

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. Vol. 1, No. 41.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1918.

ONE PENNY

Free Press
in England

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SAOLACAS
le l. p. O RIAN.

Bolsheviks and
Catholic Church

THE CAFE GIRLS OF DUBLIN. COMING SIR—
WITH VICTORY

Since Thursday of last week the hotels, restaurants, and cafes of Dublin have been closed down because of the refusal of the owners to exhaust all the methods of negotiation usual in the settlement of trades disputes. All classes and sections of catering employees are involved; all are united in one and the same Union; and all have thrown in their lot with one another, and are determined to see that justice is done to them all round.

Perhaps not since the Transport and General Workers' Union raised the bottom dogs of Dublin labour, the so-called unskilled workers employed in transport and transit, out of the mud and dirt of the streets and set them up upon their own feet with their heads high in the air, no better service has been done for the workers of Dublin than the organisation by the same Union of the lowly-paid, bullied, abused, and sweated slaves of the hotels and cafes which minister to the tastes of those who are rich enough to afford to dine out. Never were workers held in more servile bondage than the workers in the luxury trade of catering. But at last even they have turned upon their masters and are demanding that they should be treated as human beings.

These workers are organised from the chefs to the charwomen, and all of them are brothers and sisters in the same fight. For the men we need say nothing: they are standing together shoulder to shoulder and fighting grimly and silently, for they have learned the need of fighting. Of the women and girls much need not be said, and yet we know that there is not a man on strike who would begrudge the highest praise to their sisters in this battle. The women and girls are

in the majority, their conditions of service might have made them the weakest links in the chain, and their exposure to hardship might have introduced an element of weakness into their ranks. None of these things have happened, and the women and girls in Dublin have been putting up as gallant a fight as was ever fought even by the best seasoned troops in the army of Labour. They are but young and raw recruits, but their enthusiasm, their steadiness, their discipline, and their gay and gallant courage would do credit to the oldest veterans in the movement.

Eighty hours a week
—and NO wages.

As to some of their conditions, the housing of the hotel staffs for example we advisedly say nothing now. If they are not altered we shall have some questions to ask. As to wages, in one famous establishment of central position girls have worked long and busy hours, amid constant calls for tact, courtesy and diplomacy. They got no wages. Girls from respectable homes, they had to live on the casual charity of their customers and to develop the arts of cajolery and cadging to make a living.

Have the public been inconvenienced by the strike? Has Dublin suffered financial loss, as the "Freeman" blazons? Inconvenience and money-losses are a small price to pay for the cure of such evils, full of menace not only to the body but the soul? Fourteen

years' service in a fashionable Grafton Street Restaurant is rewarded by 8s. a week. A man who has given fifty years' service in a leading hotel is allowed—for sweet charity's sake—to toil all day in a cellar, over a steaming trough, in artificial light, for 12s. 6d. a week, and out of that is expected not only to live but to deal honestly and discharge his moral obligations as a man, a father, and a Christian.

Our moralists have taken the teaching of Leo XIII. and Pius X and spun them into the gossamer of metaphysical refinements. They have been lyrically ecstatic in their eulogies of the doctrine of the living wage. But the attempt to carry these sacred teachings into practice has been left to the Transport Union. The struggle of the hotel workers will succeed, for greed cannot always triumph. The evil of the vampire employment agency will be done away with, and 29 Eden Quay become the centre of industrial control in this not unimportant branch of communal service.

By the time these lines are read their battle may be over and won, or it may be but entering another stage. Which ever it is, Labour in Ireland can rest assured that the cause will be as well and as faithfully served by these noble women as by any of the tested battalions which have come through the fires of war. For the workers in the hotels and cafes and restaurants have left their servitude behind them and they are entering upon the free full life of men and women who are conscious of their rights and will maintain them. "Dublin, I love you," as Dick O'Carroll said of the fighting capital of a fighting people.

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FARM WORKERS AND FARM STRIKES.

When we wrote last week of the complaint of the "Irish Homestead" that nearly everywhere in Ireland relations are strained between the farmers and the farm workers we asked whose in reality is the responsibility for the recent agricultural strikes? It is not the labourers who are to blame, nor is it the Unions in which the labourers are organised. On the contrary, the blame is at the door of the farmers, who have not learned the lesson the organised workers in the towns of Ireland have been teaching these last ten years. Even yet too many employers in the towns resent the interference of the Unions and deny to the town workers their right to combine and bargain collectively instead of individually. It is these short-sighted employers of labour who are directly and solely responsible for ninety-nine out of a hundred strikes. Labourers in town, or country do not strike for the fun of the thing or out of pure devilment, or out of any perversity in their nature; they strike because they want a better living, and only when their employers refuse to grant their demands or decline point-blank to enter into any discussion of grievances. Within our own experience rather more than one-half of the strikes which occur in urban or rural industry are due to the refusal of the employers to discuss grievances in a friendly spirit in the first instance, or else to the refusal of the employers to negotiate with the Unions; it is only the smaller proportion of strikes which have their origin in the failure of employers and employed to come to a settlement by negotiation.

