

Lisbellaw Jimmie Baird Chinese Labour Liberality on the Strike in Canada.

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. No. 65

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ONE PENNY

Strike Breaking in Belfast

The Belfast workers have been carrying on their fight with that firm determination which was so highly praised by Sir Edward Carson at the time he was running the conditional rebellion stunt in Ulster. All things have been done decently and in order—no turbulence, no rioting, no sabotage. Doubtless Sir Edward will make the same claim for his old Town Hall government, but it should be remembered that Sir Edward could count on 50,000 German rifles to enforce his orders, whereas Charlie McKay's provisional government has nothing to rely upon but the moral authority of a just cause.

Everyone admits the strikers' claim to be fair and reasonable, and the employers themselves have stated that a human being should not be expected to start work in the morning on an empty stomach. Why then, if the claim is just, will the capitalists not grant it, and end the strike at once?

...Because, gentle reader, in the first place, the employer is not so simple as to grant a claim on the score of justice, otherwise there would be no end of claims.

Secondly, he is not so green as to make a concession to workers on strike, otherwise there would be no end of strikes.

Thirdly, he cannot concede a 44-hour week because he could not compete with the yards across the water, which have a 47-hour week or the German, Japanese and American yards, which have a still longer week.

You cannot have a 44-hour week until agreements are concluded with these foreign competitors.

You cannot make these agreements until the League of Nations is well and truly established.

You cannot establish the League of Nations until the war is over and the Kaiser hanged, and no one can tell

when the war will be over, and God only knows whether the Kaiser will ever be hanged!

In fact the poor employer is confronted with the most appalling economic difficulties, and it is a shame for the workers to badger him in the blessed period of reconstruction at all events.

Fourthly and lastly, the employers will make no concession unless it is wrung from them by organised labour. That is, in truth, the substance of the whole matter.

In pursuance of its intention to make our country a "land worthy of heroes," the Government, on the invitation of the Belfast Corporation, has decided to break the strike and encourage blackleg labour in the public services. English soldiers are guarding the gas works and power station, and the Lord Mayor has called for volunteer blacklegs. All this occurred on the day after the ballot, when the strikers decided to remain out, though there was no thread of violence nor indeed any reason whatever for calling out the British army. The Government is a body of capitalists, and uses the army for capitalist ends. At the first interview Lord Pirrie had with the Strike Committee he represented the Government, and spoke as the Controller of Shipbuilding. On the following day he appeared as a capitalist employer, and negotiated for Harland and Wolff!

The Government is in the pocket of the employers, and that is the reason why the British Army is used for strike breaking. Possibly there may come a time when the troops may be used to support the rights of strikers and prevent the blackleg from betraying the working classes. Who knows? Those organs of the Belfast bourgeoisie,

MOBILISATION OF BLACKLEGS.

the "Whig," the "News Letter," and the "Telegraph," which never wearied of singing the praises of the shipyard worker—his loyalty, his patriotism, his sobriety, his industry—in the good old Carsonite days, can now find no language strong enough to vilify him just because he wants his breakfast before turning out to work! A number of venomous articles have appeared in the pages of that Die-hard paper, the "Morning Post," and the electors of Ormeau should ask Mr. Thomas Moles, M.P., if he is the person who supplied the information for those articles!

Lynn, M.P., is the editor of the "Whig," and must be held responsible for all the vile abuse and misrepresentation appearing from day to day in that paper.

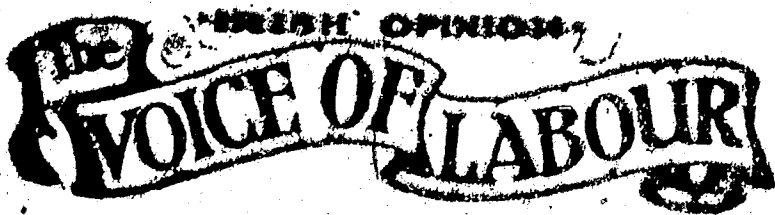
And mark you, both Moles and Lynn were pledged to the 44-hour week. Election promises are like pie crusts!

