

TO NEWSAGENTS
AND OUR READERS.

For the Trade Union Congress, an Enlarged Number with many articles by Irish and foreign leaders of Labour, will be published on August 1st. Price TWOPENCE. Order Early. See Page 886.

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. Vol. I, No. 34.

JULY 20, 1918.

ONE PENNY

Heralds of Parliament— Is Labour
Revolt. : : Abstention or Abolition. Proclaimed?

For the League of Nations. Miss Bennett's Plea.

(The Editor, "Voice of Labour.")

Dear Sir,—I regret to find your reviewer, "Colkitto," discouraging Irish interest in the theory of a League of Nations, and intimating that the general equilibrium of the Great States is not a matter of vital importance to small nationalities such as Ireland. To do this is surely to ignore the trend of modern thought and life as it affects every people. Science and education have transformed Internationalism from an idea to a reality. A century ago, when the Holy Alliance was formed, contact amongst nations was in the main limited to monarchs, statesmen and traders. To-day nations are linked together by innumerable ties, industrial, financial, spiritual; the interchange of ideas has become as essential a part of life as the interchange of commodities; the peoples of all the nations share in scientific discoveries and inventions, social reforms and progressive movements just as they share in the raw materials of the earth. It is not possible nowadays for any nation to remain isolated and self-centred. But the very fact that they are bound together by such a complexity of common interests renders it increasingly necessary that some system of international organisation should be established, otherwise we cannot derive any real benefits from those contacts and that association which we cannot now avoid. Moreover, the need is the greater for the weaker nations, as the lawless and immoral con-

ditions which have hitherto prevailed in international affairs have threatened their very existence, and, in the particular case of Ireland, are largely responsible for her long subjection. And so the question presses in upon us: How can international relations be so controlled as to give promise of freedom, happiness and security to all peoples? The proposals for a League of Nations do seem to carry such promise, for in their original conception they are inspired by the principles of liberty and humanitarianism, and it is the business of the democracies of the world to see that these principles are not twisted out of their real meaning.

All the proposals so far made demand as fundamental the right of self-determination for all peoples; and on this point alone they should arouse interest in Ireland. We have, as a nation, sufficiently proclaimed and proved our particular right to self-determination. But how are we going to win and hold the exercise of that right? Are we to win it directly from England, or indirectly through the decree of some International authority? And having won it, are we to hold it by virtue of the protection of British might, or by International guarantee? To owe our security to any Empire would be a mockery of independence. But if we are to win and hold our independence upon any International guarantee we have to look carefully to the character of the International authority upon which we shall have to depend for

security. It is folly to look for justice, disinterested judgment, or permanent guarantees from any one Great Power or any limited group of Powers. If there is any hope of the domination of such moral forces in the world in the future it lies in the proposal for a League of Nations, which would be, even in its simplest form, a distinct check upon Imperialism.

I acknowledge the danger that such a League may be made a League of States antagonistic to democracy and nationality. But if it does evolve on such wrong lines, it will be the fault of the peoples and of the small nationalities themselves. If the weaker nations and subject peoples remain in isolated aloofness, concerned only with their own particular problem of existence, and failing to relate it and alter it with world movements—and if the democracies do not bestir themselves to take an active interest in International affairs, then at the end of the war we shall certainly find ourselves involved in an International system little better than that which followed the Napoleonic wars. Those of us who claim to be nationalists, or democrats, or both, ought all to take our share in moulding an International organisation which will really promote Liberty. Irish workers, in common with the workers of other countries, must be aware that the world outside Labour circles will not stand still whilst Labour organises its forces. The

(Continued on Page 340.)

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HERALDS OF REVOLT.

In many directions there are signs that various sections of Irish workers are awakening from a slumber of almost death to an activity of discontent that ought to bring joy and delight to the sincere lover of liberty and the battler for freedom in the social order. The insurgent spirit, as our own columns have borne witness, has been manifesting itself anew in centres as wide afield as Derry and Cork, Dublin, Tipperary, and Achill, and in bodies as different as tailors, textile workers, bakers, and agricultural and general labourers. We welcome all these symptoms of revolt, not because we have any love, in themselves, for strikes, dislocation of business and rebellion against executive ruling, but because they are the straws showing that the wind is again blowing in the direction of direct and independent action by the rank and file of the workers, and that the workers are becoming conscious of their powers, rights and duties, as against the pretensions both of employers and of officials whom the tide of modernity and progress is overwhelming. We are, indeed, lovers of peace and order, and fanatics for discipline, but it must be peace and order that is based on justice and goodwill, it must be discipline based on strength, independence and freedom.

Against these bakers, tailors, textile workers and agricultural and dock workers two lines of criticism will be taken; and both of them will be taken because the critics are blind, ignorant, and out of date. The one line will be that of the employers and their satellites: that the workers are ill-advised, hasty, rash and violent, and that their demands are such that they constitute an attack on industry and the sacred rights of property. The other will be that of the staid and steady union officials of the old type and their servile followers and flatterers: that the workers are wreckers and rebels, and that their action arises from no industrial or economic cause, but is purely and sim-

ply dictated by that perverse and seditious spirit of politics that is now distracting and disturbing this happy land of plenty and freedom.