Negotiation is the first weapon of the organised workers, and it is only when it has failed utterly that the strike is resorted to. The strike is the last weapon, and it is only resorted to when the workers or the Unions are literally driven, by the folly, the stubbornness, the unreasonableness, or the tyranny of employers, to what is in every sense a real act of industrial war, the withdrawal of labour. Officials of Unions have no love for strikes, they are not—sometimes unfortunately,—spoiling for a fight, and they are just as fond of their ease and

their comfort as any other men or women. But too often employers spurn all offers of peaceful settlement, and inevitably trouble ensues, as one of the objects of Trade Unionism is to secure the efficient conduct of disputes when they occur, the Unions and their officials, when trouble comes, fight as hard and as skilfully as determined and trained and disciplined men can fight. Of course, in nineteen cases out of twenty involving strikes in the long run the dispute is settled by direct negotiation between the representatives of both contending parties or by arbitration, or by some one of the other methods which the employers in their foolish obduracy rejected in the beginning, only to accept, under some kind of pressure, in the end. More ink and paper, more tongue and more energy and ability have been spent by Labour writers, speakers, and workers in trying to get employers to realise all this before the material loss accompanying all strikes should be risked, than would be necessary, we believe, to establish a Ralahine community in every county in Ireland. But, on the whole, employers are still deaf to all reasoning, and we know Trade Union officials are becoming sick, sore, and tired of all their wasted effort to make reason and not force prevail. The day is rapidly approaching, we believe, when the mass of the workers also will realise this great waste of words and energy, and Ireland will awake some fine morning to witness and take part in a great struggle of classes for mastery, and between employers and employed a bitter industrial war to the knife. For ourselves, although our natural span is yet far from run, upwards of ten years of the bitter experience of employers' greed and folly and wilful blindness only makes us help to hasten that great day of the proletarian uprising.

We confess that at times we had hoped that with the farmers of Ireland the story would have been quite different from the sad but yet not inglorious tale of the towns and cities. We had some faint hope that the farmers would have learned the lessons the town workers have been teaching with blood and tears and sacrifices. We had a stronger hope that the farmers, themselves but recently emancipated from crushing economic oppression, through their economic combination in the Land War, would have understood the position of the labourers, and have realised that as their own instrument of negotiation was the Land League, so the labourers' desire is for negotiation through their Trade Unions. The hope was vain, and we are afraid that in many ways the farmers are no better or wiser or more humane and reasoning masters than the landlords they have supplanted, and certainly little or nothing better than employers in the spheres of manufacture and distribution. Hence the root of all the trouble, the agitation, the organisation, the strikes on the land in Cork, Kerry, Kildare, Meath, Waterford, Down, Derry, and Donegal. Even since we wrote last week of the settlements in Kildare and Down we find that trouble has broken out again in Waterford and Dublin County, and in Down and Antrim, and generally all over Ulster peaceful settlement, under State

guidance, has only been arrived at after strikes, actual or threatened.

If the farmers of Ireland are wise they will turn with gratitude to the "Irish Homestead" and learn how to preserve agricultural peace from what is undoubtedly the best as it is the ablest friend the farmers have in journalism in these countries.

But, as we said last week, even the "Homestead's" proposals for peace are only temporary, simply an expedient for tiding over the difficulties of the present, not a solution for the future. For a real solution we need scarcely go outside the columns of the "Homestead" itself, although we hardly think the "Homestead" has indicated it as clearly or sketched it as definitely of late as it was wont to do. The solution, we believe, is to be found in the real control and management by the farm workers of the great agricultural industry in which they are engaged. It is not to be found in what is called the nationalisation of the land. It is not to be found even in the co-operative movement as at present practised even in Ireland. No, it is to be found in the complete control and management, in a democratic spirit, in the interests of the community of the land of Ireland by the workers on the land of Ireland. That will require some definition and explanation, but we are in too big a hurry to explain this week. Even Moses, we feel sure, took some time and did not hurry in explaining the Promised Land to the Israelites, and we are far from being a Moses.

Bolsheviks and the Church.

The vilification of the Bolsheviki is a task regularly undertaken at least once a week by the Press which called for Connolly's blood, and got it. For the facts, we would direct our readers' attention to the "Workers' Dreadnought," which sets out weekly the decrees for the control of industry in Russia by the workers. Last week's "Catholic Times" says:—

"It must be said that in their relations with the Catholic Church the Bolsheviki have not only been tolerant, but on occasions have shown a preference for the Catholic clergy. They look upon them as clerics who are self-sacrificing and who were formerly persecuted, whereas they are decidedly hostile to the Orthodox priests, regarding them as reactionaries. Though the Catholic Church in Russia is financially weak, it can be said with certainty that the Catholic priests enjoy much more liberty than was granted to them when the country was under the rule of the Czar. The obstructions which then prevented a Catholic advance have been removed, and whatever the future of the country may be, one may predict without hesitation that the Catholic bishops, clergy and faithful, will be free to develop their religious and social works."

