

• IRISH OPINION •

# The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. VOL. I, No. 28.

JUNE 8, 1918.

ONE PENNY.

Cork  
Strike.

Trades Council  
Reform.

Women's  
Day.

## DEEMED TO BE AN ENGLISH SOLDIER.

G. GAVAN DUFFY'S NEW BOOK EXPLAINS THE CONSCRIPT'S POSITION.

(As Passed by Censor.)

England's Blood Tax method is beautifully simple. By Act of Parliament, as extended to Ireland by the irresponsible body known as the Privy Council, every male in Ireland between 18 and 51, not being an alien of neutral origin, a colonial, or a clergyman, will be "deemed"

- (1) to have assented to being enrolled in the army;
- (2) to have been cautioned by a Justice of Peace or authorised officer;
- (3) to have answered the statutory series of questions (as to one's residence in jails, etc.);
- (4) to have signed a declaration that all the answers are true;
- (5) to have taken the military oath to bear true allegiance to George, his heirs and successors.

So simple! All the trouble with cranks who would regard the statement of their sobriety as a reflection on their character and appetites is obviated. People like the Mayor of Limerick who object to take the oath of allegiance have all their scruples overcome. They are "deemed" to be enlisted, and, further, to have been passed into the army reserve.

Many people will be quite indifferent to these proceedings. Last Monday in a wire to George Windsor, Lord French deemed the Irish people to be loyal and fervent in congratulating George on his birthday, and George played the game in deeming John D. P. French Viscount of Ypres, etc., to be the spokesman of "My Irish People."

"Deeming" is only the beginning of the game. The recorded resolution of the Irish people to deny the right of any British Government to enforce a blood tax will be tested when the calling up notices are issued either by general proclamation or by individual summons.

Mr. Gavan Duffy, in his booklet, "The Groundwork of Conscription," makes clear in simple but exact terms the position of the Irishman of military age. As a reservist he

is liable, if he fails to report himself to the military authorities, to arrest, by any police constable, "officer, soldier, or other person," on the suspicion of being a deserter. He may be taken forthwith before a court of summary jurisdiction. On the prisoner is placed the onus of proving he is not amenable to the Military Service Acts and the Army code. If he cannot prove himself to be an "excepted" person he will be handed over to the military with or without the imposition of a fine or a sentence of imprisonment.

After that, he is indisputably, in the eyes of the law, a soldier, and for his future offences will be tried by courts-martial. Mr. Duffy details the rights and privileges of military prisoners, and we hope that no one will fall into the hands of the Army authorities without having mastered this text book of military law. Every parochial committee in the country should make certain that each member is in possession of a copy to enable him to advise and guide prisoners and their friends. Lewes and Frongoch men know the practical value of a knowledge of military law.

Mr. Duffy's text-book, issued at 6d. (post free 7d.), is a marvel of compression. We ask our readers, particularly trade union officials, to study the book and to undertake its circulation. It will be equally useful to residents in Great Britain, for on one subject of interest to a large number of our readers the actual position, continually clouded by the tricks of ministers and politicians, of Irishmen temporarily resident in Great Britain is made plain.

**Any male British subject, between the ages of 18 and 51, who has been in Great Britain since the 14th of August, 1915, or who goes to Great Britain after the 15th of April, 1918, is, or becomes, immediately liable for service under the Military Service Act.**

Promises have been made by several British Ministers that until the Military Service Act is applied to Ireland the position of Irishmen temporarily resident in Britain on work of National Importance will remain as it was before the

(Continued on page 290.)

IRISH OPINION.

The  
**VOICE OF LABOUR**

Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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## THE OLD ADAM IN "THE NEW AGE."

(As Passed by Censor.)

Resuming its dialectical offensive against Ireland, the "New Age" continues its strictures on the writers who claim for the people of Ireland the exercise of their present choice and at the same time maintain the claim to do so under historical necessity. To claim both is, to the "New Age," to be at once intellectually inconsistent and dishonest. To the charge we plead not guilty with a light heart. As it was in this journal the claim of stern historical necessity was made, we will let our annoyance wait on politeness and repeat for the "New Age" what we have already said on this head. We do so the more willingly because, as we foresaw, Ireland can put up no case against conscription without making out the case for national self-determination. Stern historical necessity, our readers, if not our opponent, will remember, was a British minister's justification for imposing conscription upon Ireland. In reply we said, and we now repeat, that from our point of view the phrase but clothes in words the argument of self-determination. Present choice is with the Irish, as with the Poles and the Finns, a historic necessity, and it is stern indeed. It is so because if we are denied self-determination we go out of the world for all time, and not only out of the world, but out of history, losing our own historic nationality and failing to be absorbed into any other. If our destiny is left to the determination of England we shall lose our all, if it is left to the present choice of the Irish people we shall at least have left to us the exercise of our national will. For our part we ask no more, we shall accept no less. It is, therefore, neither dishonest nor inconsistent to claim that self-determination is historically necessary to the continuance in organic life of the Irish nation. The self-determination we demand is the same we would freely and gladly extend to Belgium and to Serbia, as well as to Tcheco-Slovaks, Poles and Ukrainians. To deny it to Ireland is to deny it to all.