Sam McGuffin, Harry Burn and Thompson Donald have proved themselves genuine friends of labour, but not of course since the strike started! Sir Edward gave Belfast Labour a guarantee that these three boys would be quite at liberty to vote with their fellow-trade unionists on matters affecting labour, and lo and behold! the very first vote cast by them in the Commons is against the Labour amendment regretting that there was no mention in the King's speech of any steps being taken to deal with the causes of industrial unrest.

More pie crust!

The Grand Orange Lodge has published a declaration of benevolent neutrality, while Bishop D'Arcy and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, professing ignorance of the economic questions involved, urge the conflicting parties to come to an amicable arrangement. Anything for peace and quietness!

(Continued on next page).



Edited by GATHAL O'SHANNON.

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WHERE THE MONEY MUST COME FROM.

The threatened strike of miners, railwaymen and the transport workers of Britain has stirred Mr. George to allay unrest by talking about it. A conference of Capital and Labour is to be held—the nominees to be selected by the Government. It can be fully trusted to look after the interests of Capital, but it will certainly not invite Emanuel Shinwell, David Kirkwood, Charles McKey, or Bob Weir to represent Labour. Of such a conference no more need be expected than came from the English Convention of 1917, a report and further arrests of labour's active spirits.

Meantime, the Government by advertisement, and the Press by manipulation of news and misrepresentation, is in full cry against the miners' claims. Where is the money to come from? Will you ruin British industry? All the parrot cries we know so well (see "Irish Times" and "Freeman's Journal" of 10th inst.) are being reiterated ceaselessly by the gramophone Press.

It is worth while to examine some of the sources of wealth that may be tapped and to reveal things that the clamour about non-essentials may conceal.

Mr. George speaking last week at Westminster stated that wages had increased during the war. He was, quite simply, lying. It comes naturally to him as every Irishman knows. We have never, like Sir Edward Carson, made, even momentarily, the mistake of taking him for a gentleman. Up to ten days before the signing of the armistice the cost of living had increased by 139 per cent. over the cost at July 31, 1914. Will even George assert that wages have increased to a like extent? Such an increase in wages merely keeping pace with the rising prices would mean that for every pound received in July, 1914, the worker would now be receiving £2 7s. 9d.

Have you got it? Of course not. Nor has your fellow-worker in England.

Mr. George went on to profess that concessions to Labour, which he argued were unnecessary in any case, would ruin industry. An increase of four shillings in the price of coal would handicap trade in every part of the world. Mr. Blatch-

ford last Sunday took him to task for this ignorant and, we believe, quite deliberate misrepresentation of facts. George makes the same assumption as did the Lord Primate Crozier recently. We put it down to sheer ignorance in the latter case, but the Prime Minister of England should be better informed. An increase in wages can be paid out of profits without any charge on the consumer, and profits, such as have been made in war-time, can stand the racket without staggering.

Here are a few instances. The percentage of dividend does not measure fully either the amount of the gross profit or the exploitation of the workers employed. Darracq Motors, 20 per cent.; Sunbeam Cars, 20 per cent.; Van Ryn Deep Mines, 22½ per cent.; De Beers Diamonds, 50 per cent.; L. C. W. and Parr's Bank, 20 per cent.; Barclay's Bank, 20 per cent.; Clydesdale Bank, 18 per cent.; Freeman, Hardy and Willis (Bootmakers), 17½ per cent. Vast funds of wealth are piling up, and out of it all the worker's share is less than 2s. 4d. in the £. There is a margin there of 17s. 8d. into which the wage-earner can eat before there need be a single penny asked from the consumer.

George instanced the railways as being overwhelmed by rising expenditure. Ninety millions had been added to the running charges during the war. We suspect his figures, but the extra expenditure has been met by the leading companies in such a way that they have increased their net income considerably. This year the L. and N.W. Railway has £6,800,000, the Midland £6,500,000, and the Grand Central £2,250,000 of net income over the swollen expenditure. The profits of these three companies alone would yield a 12s. a week increase to the half-million members of the N.U.R. And this week the "New Statesman" gives a list of fourteen railway companies which have increased their dividends.