Will the "Herald" or the "Independent" reproduce these facts?

Query?

Which tobacco firm refuses to allow its assistants to wear the Union badge?

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

We Never Doubted Ye.

When, a few weeks ago, the press agencies of capitalism told the world that the Allies and the United States had at length intervened in Russia, the friends and supporters of the Bolsheviks in some quarters feared that at last tyranny and reaction were about to triumph and the Soviet Republic go down in disaster before the combined attack of internal and external foes. There is less cause for that fear now than there was at the beginning of August. With success comparable only to that of the liberating armies of revolutionary France, the Bolsheviks have rallied, to the discomfiture of their foes and the delight of their friends, and have won over both the Czecho-Slovaks and their allies victories which at least for a time will check the onslaught on the Socialist Republic. We rejoice heartily that the Bolsheviks are still holding more than their own ground, that the half-dozen counter-revolutionary "governments" set up here and there are still far from winning either material or moral victories, that these "governments" are at bitter variance, the one with the other, and that on all sides from which the Soviets are being attacked, confusion and even divisions prevail amongst the armies and parties now endeavouring to overthrow the Republic. The lie that Lenin and Trotsky had fled and left the Bolsheviks to their fate, and that Bolshevism in government had received its death-blow, has been exploded, and it is now known that Lenin, Trotsky, and Tchitcherine are still directing the noblest and most heroic struggle in history. The Soviets still maintain their grip on Russia, and the Republic has once again scattered its enemies. The Soviets are all-powerful, and by every account all-powerful they will remain.

The Soviet Still Lives.

Monday morning's papers startled the world by announcing that Lenin had died from wounds received at the hands of an assassin. Not even the death of the Kaiser would bring greater joy to the hearts of the European capitalists of the Entente than the death of this man, who was the very incarnation of the dictatorship of the proletariat. We sincerely hope the news is untrue, for Lenin's work was but beginning. If it is true Russia has lost her greatest son and the working class its greatest exemplar, the man who was most responsible, so far as any individual could be responsible, for the greatest social experiment in all history. But even if it is true, the capitalist Press should not begin to halloo until it is out of the wood. Lenin may be dead (there is nothing to show that this latest rumour about him is more true than other lies the Press agencies have told), but if he is, it by no means follows that Bolshevism is dead, or that the Soviet is doomed. The Bolshevik Soviet is built up on principles, not on personalities, and for that reason its fate is not bound up with the fate of any individual, however powerful or dictatorial. Bolshevism is

the revolt of the workers of Russia against the whole evil system of the past. It is the principle of the future, and will survive all assassinations, whether they be of a leader by an opponent, or of a people by an empire. Principles never die, and they are foolish and blind who think they do. Lenin was indeed the Connolly of Russia, and it yet remains to be seen if his influence in death is less amongst his people than Connolly's is among his. Lenin may be dead but the Soviet still lives. Long live the Soviet!

Cork N.U.R. and Havelock Wilson.

On behalf of 700 members of the National Union of Railwaymen, J. Good has sent to J. Havelock Wilson a vigorous reply to the latter's appeal, in the name of the merchant seamen, for a split in the labour movement. Mr. Good traverses Wilson's record of Hun outrages, true and untrue, and compiles a record of Anglo-Hun outrages here and elsewhere which outshines the hunnishness of the German Hun. "In all the belligerent nations except Russia," says Good, "the master class and their agents and tools reign supreme. Every shred of liberty the people possessed has been bartered away by a section of the leaders whom they trusted, at what price? Yet in face of that there is just the possibility of labour asserting itself. The only thing to prevent it is a split in the movement, and your action, whether intended or not, is a step in that direction.

"I believe the British workingman can and will save his country and his class. The rank and file of the men in the service will repudiate you, provided the authorities don't Canadianise the votes. Every right thinking man and woman is sick and tired of war, and longs for an honourable and lasting peace. The old Ascendancy gang, who enjoy wealth and power as a result of robbery, plunder, bloodshed, confiscation and the heartless grinding of the masses in all countries, alone stand to profit by a continuance of this Hell-upon-earth.

"There will be some thinking later on. The new found friends of your self-constituted labour party will find it difficult to persuade the workers that the wealth of the world was made for the benefit of the idle rich, and for them only, and that the majority of the people were created to keep them in luxury and fight their battles. The fooling of all the people all the time is coming to an end."

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN ENGLAND.

We reprint the following quotations from the "Bradford Pioneer" as examples of the license allowed in criticism of the Government policy and in expression of opinion in England. Had the passages in question originated here it is morally certain that publication would have been refused by the Press Censor. The first quotation follows a satirical comment on the recognition by the Allies of the Czecho-Slovaks as a belligerent army:—

"Reprisals May Come.