To those to whom English claims are everything and Irish claims nothing we have put the question: Are we to retort

that to the Irish people English claims are nothing, Irish claims everything? It seems to us this is the answer the "New Age" deserves when it accuses the "Voice of Labour" of dishonesty and inconsistency. Agreed that nations have no more absolute right than individuals to do as they please without regard to their neighbours, but in equity their neighbours have not this absolute right either, although England exercises it in fact in Ireland. The "New Age" wants England to be free to hold Ireland in bond, and in the same breath advises the slave to make friends with the slave-owner. This is not the status the "New Age" claims for the worker. Ireland does not ask to do as she pleases with England or France or Germany, or any other of her neighbours, but her right to do with herself as she pleases is just the right England, and by their silence the Allies, deny her. That right is the right of self-determination, and its legitimate limits are not the limits imposed upon Ireland by Mr. Lloyd George, General Smuts and Lord French. Nor are the latter the limits England would like Germany to impose upon Belgium or Holland. Neither England nor the "New Age" has given earnest of imposing on Irish self-determination no other limits than both would impose upon other nationalities in Europe! Is there any reason except England's will why Ireland should receive less than her sisters in subjection?

To bring Ireland out of the British Empire would be, says the "New Age," to admit the right of complete separation; but to us the horrible thought has indeed no terrors. Separation, it is argued against us, would be neither possible nor desirable. We do not agree. That it is eminently desirable, as much in the interest of Europe, say, and of the English themselves, as of Ireland, we are firmly convinced. If we were not, the majority of the people are, and more than they, we hope, will see the light before long. That the separation of Ireland from England without England's consent is possible and in splendid isolation would be secure, are questions of the future, and we are, alas! no prophets. Indeed were we to cite half a million of Irishmen as one guarantee of Ireland's security we should be accused of having the plans of a rebel army in our pocket, an accusation which, we regret to say, would be untrue and would place us beyond reach of the shafts of the "New Age." But when and by whom has it been claimed that Ireland desires, or would desire, isolation more splendid and complete than Holland's or Switzerland's, or that it would be more secure? Certainly nobody in Ireland, and most certainly not the "Voice of Labour." Nor have we ever said (and it is our turn now to make the charge of intellectual dishonesty) that the votes of the neutrals or of the Peace Conference would be against England and in favour of Ireland, for, again, we are no prophets. It is not, however, the votes of the neutrals or of the belligerents, but the votes of England, the champion of small nationalities, that are keeping Ireland in bond, and the "New Age" is unwilling to move one or the other. It may

be that separation would be impossible without England's consent, and that the world would turn Ireland down. We are not so optimistic of England's chances as the "New Age" is, and we have more faith in the world. In any event, is England's consent essential to our case in strict justice and logic, or is it only England's interest that is in question? Ireland is agreeable to submit the question to a world jury, but the "New Age" would have England be judge and jury and defendant in the court in which Ireland indicts her. It is the Balfour touch, as it was when Ireland's case for America was ordered to be submitted to Ireland's gaoler. Mr. Orage is nearly as polished as Pretty Fanny.

Our withers are unwrung even when the "New Age" is staggered at the blindness of Ireland and her alleged indifference to a Prussian or an Allied victory. If the "New Age" will believe us, Ireland is neither blind nor indifferent. But if as the "New Age" allows, Ireland's preoccupation with herself is forced upon her, not indeed by circumstances but by England; is that not the case with all submerged sovereignties? Ireland has no burning desire to badger England, nor is she indifferent to the liberty of the rest of the world any more than to her own. She does, indeed, believe more firmly, if perhaps wrongly, in the world's sense of justice and right than England seems to believe. She has never ceased to work and fight for liberty, national, political, economic, and social, whether on the Continent of Europe or in America, in Africa or Australia, in England itself. How can the teacher or the parent rear free men when he himself is a serf? It is not Ireland that keeps herself out of the world; it is not Ireland that deprives England or any neighbour of her rights; it is not Ireland that fears liberty or is unwilling to fight for it or is indifferent to freedom at home, or in the rest of the world.

### THE FRAME-UP CASE.

The Socialist Party of Ireland at its last meeting welcomed Comrade Mooney, of San Francisco, who is visiting Ireland in the interests of his brother, Thos. J. Mooney, now under sentence of death in California despite the efforts of President Wilson to obtain a new trial for him and those who were accused with him of participating in a bomb outrage, proven to be faked by the police. A full account of the case appeared in the London "Herald" of 1st inst. The S.P.I. wired the Governor of California urging him to allow a new trial, and notified the Secretary of the International Release Committee that it had done so.

