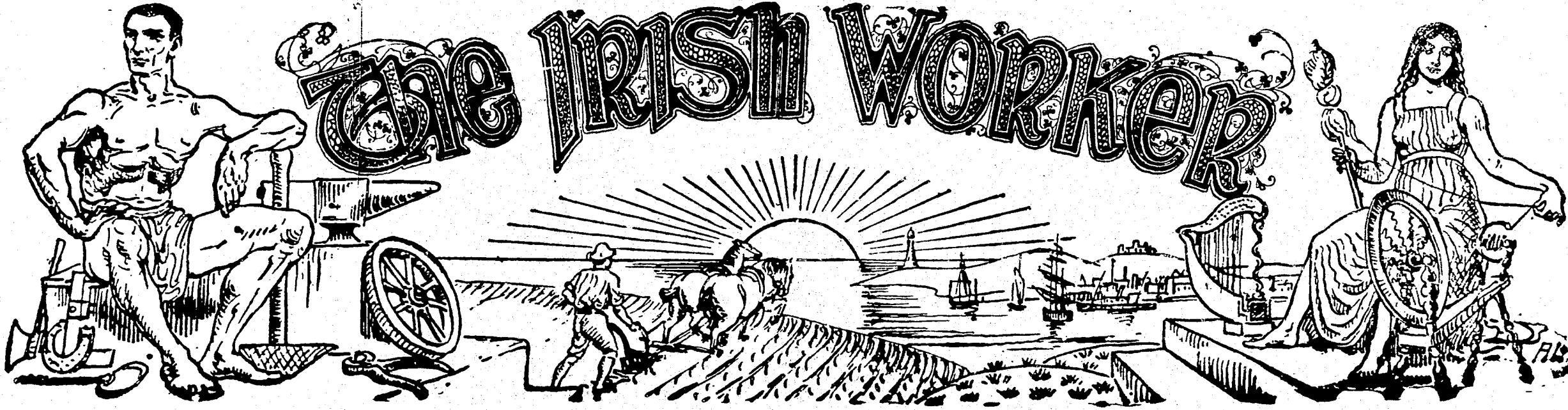


"The principle I state and mean to stand upon is—that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland."

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.

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Edited by JIM LARKIN.

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DUBLIN, SATURDAY, JULY 4th, 1914

ONE PENNY.]

Ignorance Still the Foe.

By "Shellback."

Although I never considered it possible I must confess that Jim Larkin's threat to leave Dublin knocked me, as the saying has it, "all of a heap." I formed some idea of the effect the news would have on the working classes of that much ill-used City, and in imagination I pictured what ought to happen as soon as Irish labour would recover its breath. I fancied I could hear the hum of rousing multitudes preparing to sally forth to every outlet from Dublin with the set purpose of preventing Jim's departure. I could see them actually using violence and bringing him back to Liberty Hall shackled and a prisoner if he persisted in his resolve to go away or refused to be "peacefully persuaded" to return. I am glad that my conjecture was so near the actual happenings, and I am greatly pleased to know that so many of the Dublin working men and women are good Irish people in the main who will stick to Jim to the end. In the midst of it all my fancy has been tickled by the thoughts of what would happen if one of the great "leaders" of British Trades Unionism would risk a threat of resigning. I know of one particular gentleman who would be greatly missed if he proposed to shake the dust of Labour from his shoes, but I don't think he would be greatly sorrowed after. England might be a better place without him, but Dublin without Jim Larkin would be a sorry place indeed. Yet notwithstanding the demonstration of affection that such a large number of Ireland's workers have for Jim, there must still be a multitude unaware of the great work he has done in their behalf as well as in that of the members of his own particular union.

There must still be an immense number of workers who are buried in an opaque mass of ignorance through which no power on earth seems able to penetrate. If it wasn't so, such gutter rags as the "Irish Independent" would soon throw up the sponge, and their lying tongues would be stilled for ever. It is by the peace of the workers that they prosper, and the purpose of their existence is to keep the workers poor. One glance at the current issue of the "Independent" will suffice to show the low value it attaches to its readers' intelligence when it unblushingly prints romantic fairy tales about Jim Larkin and impudently eaves drops them up as "news." Under the heading, "Exit Larkin," they publish the information that we ourselves gave to the whole world a week ago: so, only for the "Daily Herald," this great "newspaper" would have known nothing at all about it. But although they knew nothing at all about Jim Larkin or his intentions, and they were compelled to admit the source of their weak old "news," they could not resist the tendency to act according to their rat-like principles of honour and publish what they knew was a barefaced lie, calculated to shake the confidence of the weak-kneed ones who read its trashy pages in the man who has done more for Ireland and Irishmen than all the pen-scratchers that ever touched their hats to a foreign Viceroy. This bit of low-down hooliganism is the effect that Larkin, having been informed that his presence is not wanted in Great Britain, has decided to stay in Dublin, for some time longer, at any rate.