"Austrian rulers are very like our own. They therefore do not like giving freedom to any one. But we may present them with the following suggestion for a counter-declaration:

'Austria regards the Sinn Feiners as an allied nation and recognises the unity of the hundred imprisoned Sinn Fein Leaders as an allied and belligerent army waging regular warfare against Great Britain. Great Britain says they are in league with us, and we therefore take her word for it.'

The second quotation speaks for itself, and could not be more neatly expressed:

"The War for Freedom.

"It appears that General French, who conducted the British retreat from Mons in August, 1914, was engaged on the fourth anniversary of that event in suppressing by the aid of his troops the "Southern Star," in Skibbereen, Ireland. We do work our generals, and we do celebrate anniversaries, don't we?"

EDUCATION IN RELATION TO LABOUR.

Introductory Note.

Largely through the writings of the late James Connolly, the importance of industrial control is becoming more understood in labour circles. It has come to be regarded as the one and only solution of everyday labour problems, which, when all is said and done, are purely economic.

The importance of coming to grips with the octopus of capitalism is becoming more pressing, and in storming this fortress—for capitalism is a mighty fortress—no outwork should be neglected. I hold that the education systems of these countries, but more especially of Ireland, are the most important strategic outposts of capitalism.

There are two conceptions of education which are generally accepted—the one is the development of the God-given faculties of the soul, which distinguishes man from the brute creation. Certainly these faculties would never have been bestowed upon man by an all-wise Providence unless they were intended to be developed. This is the true conception of education, but unfortunately it is not the prevailing one under our present social system. If it did prevail it would be the right of every individual to secure the fullest development of his intellectual faculties, and we would be spared the unchristian spectacle of starving parents being unable to provide the necessary food and clothing for their offspring, and the still more unchristian spectacle of weakly, immature children slaving in the fields and factories to supplement the wretched income of the household.

In a future article I shall get down to more details, and I hope the consideration of this important question will be of interest to workers in the Labour movement, which we should all have at heart.

"LABOR VICIT."

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

Education.

Will all Dublin trade unionists desirous of promoting and aiding classes in Economics and Industrial History send their names and addresses to the Secretary, Room 5, Liberty Hall.

Grocers' Gains.

The Lord Mayor's award gives a long delayed measure of justice to the Grocers' Assistant of Dublin, and sets a head-line for progress elsewhere. The new minimum wages are—for the first and second years after apprenticeship, £1 12s. 6d. per week; for the third year, £1 17s. 6d.; and for the fourth and subsequent years, £2 2s. 6d. The minimum rate for charge hands has been fixed at £2 7s. 6d. per week.

These rates are based upon outdoor conditions, and are to be reduced by £1 per week where assistants are living indoors. The award is to take effect as from July first.

Apprenticeship is regulated, one apprentice being allowed to each shop and additional apprentices in the proportion of one to every four seniors.

Libelling Dublin.

An article on the Irish shirt-making trade in the August issue of "Better Business" reveals the mentality of the Dublin employer in that trade. Objection was raised to the minimum wages rates proposed to be fixed by the Irish Shirt Board on the ground that "the efficiency of Dublin and the South is not equal to that of the North generally owing to the lack of the Industrial habit, coupled with undeveloped ambition. . . . The employers. . . do not object to good wages, if there is a reasonable chance that the industry will not be crushed out of existence."

That explains the swagger about Northern efficiency and the Northern contempt for the lazy, sluggish "South an' West."

THE NORTH AGAIN.

The Ballymena branch National Union of Railwaymen has come forward with a policy that should rally the united forces of Irish railway workers, embodied in the following resolution:—"That we instruct our secretary to write our Executive Committee demanding that they open up negotiations at once for an 'Eight-hour day,' to come into operation not later than first January, 1919, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to all branches in Ireland, and to the Editor "Irish Opinion."

Like the Black Squad of Belfast, the railroaders of Ballymena have, with unerring instinct, determined to go for the policy that gives most in moral and spiritual values. In this they should have the hearty support of the travelling public, which seldom realises the risk involved to it by the long working hours and short rest-time of the railway workers. More leisure makes better workers and better men, and guarantees the safety of travellers.

Branches which endorse the Ballymena resolution should notify the "Voice."

Belfast Hairdressers.

After negotiations of a protracted kind, varied by threats of a lock-out, Mr. E. Owens, of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, has secured signed agreements from the owners of the principal saloons guaranteeing the following minimum wages:—

High-class saloons, 43s. 9d. per week and 1s. 8d. commission on all takings.

First-class saloons, 40s. per week and 1s. 8d. on all takings.

This affects 30 men, and the increase totals £600 a year. Since the beginning of July sixty members of the Union have gained by Union action advances totalling £1,276 per annum. Wages in working-class saloons have risen in obedience to the law of supply and demand thus manipulated by the Union. What about Dublin?