Let us see what these arguments are worth.

The bakers in Derry, the bacon factory workers in Roscrea, and the agricultural workers in Achill, are all workers who contribute to the provision of food for the community, and their work is therefore of vital necessity to life. In any well-ordered community, especially in these days of war, this would be admitted on all sides, even if only grudgingly, and it would be paid for accordingly. But the utter indifference of employers has blinded them to this, and they seek only to exploit these workers for profits, and not at all to help them to contribute freely and heartily to the food production of the nation. Compare the wages and conditions of these workers with those of their fellows elsewhere, and it will be found that the only cause of wonder is that their revolt has not come long before last week or the week before. If the employers had even the wisdom of the serpent they would have seen long ago that it was they, and not the workers, who were steeping this rod of revolt for their own better and bitter punishment. But the blind, insensible and foolish masters have failed to see their own folly, and attempt to throw the blame on the men and their unions. Now, the truth is, of course, that the men are only groping their way towards the light, and the unions have no other desire than to make their path less hard. We will wager that there is nothing the unions desire more keenly than a resumption of work and a renewal of business relations, and the employers and the public can have both as soon as they persuade the employers that men as well as masters have rights and wants and desires, and that unions as well as companies are public institutions and instruments of business. For it is the employers and not the men and their unions that are the enemies of public order and peace, and the sinners alike against humanity and the community. The case is not one whit different with the girl workers in the Blackpool Flax Factory in Cork, although it is aeroplane cloth, and not food, they produce. Mr. McCarron, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Murphy will, we know, admit that all this is quite a true and, indeed, an understated case of the position of the bakers in Derry and the mill-workers of Cork. But will they, or any of them, admit that so far as the tailors in Dublin and the labourers at Rushbrook and Passage are concerned, the argument is not so dissimilar, though it is obviously on another ground? The Dublin tailors and the Cork labourers have revolted against their old leaders and their late unions. Why? Because they have left the old shackles of the old unionism behind them, and are bravely attempting to realise that they belong to a class, because they see that the old days of craft divisions and of autocratic and absentee executive ruling are passed, and because they want, in the industrial field, to determine and control their own destinies. The Dublin tailors, we know, or at least such of them as are

not bound hand and foot and soul by their ancient benefits, feel that they have not been well served by their leaders and their executives. The Rushbrook and Passage workers, we know, feel that they have been labouring under an intolerable tyranny from which, in their old union, they vainly endeavoured to escape. What more natural then, when they see other sections of workers throwing in their lot, under the dual pressure of the high cost of living and of the crime of conscription, menaces from which they might have been, but were not, preserved by their executives, what more natural, we ask, than that they and many others should take their courage in their hands and strike out for themselves? The wonder is, again, that they waited so long, and the greater wonder is that, with all their experience of similar revolts in England and Scotland, the old executives had not the vision to see that this landslide was coming. Is it that, as with governments and employers so too with the old craft leadership, the gift of vision is wanting, and whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad?

It is only a few weeks since we commented on this before. Since then Mr. McCarron and his friends, instead of mending matters, have only made things worse from their own point of view. Frankly, we have no pity for them, for reactionaries are not to be pitied even when they blunder lamentably. Like the Bourbons they forget nothing and they learn nothing. And it would be idle to warn them, as we have warned others, that what the workers in this country, as in all countries, want is honest, plain dealing, straight action, bold leadership, the backing of words by deeds and democracy, not in name, but in reality.

We welcome the revolts of these last few weeks because they are evidence that the workers are asserting their desire for these things both in industry and in unionism, and because they prove that both the spirit, the heart and the head of the working class are right and sound. That way freedom lies.

Rat Labour Party.

George Milligan, of Liverpool, was among the O.B.E.'s who are trying to start a "Christian" Labour Party, under the genial smile of Bradlaugh's disciple, Horatio Bottomley. "Forward" prints a circular from the central office of the Amalgamated Musicians Union, from which it appears the delegates to this new party received 3s. 6d. each for attendance, paid not by their unions but by the promoters.

Milligan's pal, Burns, Secretary of the "National Committee of Catholic Trade Unionists," is severely rapped by Prior MacNabb in last week's "Catholic Times" for pretending to have episcopal patronage in his anti-socialist propaganda. His Lordship of Salford, however, has not yet explained how the Burns' bunch continue to date their circulars from "Bishop's House, Salford."

Advance, Australia!

The "Sydney Bulletin" objects to paying £70,000 to half-a-dozen superfluous poultry-exhibition openers—otherwise Governors-General.

The Workers' Republic. The great only appear great because we are on our knees: LET US RISE.

THE IRISH LABOUR PARTY AND PARLIAMENT.

Abstention or Abolition?