Will the "Irish Independent" kindly inform its readers where they got this particular and exclusive information from? No such intimation was given to Larkin by any responsible British trade-unionist. On the contrary, there are many organisations that would heartily welcome Jim if he could be prevailed upon to leave Dublin and come across the Channel. But the "Independent" is a famous liar, and the man in the street can satisfy himself upon that point if he will read the "Independent's" own "yarn" upon the subject of Jim Larkin contained in one of the paragraphs under "Topics of the Week."

Every working man and woman in Dublin knows that Jim withdrew his resignation at the earnest request of the members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, who know him and his worth best of all. Still a few of them already possessing this

knowledge will, I have no doubt, read the yarn I have referred to, and because it is published in a rag calling itself the "Irish Independent" will believe it possesses some measure of truth and will not attempt to resent it. They cannot see the purpose of that lie, and they cannot realise to what depths that paper and those it represents would go in furtherance of their desire to drive Jim out of Dublin. They accept all it says as news even when they knew all the facts of the case themselves, and when they also knew that the only people in Dublin who were not permitted to know anything at all in regard to this matter are the very men who compiled this alleged editorial opinion upon it.

The "Irish Independent" is the newspaper that defended and spoke for the employers in the late lock-out. It was up against Jim Larkin and the Transport Union. It opposed the claim of Dublin workers to a wage not near so good as that paid in other countries for the same class of work, and it opposed that claim in the interest of men who were rolling in riches, the purloined results of the labour of Dublin Irishmen and women, many of whom have ended their lives in the workhouse or the lunatic asylum, if they had not been untimely killed, by the horrible conditions under which they had to labour or the beastly slum dog-holes that they were forced to dwell in—to say nothing of the thousands who had to become voluntary exiles in order to obtain bread enough to keep the breath in their bodies, or because they were too manly to continue spending their lives for the benefit of heartless, grasping Shylocks. It opposed the Transport Union in the interest of the employers, because the Union was out to improve the lot of the poor, and even when a Judicial Commission pronounced the men's case right, Jim Larkin was, and still is, the centralised power of that Union. He stands, and always stood, for better wages for the workers, better conditions for them to labour under, better houses for them to live in, and a fairer share of sunlight in their daily lives.

Jim Larkin was backed up by all the best workmen, the greater part of the working-women and all the helpless and absolutely poor of Dublin. All Dublin knows this is true; all the workers in Great Britain know this is true. Yet some of our people have been lured from their faith in him by the lies circulated by capitalistic newspapers that had mesmerised them with the promise of something akin to heavenly bliss under Home Rule. Full soon they will discover how barren that promise will prove; full soon it will be borne in upon them that there is really very little difference in the Redmond rule to that advocated by Carson, or even Murphy. None of these rulers will do any fighting for the objects they each claim to have so much at heart. They will "bid the rest keep fighting," and they will wait to fatten on the remnants. Not so with Jim Larkin.

He will not "fly full soon in the month of June," neither will he bid the rest "keep fighting" if he is not there to share in the battles. Workers, don't put any store in the slave-drivers' hypocritical tears of sympathy for the poor deluded workers. Don't believe him when he professes through his newspapers that he is sorry for the sufferings of the people who are bearing his chains. And don't forget that newspapers, like the "Irish Independent," are things that no Irishman should buy.

[Our comrade "Shellback" will be pleased to know that within one hour of Jim Larkin's resignation being published in London, a wire was received from a British Union asking Jim to go over and take charge of a Union in London.]

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Dublin Trades Council.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Dublin Trades Council was held on Monday, the 29th ult., Mr. William O'Brien, President, in the chair.

Correspondence was submitted from the Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association, Dublin Women Polishers' Society, United Builders' Labourers' Union, Woodworkers Machinists' Societies, Incorporated Brick and Stonelayers' Society and His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

During a discussion arising out of the letter from the Builders' Labourers' Union. Mr. Larkin gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the Council a motion to the effect that the aforesaid Union be no longer affiliated to the Council. Mr. Larkin in giving notice denounced the action of certain officials of that Union, towards members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, and said it was a new position in Trades unionism to find members of an alleged Trade union consorting and conspiring with representatives of the Masters' Society.

A discussion also took place on the letter from the Brick and Stonelayers' union, containing allegations of black-legging against members of the Stonemasons' union, at Queenstown, and it was agreed on Mr. Larkin's suggestion, that representatives of both societies should meet and settle their dispute.