Galway.

A branch of the Shop Assistants' Union has now been started here by local effort. E. Owens, organiser, has been invited to come West and confirm it.

Voice of Clonmel.

The Foremen and Assistants Grocers' and Allied Trades have held a formal meeting. The Dublin organiser is coming to Clonmel to further the cause. I can guarantee him a comrades reception.

The female employes of Cleeve's are forming a branch of the Irish Women Workers' Union.

The Bakers Society had handed in notice to cease work on Saturday if their demands were not acceded to, but it has now been agreed to submit to arbitration. There is a dark horse with a red van going round that will make things hot for the master bakers.

The Clerical Workers are still going strong, new members coming in every week in double figures—well done the C.W.U. staff.

The voices are crying out for more of the "Voice of Labour." Ask O'Callaghan, 14 Main street, for it.

Your readers hasten to thank you for the sound of the voices of Clonmel, and trust that the voices will ring out from all parts of Ireland notes of unity and self-reliance.

The trades of Clonmel met to the number of 11 branches in the Commercial Club Rooms (kindly lent). It was unanimously agreed that a Trades Council be formed. A sub-committee was elected to draft rules, with Mr. J. O'Hurley, Sec., I.O.W.U., to drive the pen.

Derry Dockers.

The dockers on strike at Derry are experiencing the dictation of the arbitrary Mr. Sexton, which resulted in the formation of the Transport Union. He has ordered them back to work under old conditions before the Ministry of Labour will be asked to interfere.

DROGHEDA DEVELOPMENTS

Much is made by the Press over the country of the big wages of flax-pullers. £1 to 35s. per day is being earned by the swift and supple workers, but this will probably be the last season of these bonanza wages. Mr. Shortt has been in Drogheda inspecting a mechanical flax-puller, which will soon replace human labour.

Despite its proximity to Dublin the seat of the Wages Board, Drogheda district has many farmers who are holding back wages due under the Corn Production Act, which guarantees the price of their products. One has defrauded his labourer of £14 to date.

The Newtown Drogheda Land and Labour Association called a strike to enforce their demands for a higher wage. After two days the Association amalgamated with the Transport Union, which entered into negotiations with the farmers and secured better terms than the local body had claimed.

The superior bargaining power of the big battalions secured for the men working with horses and machinery 3s. for ordinary Sunday work, and 1s. per hour for other work on that day; overtime at the rate of 9d. per hour; these in addition to the Land and Labour Association's claim for 30s. per week. Youths between 16 and 21 years obtain 27s. 6d. as against 22s. 6d. claimed, and the working week has been fixed at 54 hours, while the Association claimed 60.

The Association possessed men of courage and initiative, but their resources were unequal to sustain a long fight. They will now find ample scope inside the O.B.U., and an assurance of backing in their future struggles.

Nenagh.

Nenagh branch I.T. and G.W.U., which has now 400 members, reports a case of alleged victimisation by Clerihan, the flour-seller, who is stated to have called at the house of an employee named Bourke on a Sunday night and told him his services were no longer required.

Bourke was only receiving 12s. a week between November 10th and February 16th, when his wages were raised to 14s. In July the Transport Union claimed, under the Corn Production Act, for A.W.B. wages, and obtained £14 17s. 9d. arrears for Bourke. The result of this exaction of justice is Bourke's dismissal.

The Branch called out Clerihan's employees, but five blacklegged. Clerihan himself is now serving the bread-van. Here is an opportunity for all in Nenagh who wish to emancipate themselves from the food-profiters to follow Charleville and establish a co-operative bakery, and for the decent farmers to start a co-operative flour mill.

BOOK RECEIVED.

The Human Needs of Labour. By B. Seebohm Rowntree. T. Nelson and Sons (London and Edinburgh), 3/6 net.; by Post 3/10.

(We shall review this important book later; but, meantime, would recommend that every Union official who has to deal with claims for establishment of minimum wages should have a copy).

SYD.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION.

Sir Plunket Barton made the following award in the case of the women employed in Messrs. Hill's Woollen Mills, Lucan:—An increase of 1/6 per week to all time workers of more than 2 years' experience; half that sum to girls with less than 2 years. 10 per cent. on earnings to all piece workers. Though the award is regrettably small, it means that these workers have received 25 per cent. increase within 12 months.

The employees at Messrs. Goodbody's Tobacco Factory have been on strike all the week owing to a dispute arising in connection with our claim for better wages for the spinners. As the men in this trade are now fully organised (owing to the inspiration of the women), we propose sending in claims for an all-round increase. The women spinners have hitherto been paid about 16s. per week; the general workers, 11s. per week. The women on strike number over 100.

The numbers of women disemployed owing to the printing dispute increases week by week. We owe a very deep debt of gratitude to all the men's unions that have given practical proof of their sympathy with the women through the Dublin Trades Council.