During the next few months the various Parties represented in the English Parliament will have carefully calculated their chance at the polls under the new franchise, and probably a General Election may not be very remote. The Irish Labour Party do not seem to be giving the possibilities of a General Election much attention, in fact it would seem they are carefully avoiding any reference to it. Yet seats can, and should be, won for Labour in many of the Industrial centres. To win them a distinct policy and a perfect organisation are necessary. Now, the Labour Party has neither.

While the Party did issue a manifesto, and did, last year, take up the organisation of the country on business-like lines, no progress has been made. The manifesto and every programme issued by the Labour Party ignores the bedrock principle on which the whole fabric of Irish politics is presently resting. It has failed to see, or probably more correctly has failed to satisfy, the apprehension of the people concerning the question: "Representation in the English House of Commons or Abstention." The difficulty would seem to be that the party is not of one mind on this question.

Betrayal of Democracy.

Parliamentarism, as known in England, seems to be the betrayal of democratic Government. It would seem that the peoples of England, Scotland and Ireland conspire to return to the House of Parliament 670 men who are mainly ruffians and opportunists. A man is so rare a phenomenon at Westminster that his appearance makes the place look ridiculous, and before he has had an opportunity to make his influence felt he is hounded out or silenced. The better to bluff the unfortunate people who pay for the maintenance of that ancient House and all its costly traditions—fraudulent, hateful, deceitful traditions—those who occupy its benches divide themselves into, apparently, two opposing groups. A few men of clean views, of noble ideas, gain admission to the House from time to time, and form new groups, but finding that on all essential matters the two great groups become one, so as to crush out the lesser but more honest combination, these men abandon the idea of independence and become absorbed into one or other of their former antagonists, to the great delight of the reactionary jobbers who held the destiny of the nation

in their unclean hands.

Continued membership of the English House of Commons and independent disinterestedness are not synonymous, they cannot co-exist. The Ulster Party has always been submerged into the reactionary Tories, the Irish Nationalist Party has on more than one occasion become a tail of the spineless, capitalistic Whigs or Liberals, and the Labour Party of Eng-

land is now the last witness that need be called to prove the truth of the contention that the House of Commons saps whatever honesty and independence is brought into it. To advance the idea of abstention from that grave of many a good reputation is

not necessarily Sinn Fein.

It happens to be one of the principles of Sinn Fein, a bedrock principle it is true, but it can also be a principle of Labour. Unless English Labour can capture the House of Commons, and take over every instrument of Government before, or immediately after, the termination of the war probably English workers may refuse to send men to Parliament for the purpose of becoming corrupted, to become job seekers and the call-boys of capitalism. Had Labour after the outbreak of war withdrawn its alleged representation from Parliament and left the Whig and Tory capitalists to muddle the war between them, the fate of English Labour would now be different, there would have been no military service, there would be no industrial conscription, no D.O.R.A., no penal servitude for John McLean, in a word, there would be no war now. If Labour is prepared to be governed in the future, especially immediately after the war and during the period of demobilisation by the system of corrupted Parliamentarism that it now groans under, there shall certainly be a repetition of 1825 and 1826—

the "Sybil" of Lord Beaconsfield

may, with a few simple modifications, be brought up-to-date. Candidates for "Parliamentary Honours" are not the men to make revolutions; and hungry, landless men, who have staked all and lost all for an ideal shall, in England, as they did in Russia, place much less reliance on Parliamentary phrases and jobbing politicians than on the sword they have been told during four years of hate was invincible.

Parliament or Soviet.

Is an Imperial Parliament a necessity that cannot be surrendered? Not a bit of it. Are Parliaments of any kind, or Parliamentary institutions, no matter how old or how venerable, a necessary guarantee of liberty or hall-mark of civilisation? No more than the Pyramids of Egypt. Both are evolutions in the development of the human mind, both may pass away as the mind that conceived and the hand that fashioned them have passed away, but if the minds of men be clean and the hearts true, civilisation shall not pass away with them.

To this aspect of the question then, Labour, both Irish and English, should address itself. Let Irish Labour tell us they have ceased to believe in the sham of "Parliamentary agitation," and have pinned their faith to the principles of an unconquerable Democracy, a sovereign people, and they shall be elected to represent the workers of Ireland not in a

den of thieves, but in the market places and the councils of this country. But the people must be told this plainly, and must be organised to secure the triumph of these principles.

L. J. D.

TRADE UNION MEETINGS PROCLAIMED.

The meetings arranged by the I.T.W.U. at Drunkerrin and Monegar for 7th inst. had to be abandoned on orders from the R.I.C. Sean Burns represented that the meetings were not being held in public places and therefore were outside the scope of P'shaw's proclamation. The local police were obdurate, superior authority had spoken.

This raises a very serious issue, which we hope the Trade Union Congress Executive will handle promptly. In Great Britain the military authorities raided some trade union meetings, and in one instance the civil police concealed two members of their staff under a grand piano, in a hall, while a trade union meeting was proceeding, but for all these infractions of the freedom of trade unions to hold private meetings to discuss their own business, Mr. MacPherson, and even the egregious Lord Derby, were forced to apologise and to promise a future immunity.