DEPUTATION TO WORKSHOPS' COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Foran and Simmons representing the deputation sent by the Council to the Dublin Corporation Workshops Committee in reference to the importation of wood-paving, reported that their mission had been fruitless.

Mr. Paisley (Sawyers) thought that the deputation should be sent to the Paving Committee, but the Chairman was of opinion that the Supplies' Committee was the proper quarter.

On Mr. Larkin inquiring as to who constituted the Workshops' Committee, he was informed that amongst its members were Councillors Crozier, P. Mahon and John S. Kelly (laughter).

Mr. A. Murphy (Tailors) said that this Committee had merited their strongest condemnation.

KINGSTOWN BOGUS UNION.

Mr. Larkin said that while these scab Unions were frequently springing into existence they soon went back to that inglorious obscurity from which they arose. At last the hidden enemies of Trades Unionism in Dublin were coming out into the open. Men who had worn the black habit were now throwing it off and donning the yellow coat in its place. But in the end this setting up of yellow unions would be good for the Greater Unions. The parish priest no doubt had great powers, but the significant thing in this case was the discourteous letter they had received from Archbishop Walsh. On many occasions when the Council had written letters to his Grace about things that scarcely mattered he had treated them with the utmost consideration, but now when they approached him on a most important matter he treated them with scant courtesy. This was a question that affected the very class who helped to build the churches for the worker, had always contributed their quota to the upkeep of the clergy. Archbishop Walsh now told them that he could not go outside the province to interfere with the liberties of free labourers, and that men should be allowed to join whatever union they chose. He (Mr. Larkin) wished to have it known that no members of the Transport Union, either lapsed or otherwise, had sought admission to the new scab union. This black-leg organisation was founded by a combination of the employers and the Ancient Order of Hibernians with the help and advice of the Rev. Father Flavin. One of the Kingstown bosses, McCormack, had laid it down as part of the bargain with Father Flavin that every man seeking employment from him would have to produce a membership card of the scab union. This thing would have to end or it would soon spread from the unskilled to the so-called skilled trades, and it was for the Council to rise to the occasion. They should speak out in the interest of their class. He (Mr. Larkin) had the greatest respect for the Archbishop and his priests in their own sphere, but when they cast

off their coats and become blackleg organisers he would tell the public that such men are the worst enemies of the working class, and by such action are doing more to injure Ireland's cause than all the Carson intrigue. He would accordingly propose the following resolution:—

"That this Trades and Labour Council place on record its condemnation of the attitude of certain priests in Kingstown and vicinity in fomenting discord, and attempting to organise yellow or blackleg unions, and conspiring with the employers in lowering wages and conditions of the workers, and regrets that Archbishop Walsh refused the common courtesy of receiving the accredited delegation of the workers in the county and city of Dublin."

Councillor O'Carroll (Bricklayers) in seconding the motion, said it was a deplorable thing that the clergy should join hands with the bosses in the latter's interests. The priests might be better employed in attending to the degraded conditions that prevail in parts of this city.

The Chairman said that the people were prepared to discriminate between the clergy as churchmen and as politicians.

The resolution was adopted unanimously, copies to be forwarded to Archbishop Walsh, the public Press, and the principal Irish Trade Unions, Trades Councils, members of the Labour Party.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

Mr. Larkin referred to his recent criticisms of the proposed deputation to London on the Housing Question, and said he had been strengthened in those criticisms by events during the past few weeks. Mr. E. A. Aston was busy devising schemes in connection with this problem that were illegal and financially unsound. Commenting on the coming "Civic Exhibition" to be held in Dublin, he believed it had been engineered for the purpose of bringing coppers to the coffers of Murphy's Tram Company and of lauding Lady Aberdeen and Selfridge, who was one of the greatest sweaters that ever existed, and others of his type, who were brought over to teach the poor Irish gulls how to fly. He thought the Civic Housing League was making use of the Council for their own purposes, because the Council had no clear policy. He denounced the Dublin Corporation as a corrupt body the very atmosphere of which was fetid. Men like Reilly, Crozier and Corrigan, jobbers and owners of slum property, were getting up and saying that there was nothing wrong in the city and that the people wanted to live just as they are. He (Mr. Larkin) believed that the solution of this slum question would be effected by the people being brought out from the city area and accommodated with houses in the suburban districts. Houses were being erected by the Corporation that were a gross imposition and meant to defeat the solution of the problem altogether. No wonder, then, that immoral conditions prevailed in the city. If the facts were known about Dublin the whole world would be horrified. As an example, the Cook St. area was a sore on the body politic, and the horrors of that neighbourhood were beyond the imagination of Dante or Upton Sinclair. There was virgin soil within the city that should be built on because of the great possibilities it presented. Slum houses, of course, paid the jobbers better than any other class of property. He could tell of a case where a woman had paid enough money in rent to buy out four such houses as she existed in for thirty years, but was evicted in the end. This question would have to be made a real live question, because the corporation of Dublin were only screening the malefactors and evading the proper solution of a grave problem.