The claims of the women employed in Messrs. Boland's bakehouses and mills, and in their restaurant in Kingstown, were heard by the Government arbitrator, Professor J. R. Baillie, last Tuesday.

Mrs. Callendar reports that a new branch has been started in New Ross, and we have hopes that we shall have a branch in Clonmel in the near future.

Women and War Loan.

The conference of the National Federation of Women Workers' at Manchester has been held under a press barrage, in which the "Evening Chronicle" has distinguished itself. Mrs. Fawcett objected to Union funds being used to finance the war. War loan, she said, is nothing but Blood Money. The "Chronicle" publishes this with felon-setting head lines: "Poisonous Speech," "Why is She at Large?" "Shameful Speech," etc. This intimidation of trade unionists in the internal control of their unions will certainly fail to influence the Irish members of the N.F.W.W.

DHA LEABHAR NUA DO CHAED-HEALA:

Maidean i mBearra, agus danta eile. OSBORN BERGIN DO SGRIOBH Luach - - Tri Raol (Post 3 ph.)

An Chaise Charbh Leabhar Nua-Philidheachta

PEADAR O HANNRACHAIN DO SGRIOBH Luach - - Tri Raol (Post 3 ph.)

Glo na gGoinneall, 44 Sraid Dawson, Baile Atha Cliath.

TRANSPORTS!

The South-Eastern Campaign.

Organisers Peale and Coates are entrusted with the negotiation of demands on the corn merchants of Dungarvan. Mr. Coates has been refused a hearing by the North Kilkenny Farmers' Union. They will live to regret their attempt to dictate to the workers how they shall organise. Arising out of this incident is a challenge to D. T. Gorey to debate next Sunday with P. Coates the question, "Is it in the interest of the Co. Kilkenny farm labourers to organise in the I.T. and G.W.U.?" Kilkenny City branch is now over 800 strong. At Piltown Petty Sessions £6 16s. arrears of wages were recovered for a member. At last the Committee on Production has fixed a date for the hearing of the Union's claims on behalf of Arklow workers. Thursday, 12th September, is the date fixed, and the terms of reference are: "Claim for payment of the 12 1/2 per cent. bonus from January 1st, 1918, to semi-skilled and unskilled workers employed in the engineering trades." As the claim was made as far back as Feb. 11 it will be seen that the Government hastens slowly. The Committee on Production is one of the new "Win-the-war" departments which explains the Rothermere belief that this will be a long war.

IRISH-IRELAND INSURANCE.

The flow of one million sterling each year from Ireland to England as a voluntary tribute paid in pennies every week as insurance premiums by the workers can only be stopped by supporting societies located in Ireland. The New Ireland Assurance Society is one which can be recommended. It is controlled by an elected committee, and every member has a vote in deciding the policy of the society. Fundamental to the constitution is the provision that its funds must be invested in Irish securities, and the assets of the society cannot be disposed of to any company or society whose head office is situate outside Ireland. The benefit tables are based on experience, and as there are no profits to accrue to private shareholders no attempt is made at flat catching with extravagant benefits as bait. The Cumann Urradhais na hEirinn is "square" with trade unionism.

OBAIR A'S SAOLACHAS.

Do méir deallmáin tá na Saedilgeoirí agur luictaróirí ag oiriúint i n-éiríonn ríochtaí. Is seol liom rin, ac ba síle liom iad arson a beit i n-áonóad le n-a céile, nó, ar a laigeas, có-mótu agur cáirdear a beit eatoréa. Ní hinniúcair go raib Saedilg dá labairt le inn na có-dála móire i bpoirt Láirge; ní dearmad tásairt do éir na bpeair oibre ó éir go oirre na háro-peire i scill áirne. Du dóig leat, ar éairiúg na có-dála, nac raib páirt ar bit ag Saedéala ra gno; tuigfí ó éintar na háro-peire nac bfuil rabóiríte o'áon éineal ra oir, nó go bfuilro lán-tronapac agur lán-trápta. Bfuilmis corúil le éairiúg nó le cómarra na?

Szriobhnóiri ar zóú.

Ói an áro-peir agur an coirneácar go ní-máit ar ríúgí, ac is dona an ríéal acá le hinniúg i ocaib na scómórcarai lictaróca. Ói na ríúobhnóirí zann, agur iad nac raib páilligeac ní raib móran maíteara i scuir oá raócar. Zon áirur tá úgair éirre pá glar, agur mar oubairt éoin mac néill ói intinn na noaóine corruíte go móir ar pead na bliana. Ac i n-áirur o'e'n trázar rin nac oual o'na ríli, agur ríúobhnóirí nac iad, a beit níor gníomai ná maí? Ní ar éirinear áirín, ní ar doibnear áirín, a maírear anam an úgair.

intleachz 'na Fásach.