### London and Ireland.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, the energetic organiser of the London Labour Party, has forwarded to the Labour Representatives on the Mansion House Conference an intimation that the Party, which has an aggregate membership of 220,000, has adopted a resolution condemning conscription for Ireland. As the pro-war element is strong in London labour, the adoption of the resolution is strikingly significant of the London workers' opinion of the Muddler on Top.

# NOTES OF THE WEEK.

## Women's Day.

The women of Ireland, on Sunday next, the Feast of St. Columille, are to pledge themselves against job-snatching! They give notice to all whom it may concern that they will refuse to do the work of any man who is conscripted for the army or who is dismissed from his employment with the object of forcing him by threat of starvation to become a British soldier.

We have already stated that the more immediate danger now confronting the workers of this country is a campaign whose objective is to wear down resistance to conscription in the towns by enforced unemployment. To a man walking the streets seeking work which is denied him the appeal to enlist grows enticing. Food, at least, in plenty is assured, clothing and shelter, too, are free, and to a man with dependents monetary allowances are offered sufficient to keep the wolf from the door of those he has vowed to cherish and protect. And so a double appeal will be made to employers of labour, first, to "do their bit" to preserve the Empire by "releasing" men for service in the army; second, to save something on the wages bill by employing women as substitutes for the men who are to "join up"! But the women are not to be caught. They refuse to play the grabber, the blackleg, or the scab! And they give notice beforehand to the employers and the Government that they will not assist the conscription by hunger campaign much less the bold military conscription now in suspense for a few weeks. All honour to the women. With their help conscription will be defeated.

## Younger Men First.

As we go to press Lord French's further proclamation is issued. The Governor-General calls for 50,000 Irish recruits before October, and from 2,000 to 3,000 a month afterwards. We do not believe he believes he will get the men he wants and nobody else believes it either. But all the methods known to unscrupulous imperialism will be used to bring about a monthly toll of alleged volunteers. As anticipated, Lord French has bluntly declared his intention of dividing and conquering. He shall do neither the one or the other.

We are not going to discourage or hamper voluntary recruiting. He who wants to go out is entitled to his choice. But the recruitment and the choice must be absolutely voluntary. In other words, we warn all whom it concerns that Labour will tolerate no conscription by starvation. Where employers "release" workers against the will of those workers Labour will fight those employers to the bitter end. It is each for all and all for each. The industrial weapon of the Irish working class is sharp and keen, and we promise that it will be well and skilfully used.

Lord French says he does not want to interfere with the agricultural interests of the country. So well he may, since

he needs our food. But the agricultural labourers have rejected his exemption in advance, and will stand in for better or for worse with the men of the towns. The class that gave us a James Connolly will not fail Labour and Ireland in the hour of need. Lord French has demanded that the young men go first, the flower of our manhood between 18 and 27. We are within the chosen group, but we shall neither go nor be fetched. The men of Ireland have pledged themselves to stand together, and they will fall together before one section allows itself to be compelled to conscript another. All these divisions were anticipated and are provided against. Married men, old men, countrymen, all have thrown in their lot with their unmarried brethren, the young men of the towns and the country. They will hang together lest they be hanged separately.

Ireland will not have conscription either by military round up or economic pressure, and he is living in a worse than fool's paradise who believes that by dividing up he can re-conquer Ireland. The gage is down and will be taken up. Whither goest thou, young man?

## Conscription by Concentration.

The threat to proclaim martial law in the counties of Tipperary, Galway, and Limerick is directly in accordance with the Government's decision to divide the country into military areas and then carry out conscript "drives" in one such area after another. It is well that the people should be thus sharply reminded that conscription is just as real a menace to-day as it was before Mr. Shortt attempted to lull them asleep by his reference to voluntary recruiting in the Plot Proclamation. At the same time we again warn the workers that conscription by direct seizure will be preceded by conscription by economic pressure, and the burden of this particular round of the struggle will fall upon organised Labour. Labour, we are glad to see, is preparing for this, and already many unions have made it clear that where employers "release" men of military age all the workers in that employment will down tools and fight the employer as they would in an ordinary industrial dispute. Labour's order to its adherents is "No attestation, no registration, no exemptions sought or accepted." Unions and workers who have not taken this step are advised to delay no longer. An injury to one is the concern of all, and Irish Labour is going to enforce its interpretation of this principle more drastically now than at any time in its more peaceful past.

## Overhauling the Machine.

We shall continue this week the remarks made in our last issue on the August Congress.