That, of course, was in Britain. In Ireland it appears the ordinary activities of trade unionism, the only safeguard of the workers from the grosser forms of economic injustice, are to be banned as seditious. Apart from the extension of P'shaw's proclamation, by force majeure of doubtful legality, to prohibit meetings in private halls or houses or fields, the demand that seven days' notice must be given amounts to a practical prohibition of labour meetings, which must be, in too many cases, held out of doors owing to the lack of suitable halls. Itinerant organisers cannot make arrangements seven days ahead, and strikes and lock-outs call for meetings on a moment's notice. In such circumstances the trade union movement, which has not been formally proclaimed, which whatever the personal political opinions of the members may be, is recognised by statute law, and is therefore not seditious, must resolutely ignore any abuse of police authority. The right of public meetings must be maintained, and the pledges given time and again by MacPherson and Derby honoured by observance.

If, however, the French-Shortt-cum-Campbell oligarchy intends to bring Labour into subjection, the challenge will not be ignored. Labour "insects" are too numerous and powerful to be stamped out by Boy Scouts.

"The Young Rebel."

Jas. Stewart, of Wallsend, the editor of the little Socialist Sunday school monthly, has been "quodded" for anti-militarist articles published in it.

Transport Union News.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD.

We learn that Mr. Thomas Foran has given notice that at next meeting of the Wages Board he will move that the minimum wage in each group and in each grade will be increased by 5s. a week. It is hoped that the Wages Board will accept this figure, which indeed is yet too low.

The Corn Production Act fixed 25s. as the lowest wage for agricultural labour in England. This sum might be increased at the discretion of the English Wages Boards, which, so far, have not fixed, for any county, a lower rate than 30s., while in Cheshire the minimum is 36s.

The party in Parliament which so jealously guard the interests of Irish farmers and landlords, conspired to prevent the 25s. minimum being extended to Ireland, leaving the minimum to be fixed by the Wages Board, which took its cue from the Act and the party politicians, and made wage rates which are scandalously insufficient: The highest wage for men is 25s., the lowest 20s.; the highest for women 15s., the lowest 10s., or 2d. per hour.

Should Labour Resign?

The exertions of the three Unions catering for rural workers have raised the standard in some cases above the Wages Board scale, but in many districts their activities are mainly directed to securing the bare legal wage for their members. This police duty belongs to the Wages Board, and unless the harvest is to be lost through sporadic strikes the Board must become active in enforcing its own minima. It would appear, indeed, that the presence of Labour representatives on this Board is of doubtful value. Their presence seems to sanction the inactivity of the Board, and in truth those who do not know the work they are putting in may be forgiven if they place some of the blame for the delays in enforcing payment of miserable minima upon them.

We offer to Mr. Foran and Mr. Crangle the suggestion that Mr. Foran's motion be made a test. If it is carried by the Board let them remain and ginger up the officials. If the resolution is rejected, then let all the Labour members leave the Board and join issue directly with the farmers over the country. The agricultural workers have the organisation and the power, within the next few weeks, to obtain their own price for their labour.

Limerick.

Sir D. Plunkett Barton sat on 10th inst. as arbiter on the claims of the coalmen, yards men, shed men and dockers, and adjourned the proceedings until 17th, when he will consider the use of electric cranes and the claim for increased wages. The latter point is included in the arbitration now for the first time. Let us hope Sir D. P. B., having induced this temporary reasonableness in the Limerick bosses, will be able to confirm it.

"An Irish Worker."—You must tell us more about your club, and send name and address.

Achill.

The special train, like the rich in the Magnificat, was sent empty away. The workers remain steadfast, as Mr. Antony Kilcoyne learned when he re-visited the soil from which he sprung, where for the past fifteen years he has walked as a lord, having the power to hire or to reject the services of his fellows. Antony, one time a labouring boy with patched breeches like the rest, thought he had only to come and conquer. We are sorry he has not been too kindly treated, but if he is wise he will fix up terms at once.

The Glasgow Trades Council has been successful with the aid of the fleeting season in persuading the Glasgow and West of Scotland potato merchants to negotiate on the demands of the Irish migratory workers. Alderman Lynch and his colleagues will shortly make arrangements for the usual summer migration.

Care should be observed by all workers to obtain the necessary certificates of protection through the Labour Exchanges before passing over to Scotland.

National Service Notice.

The intimation made by the Ministry of National Service last week that all Irishmen in Great Britain become liable for military service, except those brought over by the Labour Exchanges, bears out the warnings we have frequently offered that the pledges of the Ministry are worthless. Only a few weeks ago Mr. Dillon published a renewed assurance from Mr. Beck that men engaged in Great Britain on work of national importance were immune from conscription. On the strength of that assurance, countersigned by Mr. Dillon, hundreds have crossed to England and have been entrapped. So far Mr. Dillon has offered no protest, and the National Service intimation of last week has been passed over by his Press, in silence.

Scots and Irish.