'Sí an éirinne glan a ráo go bfuil ar ríúobneoirí ag éirre pállra, agur go bfuil ar bfuimóir neam-fuimíúil i ocaib uirtóca. Ní raótrúigócar rún-meanna ná ríor-intleac i n-éirinn. Tá ar noúcar intinneac 'na párac nac móir. Tá timéirí intleacáca, ag ceapóil ó Connrad na Saedilge; 'pead, agur ag ceapóil go zéar.

Ag Braich ar Lucht Oibre.

Ní déirí ríor-leigear ar an scár go mbéirí luict oibre i n-ann a n-intleac do raótrú go oimín oícoallac. Du deacair oib a léitéro do déanam zann cuir maíe oá zceair a beit acá ar oir. Agur ní péirí oib é déanam amúg 'r amac ac trío an Saedilg. Deaca na héirneann an Saolacair. Ní raóirre iomlán, ní páp ríoróca, zann ríor-Saolacair i mboirad 'r i mblac ar zac caoib. Cummíúg ar rin, a éairre!

L. P. Ó R.

Advertisement for THE NEW IRELAND ASSURANCE SOCIETY. Includes text: 'The necessity for Life Assurance becomes all the greater as the cost of living increases.', 'Write us for Prospectus:— Mention "The Voice of Labour." 56 Lr. O'Connell St., Dublin.', and lists of National Report Sound, Committee of Management, Financial Report Excellent, and Trustees/Bankers.

TEACHERS AND UNIVERSITIES.

By R. TIMMINS, National Executive I.T.U.C.

"University Training for Primary Teachers" is the subject of a pamphlet by Professor R. M. Henry and Mr. M. W. Robieson, of Belfast University, in which the agitation for a local training centre in Belfast is availed of to point out some defects in the present system of training primary teachers, and to suggest the lines on which a reform might be carried out.

The "training in isolation" of the teachers is condemned, because "it deprives them of a share in the ordinary educational, social or political life of young men and women of their own age who are intended for other professions."

This must necessarily have a bad effect on the teachers in after life.

A University degree is regarded as the standard of general education for other professions, the authors of the pamphlet "see no reason why eventually every primary teacher in Ireland should not have a degree."

It is claimed that the gradual introduction of University trained teachers into the teaching profession will raise the general level of efficiency and improve the status of the teachers, and that it will be impossible to continue paying "the salaries of chauffeurs" to men and women who are discharging one of the most important duties in life.

It is questionable whether raising the professional status would ensure better salaries for teachers, it has not been the experience of the teachers at present holding degrees.

The various courses of training are discussed at some length—their respective merits, the advantage of one course over another, with a recommendation in favour of a four years' course as giving the best results.

The needs of Irish primary education should determine the length and character of the course.

Everyone interested in Irish education will agree that the best mental equipment and training should be provided for the teachers who are to educate the youth of the country, and will welcome the suggestion that facilities be afforded to those about to enter the profession, to gain a degree before beginning their career as teachers.

It is a matter of regret that the authors did not deal with the more immediate needs of education. They practically ignore the claims of the men and women at present teaching in our primary schools, and who number, roughly, sixteen thousand.

"With the provision of facilities for dealing with those who have already had some experience of teaching but no systematic training, we do not think it necessary to deal." Thus one of the most important problems is disposed of in a single sentence.

Many of these teachers have been clamouring for years for facilities to enable them to obtain University degrees, but their cry has fallen on deaf ears.

Why not establish evening classes in connection with the Universities in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and Galway for the convenience of the teachers in these centres, and at the same time make provision for teachers remote from these centres to attend the day classes in the Universities by providing substitutes during their period of training?

R. ní Ciománuíde.

OBITUARY.

Mr. E. Owens, organiser of the N.A.U. Shop Assistants, has suffered a bereavement by the death of his brother, Mr. John Owens, who died suddenly on Saturday, 31st ult. The deceased, who leaves a wife and three children, was for many years in the service of Belfast Board of Guardians, and was well-known and highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends.

No, John Hodge!

The Editor of "The Voice" will not publish your appeal for three million pounds. He can conceive nothing more detrimental to voluntary recruiting than whining appeals for "charity" for disabled soldiers.

As for the King's gift of £78,000, we suppose when donating this to rescue broken workers, he had in mind that beautiful hymn, "We give thee but thine own."

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Naas Polloe Belie Shortt.

Forty girls engaged in carpet-weaving at the Morton Manufacturing Co.'s factory in Naas, Co. Kildare, are on strike for higher wages since Saturday last. On Saturday night the local police informed the local secretary that Transport Union meetings fixed for Sunday would be prevented. At Naas on Sunday, the police took possession of the entrance to the Town Hall and were emphatic in their declaration that Tom Farren and Cathal O'Shannon would be prevented from holding the meeting. After much argument the organisers entered the hall, the meeting was held, and no interference was made with the proceedings. Later in the evening both organisers held a meeting in Newbridge.

At Dunboyne on Sunday Eamonn Rooney spoke.