Councillor O'Carroll agreed with Mr. Larkin to some extent, but thought that if the workers must stop in the city, larger dwellings should be provided for them. Councillor Partridge thought that too much consideration was being had for small shopkeepers. The Local Government Board, too, was responsible for a lot of delay in the various schemes and was screening much of the corruption that was going on.

Mr. McPartlin (Carpenters) thought that the idea of building in the suburbs would be successful. The tenement system in the city was productive of wasters and criminals.

Mr. Larkin, speaking of the block system, said it had been universally condemned. This system was responsible for a great deal of the intemperance, low wages and evil conditions that they found in their midst. He mentioned Marino as a suitable site for building in the direction required and said that the Transport Union, if given a chance, was prepared to erect houses for its own members. Self contained cottages for workers must be their ultimate aim. He would therefore move:—

"That this Trades Council condemn the present schemes of housing now being inquired into before the Inspector of the Local Government Board on the grounds that each and all of these schemes, except Fairbrothers, Field, and the McCaffery estate, were put forward by interested parties; that they are financially unsound, and are a deliberate attempt to perpetuate the present horror of slumdom. We demand that the Corporation should take over their own estate in Marino, and build houses for the workers at not more than 1s. per room."

Mr. Cullodon (Carpenters) seconded the motion which, after further discussion, was adopted.

JUVENILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Messrs. T. Murphy, M. J. O'Lehane, and T. Foran, P.L.G., were elected delegates to the Juvenile Advisory Committee.

TRADES UNION BOYS' BRIGADE.

Mr. J. Lawlor pointed out the desirability of having a brigade established wherein the sons of the workers might be properly educated in the principles of Trades Unionism. The young boys of to-day were the men of the future, and so the suggestion should be seriously considered.

Mr. T. Murphy (Carpet Planners) said that the sons of Trade Unionists were to be found congregating in clubs of an anti-Labour type. Some scheme should be propounded to stop this. He proposed that a committee of five be appointed to deal with the question.

Mr. Larkin, in seconding, thought that a meeting of the boys themselves should be convened at the outset. They must have the boys with them at the beginning in order to have them linked up with the Labour Movement.

The proposal was adopted, Messrs. Lawlor, Larkin, Murphy and Verdon to constitute the desired committee.

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An Open Letter to Two Trinity College Students, of Divinity or Otherwise. My Dear Young Fellows, As a working man it has been my duty and high privilege to assist in producing the wealth which has enabled your revered parents to place you and maintain you in the cultured and dignified environment of T.C.D., which has been the means of placing you in the exalted position in which you found yourself recently. It is a position in which some working people frequently find themselves for less reasons, and it is a matter of congratulation to them to find (in one or two instances at least) that their labour and privations have not been in vain. Our money (in other hands) has succeeded in bringing you two "divine" students into closer touch with the people upon whom your future incomes depend. If there were no people in that position there would be no job for you. The T.C.D. Divinity class is to be congratulated on the latest experiment in Divinity examinations. However, you, I fear, cannot be congratulated on your success in the same degree. You did not succeed in getting the "honours" you so well deserved, but had to be satisfied with a mere "pass." The fees were, I understand, £5 in one case and £4 in the other (with £1 extra in the latter for damage to materials). Most students, when they have failed to get "honours," especially in "viva voce" examinations, as in the present instance, put the blame on the examiner on the grounds of some petty personal prejudice. You were sportsmen enough not to do so, and so upheld the dignity of your position in the face of injustice. Your examiner, no doubt, considered your future career with a jealous care, and being possibly wiser than you would have wished, considered that by giving you "honours" you would have been unfitted to become mere curates, and there were no bishoprics open at the time. No doubt also he had some thought for the working people, some of who would have lost such able spiritual guides as your two selves. Had he given you the "honours" to which every one well knew you were justly entitled, and which every one knew equally well you would not get, no doubt you would have become less fitted for the spiritual life of a parson than you now are. Dear me money is a good thing after all. Just think what £5 did for you. It saved you from "honours," and gave you to the "people" as a spiritual guide in "holy orders." Still it has been written, "money is the root of all evil," and "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." But surely money that can get a man through his "viva voce" without hard labour, or return for trial even, after the full qualification of "laying of hands," &c., and enable him to spiritually guide his sinning brothers and sisters, must be a good thing. In so much must I as a working man congratulate you two young fellows. You were an ornament to the dock. May you be so in the pulpit, and may your prayers be as useful to others as your lives have been useless. Yours in a bit. HONORABLE MURPHY