We have said that the machinery of the Irish Trades Congress and Labour Party must be brought up to date and into conformity with the rapid development of the movement. The movement

has outgrown its present machinery and the sooner it scraps the old machine and replaces it with something new and adaptable to the present circumstances the sooner will Labour be able to exercise all its power effectively. The movement, therefore, should set before itself the creation at the Waterford Congress of the new machinery suited to its needs and fitted for its work. We suggest that within the next fortnight the unions, or at least those members of the unions who are doing any thinking, should consider in what directions improvement is needed and how the machine can be moulded to Labour's purpose. For all these plans for the future, or rather the principles upon which these plans are built, must be in the hands of the secretary of the National Executive before the 23rd of this month. Here now is an opportunity for everybody who is burning to re-shape the machinery of Labour, and we hope the opportunity will be availed of.

## More Restrictions.

On and after June 24th newspapers will not be permitted to accept returns of unsold copies from the trade. This involves the unsettlement of all previously existing practices in the book and newspaper trade, and much loss and inconvenience will be caused to newspaper publishers, wholesale houses and newsagents before the public become accustomed to the working of the new system.

As every unsold paper will mean a complete loss to newsagents, they will no longer order quantities of papers on the mere chance of selling them. They can no longer cater for the casual buyer.

Newspaper readers must make up their minds what papers they require and place their orders with newsagents in advance. Many newsagents who have hitherto stocked the "Voice of Labour" in order to promote its circulation may be compelled to reduce their orders to the exact number for which they have known customers.

Our friends must, therefore, cease to rely on being able to obtain this paper casually. They must place orders definitely and for a stated period—for a month, three months, or longer.

In remoter districts it might be advisable for readers to subscribe direct to the office. Rates of subscription will be found on the second page. Up to date, the "Voice of Labour" has been permitted to circulate in U.S. and other foreign countries. As private individuals are not permitted to send newspapers abroad, we shall be glad to receive subscriptions at special foreign rates, and despatch the "Voice" weekly.

## FRONGOCH STUDIOS

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# LABOUR IN IRELAND.

## FEISEANNA.

Tá ainmín na bpeireann buailte linn aísir. agus tá as eirge so seal leo do réir saé tuairpse. Ac ní-anp na páipéirí nuácta a bíor na tuairpse le páil agann. Inp an "b'áinne" péin níl ac cúpla líne um péir loé scapmain: "O'eirge so b'eaé. le péir loé scapmain i rop mic t'múin tar éir a maib de mótib as cup ar dóib." Sin an méio. Cao atá ar ár dtuairpseoirí saolaáca tá a n-áighe san fuinneam san páp oo péir deallmáin. Bíonn ábair maéctnam so plúirpeac acu. bíonn tosa neite le píomáú acu, agus an aipeirge ppíomáú atá imearps na n'saelig-eoirí. Na díaró pin ar uile panann piac neam-áipeac leirpíúil.

## Eirge na Linne Seo.

Do-éualar il-réala um péir loé scapmain, 1918. Do buairó pí ar a maib de feirpeanna pa sceanntar amam ioiné pin. So deimín bí an iomáú feirpeann i rop mic t'reoin le linn eirge. O'éir na péir puiblí b' feirpeanna pá leit inp na t'igéte ópta, gl. Rinnead an-t'ráct ar ceirpeanna móra intleáctaáca i scuro acu. Da móir mar curpead píor ar feallpáimáct i oisig áirite. Bí scán scotur eirgea agus Dunp scotur agus raicte r'golap'oa (Scholarship) eile ar ábair na díorppíre-éacta. Da b'eaé mar mínis séamur— an r'geal ná luéct éirte. Bíonn séamur na cómhúil i mbairte áca cliaé. Ceap oisí agus piopaóóirí agus luéct raótar an oíce úo sur móir an t'ruaé san ó a beir na éreoirí intleácta acu tíor i loé scapmain de píor.

## Doirbhneas na n'Saedheal.

An Doimnac po caicte bí péir ar puibál r' scaéair lumnié. Ip corúil so maib-r co haerac intleáctaáca agus oo bí péir loé scapmain: an r'ppio éaona le n-áirú le linn na scómórtairí, an r'ult agus an incinn éaona le móú inp na t'igéte ópta, gl. Na díaró pin. An Doimnac po éúgáinn béir péir éille manntáin pá lán-t'reoil. agus tá a lán feirpeann eile le teact. níl ainp na so mbéir na pluaigte as spinn-feiteam doimur le n-a linn.

## Mór-shaoctair le teacht.

Ábair ácair, ábair áille, ábair áro-maéctnam an r'geal ar paó. nac móir an páillí san a b'p' agus a b'eaéact a cup i n-úil oo na pluaigte ar puo na póola? Tá píor-tuairpseoirí as teapáil uainn so géar: ooiné léir-t'ingreáca, ooiné glé-intleáctaáca, ooiné an léarpuir— ipaé a' amuis. Ip móir an raótar atá píompa: áro-beaáca ip píor-meácta na héirpeann oo noctú úáinn ó loé so loé, agus ó feactain so feactain, agus ó bliam so bliam.