Prospective Readers.

Now that D.O.R.A. forbids posters and other means of advertising "The Voice" we must rely on the good will of our friends. If you have a friend who might become a subscriber, send us a P.O. for 6d., with your friend's name and address enclosed, and we'll send a copy of "The Voice" each week for six weeks. We pay the postage.

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CAPITAL AND DEMOCRACY.

More Capitalists Wanted.

A scribe who is a member of a trade union tells us that "What Dublin needs, and Ireland generally, is 'Capitalists' by the score who will spend their money in the creation of manufactories, and it should be the aim of Labour in the present economic state of things to do all possible to bring into play in this direction the 98 million pounds now hoarded in the banks of Ireland."

If 98 million pounds needed to develop the country are hoarded in banks, then what Ireland needs is not more capitalists to hoard more, but some means of restoring the money to the labourers who created the wealth it represents.

"There is hardly a village that should not have its tannery," he says. That is obviously not due to lack of capital, but to lack of brains in the capitalists, large and small, who are hoarding. For further evidence of the same folly see the "Irish Homestead."

What is the Corporation?

The same critic says it would be "an unpardonable offence against morality" to entrust the solution of the Housing problem to Dublin Corporation. We disagree. Bad as the record of the Corporation is, it is nevertheless the choice of the people.

The people wanted in the Corporation, Sinn Feiners, Redmondites or Unionists. They did not want citizens with a sense of duty to the community. Anybody with a mouth to utter shibboleths or the money to debauch the electorate could be elected. Result: civic immorality.

The next election will give the people a chance of remedying the diseases prevalent in the "City Haul." A wise choice, unprejudiced by Imperial obsessions, can restore to the Corporation its democratic quality. "Let Labour Lead" is the motto of the Dublin Trades Council.

The Corporation is the people's choice. The regeneration of Dublin since 1916 has had no chance yet of finding corporate expression in a new Council. When it does we hope to have more than three Labour Councillors.

I.C.A. Drawing, fixed for 2nd inst. is postponed until 16th inst.

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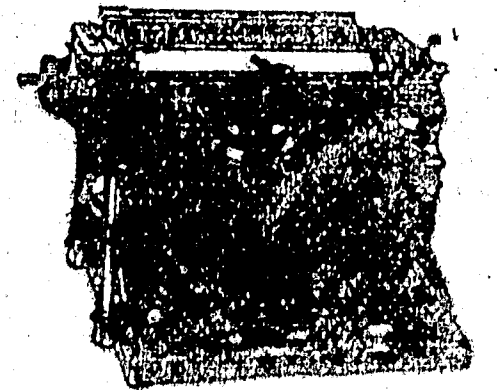
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"THE VOICE" AND ULSTER.

Letter from Councillor Logue, Derry.
To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with very great interest your article of last week with reference to some remarks of mine at the Irish Trades Union Congress at Waterford in reference to the "Voice of Labour," and I fully appreciate the sincere desire to give full scope in your pages to the many problems that face us here, and which require careful and thoughtful handling. We here in the North are not new to the Trades Union movement. We have been trained in it from our "industrial infancy," as some of our fathers have been before us. And why? Because we recognised that if our position "as workens" was going to be improved it was only by combination. We have in a large measure succeeded, and I believe I do not exaggerate when I say that we can compare favourably with any part of the United Kingdom in organisation. But this alone, I recognise, is not enough. If we are to have the full fruits of our labour we must have more than "industrial organisation"; we must have "political organisation." And it is here, so far as my experience goes, that our difficulties are to be encountered. Hitherto in Ireland we have allowed all our political endeavours to be monopolised by other persons and parties, and naturally when any question arises that has been associated with other political bodies, the Northern trades unionist eyes it in a suspicious manner, and critically examines it to see in what way it is going to benefit labour. In this respect alone, I believe there is a difference between the Northerner and the Southerner, the latter, I think, being inclined to act immediately and to think of his position afterwards. This in a large measure is responsible for what you term the lack of consciousness in Ulster. I myself do not believe so. I believe, on the contrary, that it is a consciousness so intense that it declines to take one step in advance before it is sure of its ground, for around it are numerous enemies ready at any moment to misrepresent its most laudable actions. These, sir, are a few thoughts which occur to me on reading your able article, but I believe we are gradually emerging into that position when we fully realise our strength, and when that time comes there is no fear that the North will "rise to her high destiny," and what is better, once risen will stay there.—Yours, etc.,

W. M. LOGUE.

Ballymena.

The Shop Assistants Union branch figures in the roll of honour for increase of membership in the last two issues of the official organ of the Union. The new Trades Council is carrying on as it began. Two mass meetings will take place to-day (Saturday), at which the aims of labour will be expounded.

Warrenpoint.

The claims of the shipyard labourers and joiners involved in the recent dispute with Messrs. G. and R. Thompson, Ltd., will be heard by the Committee on Production on 12th September.

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