Since agriculture is now the only occupation which Irishmen can follow in Great Britain without exposure to the blood-tax, the Scottish Farm Servants' Union has determined that their members shall not work with any "protected" Irishman brought over to enable the authorities to call Scots agricultural labourers to the colours. With this resolution we agree, provided that Mr. Duncan and his organisers confine the implied boycott of Irishmen to cases in which the Irish worker has in fact been imported to enable the farmers to sacrifice the native worker to militarism. It will not affect the usual summer and autumn migratory workers, who will strictly confine themselves to their ordinary tasks. We congratulate the Scottish Farm Servants on making a stand against conscription, partial and late as their action is. Had they but done so in 1916.

Agricultural Wages in England.

The following Wages Board minima have been adopted:—For Bucks, Berks, Cambs, Hants, Beds, Oxon, Suffolk and Worcester, 30s.: Devon, 31s.

OUR SPECIAL NUMBER FOR TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

The forthcoming Trade Union Congress promises to be the most important yet held. The agenda, while it offers no scope for factious debates, is compact with earnest attempts to grapple with the problems of industrial and political organisation. In these pages we have endeavoured, in the scanty space at our disposal, to provide an open forum in anticipation of the Waterford assembly, and have now determined, having practised severe economy in paper during recent weeks, to enlarge our issue dated August 3rd, but published on the 1st. For this number, the last before the Congress, we have been promised articles and messages by many writers and workers in the service of Labour, at home and abroad. These articles, and the special editorial matter, will have a direct bearing on the proceedings of the Congress, which will open on the following Monday. Every delegate will have his copy, but the valuable counsel of its pages will be not less useful and necessary to the rank-and-filers, whose interests will be so closely affected by the decisions of Congress.

As no copies will be printed in excess of those ordered in advance by the trade, and specially bespoken by trades councils and union branches, readers cannot rely on obtaining copies unless orders are given in advance to their usual agents. The price for this special issue only will be Twopence.

Trade Union branches should make certain that every member buys and reads this special issue. As an inducement to branches we will supply them direct with bundles at the rate of 1s. 8d. per dozen, carriage paid to nearest railway station. Orders should reach us not later than Tuesday (mid-day), July 30th.

Cork.

In the case of Denis Deasy, charged with picketting, the authorities have made a new departure. This case is an ordinary charge of picketting which at other times would have gone through the usual process of the Courts, but the police, inspired by the employer in question, have seen fit to bring the charge under the Crimes Act, with the result that Deasy will be tried by a select jury of anti-labour bourgeois. Labour has not been "proclaimed," but the authorities are apparently resolved to drive Labour into open and declared formal alliance with Sinn Fein and the other dangerous bodies. If so, it is well. The fact of their being proclaimed is enough in itself to ensure Labour's sympathy and support, which will be not less vehement and consistent when Mr. A. W. Samuels supplies the Deasy case and others as reasons why Labour should revolt.

A.S.E. in Ireland.

In last week's "Labour Leader" Patk. Thompson states that four-fifths of the Irish membership is concentrated in Belfast. We are informed that this is not correct. There are 8,500 members of A.S.E. in Ireland, of whom 3,000 are employed in Belfast shipyards, 2,500 in other employment in Belfast district, and 3,000 in the rest of Ireland.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

Cork.

The Cork branches of the I.T. and G.W.U. have taken up enthusiastically the work of co-operation, and are urging their members to join the local society. This is on right lines, and trade union enthusiasm should give a fillip to distributive co-operation.

Dublin.

The Industrial Co-Op. is opening a new branch shop at 50A Seville Place and another at Kilmainham. Complaint has often been made that the society's shops are inconveniently placed. The society, as a mutual organisation of purchasers, has to open shops where members want them, and it is willing to respond to requests from any district. Soon there will be no reason for the old grievance. Dublin is being rapidly girdled with conveniently-situated shops, offering full choice of sound quality foodstuffs. The committee deserves credit for opening three stores in two months, and we are glad to see the Dublin trade unions are now giving something more than merely official support.

The co-operative society is more than a mere buying and selling concern. It aims at becoming the social centre of working-class life. Dublin Industrial has arranged an excursion to take place on 27th inst. to St. James's Park, Crumlin. Primarily for the children, adults will be welcomed. Get tickets at any of the branches and take the kiddlets.

How to Join.

Joining the Co-Op. is easy. Go to the nearest branch shop and fill in your name and address on the application form. You will require to take up a share value £1. You need not pay £1 down. Your entrance fee must be paid at the time of joining, and £1 share may be paid up at the rate of 3d. per week. Interest will be paid on your share-capital. Apart from that, any surplus realised on the half-year's trading is divided among the members in proportion to purchases.

Intelligent Thrift.

Co-operation saves as you spend and offers advantages superior to tontines and loan funds. The deposit of money as withdrawable share capital pays better than ordinary banking. Every branch, too, has its savings bank, and deposits earn interest at the rate of 3½ per cent.

N.U.R. AND CO-OPERATION.