L. P. O'R.

26.5.18.

D. Mullen.—Please repeat present address.

## Phibsboro'.

Might we suggest to the Co-operative Committee that a few open-air propaganda meetings should be held throughout the district?

## SHOP ASSISTANTS FINE STAND.

### Big Fight at Cork.

Last February the shop and office workers employed by Messrs. Guy and Co., stationers, Patrick St.; Cork, were successful in obtaining certain small increases of salary through organised effort; but not for the first time in the history of Trades Unionism the employer immediately after the settlement took back from the worker with one hand what he had been forced to give with the other.

In this particular instance it took the form of deducting wages for absence from work through illness, a thing unknown before in the history of the House, so far as the counter and clerical staffs were concerned.

What this actually meant will be more easily seen when it is pointed out that in many cases it represented more lost through a day's illness than had been gained as an advance of wages. Realising that the little they had succeeded in wringing from Messrs. Guy and Co. was to be filched from them, the staff at once communicated the facts to their organiser, Mr. E. Owens, of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, who, after some little time, interviewed the firm on the matter. At this interview the firm pointed out that it was their intention to place their staff on "a factory footing," hence the stoppages. Needless to say, such a position was at once accepted, but it was made clear to the firm that it would have to be a true factory footing, and not one to leave them with all the plums. Asked what that would be they were informed that it would necessitate the usual trade union conditions, with a 25 per cent. advance upon present wages.

This the firm flatly refused to consider. From that moment things moved rapidly forward. Messrs. Guy refused to see the Union's representative again, and for practically a week the Very Rev. Father Thomas, O.S.F.C., so well known in Cork labour troubles, and later Mr. Patrick Lynch, President, Cork Trades Council, worked very strenuously to avoid a dispute and to obtain a peaceful settlement.

But Messrs. Guy, in their superior wisdom, declared they were ready for a strike, and daily shifted their ground, offering fresh conditions or imposing new restrictions, and eventually their final terms were unanimously rejected by a full meeting of the staff in the presence of the two mediators, Rev. Father Thomas and Mr. Lynch. As a last chance the workers offered to submit the whole case to arbitration, but here again the firm would not, or could not, make up its mind, and a strike was called on Monday, 27th ult. Loyalty the call to "down tools" was obeyed; and early that morning the first pickets were posted.

At the time of writing the strike has been in progress a full week, and enthusiasm runs high. The spirit of the lady members has been beyond all praise, and the entire staff is determined to continue

the fight until their just claims have been met.

During the week much has happened to prove to the firm the strength of our position. The Cork Trades Council, having been informed of the situation and of the firm's refusal to negotiate with the Union's official, decided to send a deputation to the Company, to consist of their Secretary and Mr. Owens. But still Messrs. Guy were obstinate and would not see that objectionable individual, but stated that they were willing to settle the matters in dispute with the Trades Council representatives.

But the staff, having heard the Secretary of the Trades Council give his report of his interview with the firm, unanimously rejected any such proposal. Any settlement, they declared, which was made must be made with their chosen spokesman and through the Union. This information was conveyed to the firm, who then declared that they would re-consider the matter.

That, at the moment, is the position, but if Messrs. Guy hope for a patched-up settlement, which will leave the workers at their mercy, they are doomed to disappointment. United beyond all expectation, the whole staff stand solid for a true Trade Union peace. No half measures will do. Though they have but recently entered into the Labour fight, they have quickly grasped the principles for which the movement stands, and there will be no going back.

## Irish Labour Press.

Pressure on our space has prevented us keeping our readers informed as to the progress of the Irish Labour Press Co-operative Society. Negotiations are in progress for the affiliation of the society to the Co-operative Union, Irish Section.

Lest any others should be in doubt as to our attitude on co-operation, we may mention that we have been instrumental in helping the founders of several distributive societies. We have been praised by the educational circular of the Co-operative Union itself. The Dublin Industrial Society has taken shares in the Irish Labour Press, and we have also enrolled such co-operators as George Russell (Æ) and Andrew E. Malone.

Meantime we have received intimation that the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union Executive is taking up a big block of shares and is recommending its branches to follow its example. The Socialist Party of Ireland has also joined the I.L.P.C.S.

## Co-operation's Progress.

The Dublin Industrial Co-operative Society is opening a new branch in conveniently situated premises at 69 Phibsborough Road, formerly occupied by the Pasture Dairy Coy. There should be room in this district for a big development of co-operation, with the Broadstone workers on one hand, the commercial proletariat of Phibsgrad and the illuminati of Glasnevin on the other. Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Secretary, 17 Annesley Bridge Road.

# Transport Union Notes.

## CROSS-CHANNEL DOCKERS.

### Arbitration Award.

The main provisions of Sir D. Plunkett Barton's award are that constant men shall be paid 54s. per week of 56 hours for work between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. This is an advance of 6s. on their previous rates, and 24s. on pre-war rates, which were 30s.

Overtime, after 56 hours, is to be paid at the rate of 1s. 3d. per hour, an advance of 3d.

The working week is to finish on Saturday at 2 p.m., but the men's claim to start at 6 a.m. on Monday, instead of at Sunday midnight as at present, was not established.

### The Casual Workers.

Casual labourers' wages are advanced to 9s. per day, with 1s. 3d. per hour overtime. Their former rates were 8s. per day, with 11d. per hour overtime.

On Saturdays the day's work for casual men shall finish at 2 p.m., and the half-day at 11 a.m.

Sunday rates are to be advanced to 2s. per hour, an increase of 3d. Three additional holidays, on which work is to be paid for at time and a half rates, have also been conceded.

The claim for additional payment to constant men between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. was not established in the award.

### Magherow Strike.

Charles Jones Henry has been successful in securing 3 blacklegs to replace the five labourers on strike. He has also issued a summons against his coachman, also on strike, for the value of a three-month old suit of clothes—not a livery—presented to the man by the generous Mrs. Henry. The Transport Union should take strong action to put down scabbing.

### Achill.

The I.T.W.U.'s branch here has now a strength of over 1,000, mainly composed of migratory labourers whose demands have excited great concern among the Glasgow potato merchants, who are summoning a conference to deal with the situation.

### Belmont.

The branch here is setting up a brass band. Messrs. Sheppard, Kell, Devery and Coughlan were appointed to take up subscriptions. Inchicore sweep was well supported.

### Lucan.

The lively growth of the I.T.W.U. here has had sound results. Through the Union many labourers have secured payment of arrears. In some cases over £7 back wages have been paid.

### Carlow.

Sunday, the 2nd inst., saw a huge organising meeting of the Transport Union which, called for the Town Hall, reached such dimensions that it had to be held in the open air. Wm. O'Brien, president of the Trade Union Congress, and T. Farren, were the principal speakers. Over three hundred joined the new branch at once, and arrangements were made to

continue the enrolment of members on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Four bands were in attendance, and the proceedings mark a new epoch in the history of labour in Carlow. All the factories are represented in the new branch, which will also be a centre of a big agricultural movement. The roadmen are coming in strongly.

### Larkin Cup.

Palmerston well deserved the victory in the exciting tug-of-war against Liberty Hall.

### Sligo Shop Assistants.

The active branch of the National Amalgamated Union here has enrolled practically all the grocers and hardware trade assistants in town and districts and is now proceeding to approach the local employers for a substantial all-round advance, which in most houses is long overdue. The wage of 18s. a week outdoor paid to adult men is a scandal which Sligo employers, if they were organised, should wipe out for their own credit. The wages of indoor men are on an equally low level. The committee of the Union is vigorous, and we hope for an early and successful issue to the negotiations in progress.

### Chemists on Picket.

The Sligo chemists' assistants are few but not feeble. They initiated a limitation of Sunday hours movement and secured the adhesion of six out of the seven shopkeepers. The seventh had to be picketed, and the seven assistants did the job themselves. Good lads!

A local medical officer offered a quite gratuitous opposition to the movement, which we hope will be remembered by the Trade Unions and Friendly Societies which he serves. Unfortunately, the medicos have not, despite their guild tradition, had the capacity to establish tribunals for dealing with this kind of "infamous conduct."

### Another Cone Wrong.

Archbishop Maguire, of Glasgow, has recently declared that "Lloyd George is the deadly enemy of the working class." Yet we remember his Grace appealing to the Irish by the memory of Limerick (!) to enlist in the British Army!

### "The Labour Leader."

When is the I.L.P. going to get control of its own organ? The Edinburgh conference tried to get rid once and for all of the Glaiser combine, but they have come back. Its attitude to Ireland is more wrong-headed than even Shaw could conceive in his Broadbent. In this month's "Socialist" Walton Newbould exposes one of Katy's characteristics—the suppressions of radical opinions. To secure insertion articles must be Radical—with a capital. SEUMAS.

### Thirty Pieces.

The man who sits on the safety valve is now a Right Honourable, so called, for serving England, not Ireland.

### Furnishing Trades.

The Dublin dispute, we learn, has been settled, but another has broken out in Belfast. According to an inspired par. in the Belfast "Telegraph," the workers in the trade have been earning £3 a week, excluding overtime. The present demand is for an increase of 3d. per hour. 500 workers, including 100 women, are involved in the stoppage.

### Printing Trade Dispute.

The stoppage of work at Cahill's, Mahon's, Wood Printing Works, and Manico's, threatened to deprive Ireland of its Irish-Ireland Press this week. The officials of the Typographical Society have issued no statement, but some explanation is due of the reason for the partial action taken last week. We mention this, not as criticism, but because the suggestion is being made that the stoppage was dictated by political motives.