At a well-attended meeting of the Broadstone Branch, held on Sunday, 7th inst., at 41 Parnell Square, the following resolution was moved by Brother Walsh and seconded by Organiser T. C. Daly:— "That this meeting believes that all Trade Unionists should be co-operators, and calls upon all present to be loyal to their own class by joining the Co-Operative Society." The resolution was carried unanimously, the President and Secretary also speaking warmly in support.

No Slavery in Native Industry.

Increases have also been given to the workers in the Irish Tobacco Factory. We have now a section for tobacco workers in the Union, and are gradually improving the conditions for these very insufficiently paid workers.

Manx Labour's Great Victory.

The I. O. M. Government recently withdrew the bread subsidy, and the price of the 4lb. loaf was fixed at 10½d. by proclamation. The organised workers demanded the return to the ninepenny loaf, and as the Government was obdurate a general strike was called for Wednesday, 3rd inst. All trams, trains and steamers stopped, and shops and factories closed.

The Tynwald Court was postponed because the workers intended to march upon it. Hundreds of visitors were stranded, and the united pressure of strikers and hungry strangers brought Lord Raglan to terms.

The strike was called off on Friday on the Governor agreeing to continue the bread subsidy. The Council agreed to pass the adult suffrage bill, and no person is to be victimised for participation.

Here we have an example of the power of Labour to secure economic and political advantages by the use of the strike weapon, which should reinforce the lessons of our own one-day general strike.

British Casualties for week ending July 7th:—17,785.

New Trades Hall at Kingstown.

Bray, Kingstown and District Trades and Labour Council formally opened its second Trades Hall at Kingstown on 14th July, the anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille. The hall was crowded to listen to a galaxy of star orators, home and foreign, including Councillor P. T. Daly, the secretary Irish T.U.C. and Labour Party; M. J. O'Lehane and O'Gorman (I.D.A.A.), Thos. Elclan and T. Delaney (A.S.C.T.), Treacy and Coughlan (Painters), Hegarty (Postmen), Thos. Johnson (Mansion House Conference), and a Glasgow boiler-maker, Joseph Hughes, a casual visitor, whose racy account of the workers' movement on the Clyde was very heartily applauded. Ben Lindop, the Council's chairman, was to the fore, as ever, proving himself well worthy of the confidence of his colleagues.

The speeches were all good, but those of the local men gave proof of their determination to emulate the citizens of revolutionary Paris of 1789, and take by storm the economic and political Bastilles of South Co. Dublin and Wicklow. No wonder Mr. Dillon is going to Blackrock.

The Military Governor and his underlings kindly refrained from interfering.

<p>L I F E A N D</p>	<p>COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT— Miceal J. Staines. Dr. James Ryan. Liam Tobin. Miceal W. O'Reilly. Frank Thornton. Richard Coleman.</p>	<p>Cumann Urradair na hÉireann. Where is the father who does not spend Sixpence per week on his child? FATHERS! place that Sixpence per week with us, and at the end of 14 years we will give you £20 : 3 : 0 YOU make a profit of £3 : 8 : 0 The gift to the child may be invaluable. HEAD OFFICE— 56 LR. O'CONNELL ST., DUBLIN. NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER SOCIETY Agents required where we are not yet represented.</p>	<p>TRUSTEES— George J. Nesbitt. Dr. James Ryan. BANKERS— Munster and Leinster Bank, Dame Street.</p>	<p>E N D O W M E N T</p>
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NEW IRELAND ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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NUACT LITEARDA.

Tá na feirceanna fá lán-creoil agus tá as eirise go seal leo. Feir láir ná héireann, cuir i scár, bí sí ar feabhar; an Saeóilge do bí le cloimint le linn na scomórtar moltar go móir í. Tá corrad ar fáil na múinteoirí cairde, ar obair na mban maíta a' r eile, i nlan-áirde. Is seal linn an rgeal.

Filocht Pheadair.

Is truaigh nac mbionn ac corra-focal rna páiréirí nuacta fá imeacta na múinteoirí cairde ná um fáogal na oimhirí. So deimhin is fáoda náir eualar tráct ar na raotruíte céadna ac amáin Pheadair Ó hAnghacáin, agus tá an bórlaoc úo i ngeibeann. Tá an-éirí dá mhúinteact i scomair a beir 'na leabhar ("Canole Pheadair"); beir ré le fáil i sgeann reactaine, fáoilim. Beir an mhúinteact dá léigead agus dá canad go ceann i b'rao. Beir sí 'na háro-oiriúe ar fuo na fóola.

Ollamh Agus File.

O'eiúis leir an sCló-euallact céadna file eile do b'ortú .i. Orboim Ó hAimhirsín. Saeóeal an léigeannta an t-Aimhirsíneac; mearaim go b'fuil ré ar don éomárom le Winoirch, Thuneyren, Oocin, gl. Deirtear nac ró-maíe a réitigeannta philologie agus féit na filiocta le n-a céile de sháct, ac is carúil go mbío i b'páirt i scár an Aimhirsínis.

Danta Eagsula.

Do'n "Canole Pheadair," fheirín, tá euaaract óan-focal, nó epigrammaí, bailigte as Saeóeal léigeannta eile .i. Tomár Ó Raicile. 'Séad, agus tá maíe nua de óanta shá, gl., curta i n-easair aise nac móir. Ruo eile fóir, tá Tomár agus cáirde áirite as dul ar a'airíe le shó na Ríoríeacta Litearda, ac is baogal nac mbéiríe an céad leabhar ullam acy moim deirte ná bliana ro. Is truaigh linn an moill ac níl leigear uirte.

Irisleabhra.

Is mián le Saeóeal shoi curde "Impleabair na Saeóilge" do cur ar bun a'ir. So n-eiríe leir! Airisimíe uainn go móir é. Agus is fáoda linn as feiteam le "Saeolica" agus "Eriu" agus an "Revue Celtique," nac maíe le fáil agaimn.ó 1916. Ac deir an éogairí!

An Buille.

Sgríobar an méiríe reo euaíe o'imeac moim teact amac do'n "Proclamation" i n-a'airíe an Connairta, gl. Is buille móir é: ar ron na Saeóilge! Tuigfeair fan i n-am 'r i o'airíe.

L. P. O'R.

6/7/18.

ONE UNION FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—It was with interest I read "Trades Unionist's" letter in your issue of last week. His suggestion re forming an Irish Postal Workers' Union is a very good one indeed. Now is the time for postal workers of all grades to unite and form a good, solid union. It is about time that what is known as "class" be done away with amongst post office workers. If the A.I.P.O.C. delegates at the next conference decide on amalgamating with the English Union it will mean that very few of their present members will support them.

I would suggest that a small conference be held in Dublin as early as possible, and that delegates be sent from Postal and Telegraph branches (A.I.P.O.C.); Postmen's Federation, Engineering Department, etc. They could then decide on doing something that would bring all P.O. workers into one organisation.

A "LABOUR MAN."

Cork, 3rd July, 1918.

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Kenmare.

On 6th inst. a meeting held under Transport Union auspices resulted in the formation of a Kenmare branch. A large number enrolled and paid subscriptions. The following officers were elected:—President, Jer. O'Shea; treasurer, Michl. Gallinan; secretary, Michael O'Riordan. A further meeting was held last Saturday, with satisfactory results.

The shop assistants have applied for an increase of 25 per cent. on wages, which is certainly not out of place.

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THE CASE OF CLARA.

The position of the workers in Clara opens up an interesting problem. Practically all the Clara people are employees of Messrs. Goodbody, either in the Jute factory (where about 700 men and women are employed) or in the flour mills. Messrs. Goodbody have built a considerable number of houses for the workers, which they rent to them; they also sell coal to them, and vegetables. As they seem to own the greater part of the land in the district, they must be landlords to most of the inhabitants. The wages paid in the factory are not bad in comparison with Dublin wages, and the employer's conscience is lulled by the fact that in many cases several members of one family are drawing wages from the firm. But wages are useless to the Clara people under present conditions. The houses provided for them are miserable—small, cramped, crowded, no proper back yards, not a scrap of garden or land attached, no privacy, not even arrangements for ordinary decency. There are no allotments; no playgrounds; no hall for meetings; no provision for any amusements. The people, in fact, live under conditions which provide merely for the existence of wage slavery to run the machinery of Goodbody's factory.

Now, what can a Trade Union achieve in such a case? One thinks at once of Connolly's description in "Labour and Irish History" of

a small Co-Operative Community.

Clara offers an ideal opportunity for such. The industry is there; if the workers could control it, they might create a model settlement. But in view of the fact that the employers own not only the industry but the land for miles around, it is obvious that the workers' first task must be to educate the employers; by constant agitation to make them realise that the workers of to-day are out to secure their rights in life; by steady, solid pressure to make claims for better houses, a share in the land, and increased facilities for education impossible of refusal. These things can be won through strong organisation; once won, the Clara workers can go ahead towards the ideal of a co-operative community. The spirit of the age will be on their side; a state of affairs such as exists now in Clara would be widely denounced if generally known; the men who control Clara and its people to-day belong to a school of thought—or rather a school without thought—which is rapidly losing influence and power. The Clara workers ought not to lose time in organising.

Blanchardstown.

We hope to get a branch started at Blanchardstown, where Miss Mullen has been doing some successful organising.