### Land for the Soldiers.

We are informed on high authority that no application has been made by the Castle authorities to the cemeteries committee in connection with the land promised to those who enlist.

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**BIG STEAL PROJECTED.****Corporation Strife Fomenters.**

There is a clique in Belfast Corporation whose aim is to sell the splendid tram service, the gas works and electricity plant, at present the property of the citizens, to a private group of profiteers.

The game they are playing now is to discredit municipal management. They encourage and abet a feud between the officials of the Electricity Department, which could best be settled by sacking both Davison and Blexham. The clique foments continual labour trouble. No request of the workers is granted, however reasonable it may be, without a struggle.

The Municipal Employees' Association asked the Corporation to receive a deputation last Monday to set forth their reasons for asking that the 8s. bonus recently conceded to gas, electricity and tramway workers be given also to fire brigade, public health and other departmental workers. This simple request was insultingly turned down on the motion of the Lord Mayor—one of the poorest figures that ever occupied the post.

At the same meeting Councillor Alexander, one of the Unionist party hacks, instead of accepting the defeats recently inflicted on the City Hall clique by organised labour as a sportsman, read a lecture on the iniquity of trade unionism and warned the Corporation employees against those he called their leaders. We know the officials of the Belfast Corporation employees' unions, and it is no disparagement to say that not one of them is or aspires to be a "leader." Fellow-worker is good enough for them. Alexander's talk and his futile trailing of the red—or is it red, white and blue?—herring of politics has failed. The men have the eight bob. Our advice to Alexander, Tyrell, and Lord Mayor Johnson is: "Shut up and quit!"

**English Conchies.**

The statistics of English conscientious objectors published in the "Voice" of May 25th include only those who have passed through prison—that is the absolutists and the men who were turned down by their tribunals. In addition to these many thousands were granted partial and conditional exemptions by the tribunals, and are now working at non-military work under the Pelham Committee. A number, of which no statistics are computable, have evaded service by emigration or other methods.

**Jack Carney Makes Good.**

Little Jack with the happy smile is located at Duluth, Minn., as editor of the Socialist weekly, "Truth." His May Day and Marx Centenary number has articles by Eugene V. Debs, John M. Work, George R. Kirkpatrick, Reginald Wright Kaufmaum and other front rank writers of the American Socialist movement.

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**DEEMED TO BE A SOLDIER.**  
(From front page).

sixth Act came into force on April 18th.

These promises are as worthless as Asquith's pledge about the widow's son. They possess no legal value. Any police constable, "any officer or soldier or other person," may apprehend a suspected deserter and bring him "forthwith" before a court of summary jurisdiction. The magistrate is bound to carry out the law as stated above and, as numerous cases have proved, will refuse to recognise any pledge or promise by statesmen. Statute law is the magistrate's guide.

**Fruits of the Fight.**

The happenings of these last few weeks, particularly Irish Labour's sharp deviation from the British movement's weak policy on conscription in practice and the McCarron visits to Lloyd George, are exercising a tremendous influence on the Unions. They have given another great filip to the already rapid organisation of workers up and down the country, and helped much towards the general acceptance of the idea of the one big union. In both directions propaganda has been active, and the results are as hoped for. But in another direction, in which there has been no propaganda, the effect has been equally far-reaching and more startling. We refer to the growing movement of many organised workers and many sections of workers towards unions with headquarters in Ireland and away from the amalgamated societies. From several quarters and in several trades and unions in the last week or so we have had very striking evidence of this desire for a transfer of allegiance, and in many instances of the actual change itself. These workers, and they include both tradesmen and general labourers, are turning towards the leaders and the unions that stood the severe test of the conscription menace and backed their words by their deeds. In certain areas this new movement has become a veritable landslide, and everywhere it is a spontaneous and rank and file movement. It is a remarkable testimony to the effectiveness of honest, plain dealing, straight action and bold leadership, as well as to the value of immediate and direct connection between the executives, their staffs, and their general membership, and we hope its lesson will be lost neither on leaders nor on the rank and file of the workers.

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**WANTED.—A CLEARER VISION.**

**An Appeal to Irish Labour.**

By Oscar Williams.

It is plain to all who trouble themselves to read the signs of the times that the Trade Union movement in Ireland is progressing by leaps and bounds, and that thousands who have hitherto been either indifferent or antagonistic to Labour are flocking to the standard of Industrial Reform.

All this is as it should be. The awakening of class consciousness among the people has been speeded up by the harsh conditions of life produced by the war, and the Irishman, in common with other workers all over the world, is seeing in organisation the sure and certain hope of Democracy's triumph.