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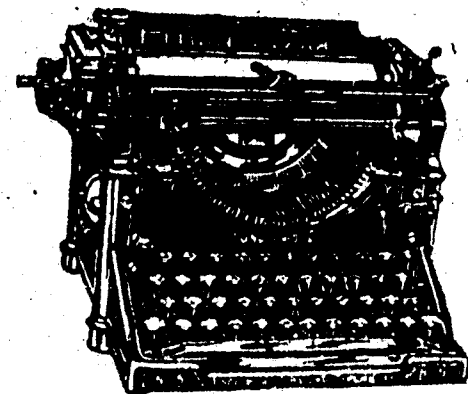
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Brinsley MacNamara has discovered a valley in Meath inhabited by salacious pharisees, male and female, gossips, backbiters, drunkards and gluttons, with a P.P. who grazes cattle free of charge with the farmers of the valley, smokes and pockets their cigars, and "renayges" at cards without challenge, because he pretends to be seeking among their daughters a wife for his brother, Robert. To this valley, where only man is vile, and where man is only vile, returns for his vacation John Brennan, a Divinity student, drawn from Zola's Abbe Mouret—before the "fault." Myles Shannon, a wealthy bachelor farmer, planning revenge on Brennan's mother (original: Mrs. Gourlay, in "The House with the Green Shutters") for the ruin of his brother and the spiteful destruction of his own romance, brings the cloistered innocence of Brennan into contact with the wild experience of Shannon's nephew, Ulick, hoping thereby to render Brennan unfit for the priesthood. The author, to assist the good work, imports the errant schoolmistress from George Moore's, "The Lake," who is, in due course, seduced by Ulick, expelled by the self-righteous P.P., and callously dropped from the tale by the author, leaving only a wild and hopeless affection in the heart of John Brennan.

The secret love of Brennan finds vent in the murder of the betrayer. Fleeing with bloody hands from the scene of the tragedy, Brennan is fixed by the glittering eye of an ancient gossip, who uncovers his mother's shame and reveals that Ulick Shannon was the illegitimate son of Mrs. Brennan, and therefore his own blood brother. Such is the happy valley of Garradrimna. The principle of good is faintly adumbrated in the slight sketch of the disappointed, soured schoolmaster with one good deed to his credit, and three dozen words about "poor Father Considine."

The tale, with all its extravagance, represents a very natural reaction from the sickly fiction in which the good people wear halos, and the bad 'uns unfailingly make impossible repentances. The characters are strongly drawn, and are driven, with remorseless logic to the inevitable tragedy. Their history grips the reader and holds—nay compels—attention to the end. As an essay in the art of the novelist it ranks high. As a record of Irish village life, it is a series of libels, almost impossible to have had their basis in even the scandal of Meath villages, more probably founded on the backbiting of the "mixed" villages of the North-East. On the whole, "The Valley of the Squinting Widows" is an undesirable book, except in so far as it serves as an antidote to the cloying, mind-deteriorating stuff labelled and puffed as "clean and wholesome Irish fiction."

COLKITTO.

"The Valley of the Squinting Windows" by Brinsley MacNamara. (Maunsel and Co., Ltd., Dublin.) 5s. net. Post free, 5s. 4d.

FOR THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(From Front Page.)

workers have to organise with a watchful eye on the opposition. They cannot afford to overlook International politics; in their own interests they must study this idea of a League of Nations; and, if it is to be made a reality, they must do their utmost to subject it to democratic influences, or else they may find themselves up against a force more formidable and more menacing than any they have yet visualised.—Yours faithfully,

LOUIE BENNETT.

["Colkitto" says:—Miss Bennett's opening statement convicts her of extremely slipshod reading. I fully endorse the last paragraph of her letter.]

Roscrea.

The dispute at the Bacon Factory pursues a tortuous course. The Secretary Cork I.D.A. has endeavoured to promote a settlement, and he secured the adhesion of the I.T. and G.W.U. members and the company to an agreement providing (1) that the Union disclaimed any right to dictate the number of employees; (2) the directors of the company repudiated any intention to fight trade-unionism in general, or the I.T. and G.W.U.; (3) the Union to withdraw claims on behalf of the two boys, and the directors to withdraw lock-out notice; (4) the parties to resume former relations; (5) the case of the two boys to be referred to arbitration after resumption of work, the names of the arbiters being agreed before resumption. **Double Dealing.**

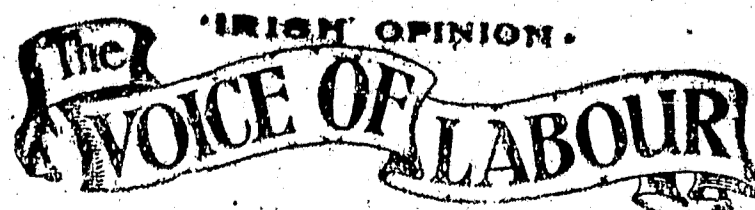
To the surprise of all, the "Midland Counties Advertiser" of 11th inst. contained an advertisement by the company denying the existence of a lock-out and inviting their former employees to apply for re-engagement on the old terms. The directors regretted they were unable, owing to pork slaughtering regulations, to employ so many men as formerly. The advertisement is not only a flagrant breach of faith with the men, but an unmerited insult to Mr. Fawcett, of the I.D.A., whose labours to promote a settlement have been appreciated by the locked-out workers and the public.

Rough on Carson.

E. D. Morel, speaking recently of his trial, said: "As for the attitude of the Barrister for the Prosecution, it was the attitude of an Irish Crown Prosecutor."

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