Now it is perfectly natural and proper that so far as this island is concerned popular feeling should run in the direction of making the Labour movement as distinctly Irish as possible.

No reasonable objection can be raised to that course, but one is forced to wonder at the wisdom, or even justice, of constantly belittling the Trade Unions and Trades Unionism of our comrades across the channel, with the oft-repeated accusations of dishonest motives and double dealing where Ireland is concerned.

Much of this feeling, so full of tragedy for the two nations, is, after all, merely engendered by the devastation caused in this country by aristocratic and capitalistic British governments, over which, in spite of the ballot box, the English worker has little real control, so strongly entrenched are those who sit in high places, but now, as we all hope and believe, the day is coming when those who do the world's work will govern the world, is it not high time that Irish Labour made a serious effort to differentiate between the English Government and the English people.

No one proposes that Irish Labour should allow itself to be swallowed by at the ultimate establishment of one world-wide "Workers' Union," and the teaching that Trades Unionism is weak, futile, and subservient to capitalism in Great Britain, apart from being grossly untrue, can only hamper us in our striving to attain that glorious object.

The barriers that exist between the Saxon and the Celt have been erected by the aristocrat and the capitalist for their own base purposes. These barriers must be smashed, and can be smashed if Irish Labour will look forward instead of backward.

What Labour in Ireland needs is a clearer vision. It must shake itself free from the shackles of a mental outlook that measures the world by the coastline of Erin.

Build up strong, self-reliant Irish Unions if you will, but in the building do not forget that you are but part of a movement that is world-wide.

Labour knows no nationality, and Irishmen would do well to remember that however heavily the history of the past may be laden with the tragedy of mistakes and misunderstandings, a universal spirit, born of common suffering, has arisen to-

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day that offers the first real opportunity for the Saxon and the Celt to march in step towards the goal of the emancipation of the masses.

Ignore the efforts of the capitalist to play upon your religious convictions or political aspirations, and never lose sight of the fact that those who proclaim their hostility to English Labour simply because it is English are serving no cause but that of the capitalist and aristocrat. Irishmen, get a clearer vision!

# TRADES COUNCIL REFORM.

Letter from Assistant Editor, "The New Way."

(The Editor, "Voice of Labour.")

Dear Comrade,—I should like to endorse as strongly as possible your Editorial remarks in your last two issues concerning the organisation of Trades Councils.

In the matter of full-time paid secretaries, the Labour movement does not pay as much regard to its own efficiency or dignity as a middle-class golf club. Spare-time work, as those of us who have done it all know, is about twice as exhausting as an ordinary day's work. It involves high-pressure work at inconvenient times, and curtails the leisure necessary for recuperation. The part-time Trades Council secretary is, therefore, doing three men's work for a total income which would be poor payment for one man's work. Yet if he is to be active physically and mentally, to keep himself abreast of new developments in methods and in ideas, he needs much more leisure, much more opportunity for reading and discussion, much more freedom from worry. In other words he wants a well-paid, comfortable job! And Irish workers have small hope of their ever getting well-paid, comfortable jobs for themselves individually until they are prepared to provide them in advance for their leaders.

I should like to see some discussion on your suggestion to departmentalise Trades Council Executives. Personally I would go farther and, as I have already suggested elsewhere, departmentalise the whole Council, much as the City Corporation is departmentalised. In Dublin, for example, every delegate to the Council would serve on one or two (not more) of a number of committees, which might be as follows:—(a) Industrial Organisation, dealing with demarcation disputes, strikes, etc.; (b) Education, dealing with

Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Technical Instruction, University Education, Tutorial Classes for Workers, etc.; (c) Housing; (d) Municipal Affairs, excluding Housing and Education; (e) National Political Affairs; (f) Political Organisation and Propaganda, for election and between-elections purposes; (g) Social Affairs and Recreation; (h) Finance and General Purposes. (The committees I mention are only off-hand suggestions.) The chairmen or secretaries of the committees, with a few others elected ad hoc, might serve as a Standing Executive for emergency and general purposes. The full Council would not need to meet more than once a month, or less frequently, and its business would be mainly to consider reports from the committees. The committees would come to be very quickly bodies of more or less highly-skilled experts in their several departments, their recommendations would be based on full inquiry and discussion, and the Council's decisions thereon would carry much more weight than is at present possible.

Incidentally this committee sub-division of work might render a whole-time secretary a little less urgently necessary.

Finally, I should like to see the Dublin, Belfast, and Cork Councils issuing, perhaps jointly, a monthly circular of their doings and of interesting news. The London Labour Party Circular, run by my friend, Herbert Morrison, is an excellent little example of what can be done in this way.—Yours, P. Thompson.

### Speakers' Class.

The class conducted at Liberty Hall by Hotspur is yielding encouraging results. A vein of talent has been discovered. Arrangements are being made for similar classes in connection with several trade unions.

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