Irish industry may not be so favourably placed as the flourishing State-fed enterprises of England, but the reports of the banks, the 8 per cent. dividends of the bakeries, the ostentation of merchants, manufacturers and the farmers, new-rich in vestments dyed in the blood of five continents, give Irish workers assurance that in asking a minimum wage that has only the value of £1 0s. 7½d. of pre-war times, they are seeking nothing impossible or ruinous. The lachrymose scribe of Townsend street has pleaded for the struggling industry. If there are any which cannot yield that miserable wage without collapsing, it is better that such industries die than that they live by the prostituted flesh of women or the stunting toil of little children.

The first charge on industry must be that frugal and decent comfort that permits the worker to know life as an opportunity of self-expression rather than as

"the restless panting of their being;
Like beasts of prey, who caged within
their bars,
In a deep hideous purring have their life,
And an incessant pacing to and fro."

PRUDISH PEOPLE WILL NOT READ THIS!

The "Irish Field" stud list for 1919 makes interesting reading, and our readers among the recipients of the Agricultural Wages Board minimum wages are counselled to study and reflect.

At the Confey Stud, Leixlip, the keep of all mares is 35s. a week. Oldconnell Stud charges 28s. per week, while the National Stud, Kildare, differentiates between foaling mares and barren, the former costing 30s., the latter 20s. These figures are reduced as low as 21s. and 14s. a week respectively in other studs.

Not for a moment would we suggest that an ordinary woman is as valuable, or of as much importance to the community as a foaling mare, but for information only we should like to know how many agricultural workers can afford to allot 35s., or even 14s., a week for the "keep" of their wives during childbirth.

What vulgarity! What a low mind the man must have to write such things in the public Press! What a yahoo!

Under Capitalism, prudish reader, a mare is more valuable than a woman, for the family wage of our rural workers, solemnly determined by the Wages Board under Act of Parliament, may be as low as 21s., and need not be higher than 28s. 6d. per week.

We have no responsibility for that condition of things. Are you upholding the system that so mocks the sacred ordinance of holy matrimony?

STRIKE-BREAKING IN BELFAST. (Continued from front page.)

Answer this! ye great Panjan drums of Ulster if the men are rightfully entitled to the 44-hour week, why don't you, the preachers of righteousness, advocate their claim? Is it because there too many of the sleek, well-fed bourgeoisie sitting in your churches? Is there not a Resolute or a Great heart among you? Mr. Worldly Wiseman and Mr. Facing-both-ways will always attain a certain amount of popularity in this best of all possible worlds, but the workers have no use of such compromising gentlemen. **He that is not with us is against us.**

The circulation of the "Workers' Bulletin" has increased from day to day, and it is hoped that a weekly paper may be published in Belfast after the strike is over. Indeed the success of the "Bulletin" has proved that there is plenty of room for a good Labour weekly.
SIDNEY CLARKE.

WORKERS' PRESS AS POWER HOUSE.

Writing in the Dublin "Telegraph" J.A.P. has this to say of the Belfast workers' little journal and its conductors:—

"The men who are producing the Strike Bulletin seem to be very capable men. They are in charge of a Power House with potentialities infinitely greater than the huge whirring dynamos now guarded by the soldiers. Belfast should pray that they will be equal to the occasion."

Haircutting by skilful hands. All trade union labour at Mallon's, 30 Eden Quay.

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

Should Dublin Intervene?

Some featherheads around Dublin are complaining that no action has been taken by the Trade Unionists of the South to back up the strikers in Belfast. If we knew that Belfast workers wanted our support to take the form of a strike on the Liffey we would be foremost in urging the claims of our fellow-workers. But being assured that Belfast sees no means of drawing strength to its side by a stoppage of work in Dublin, we are content with things as they are. A sympathetic strike in Dublin would be a gratifying evidence of solidarity—but what would it accomplish? It would have no effect in Sirocco Davidson, Sir George Clark, or Lord Pirrie. There will be no hesitation on the part of the General Strike Committee of Belfast to ask Dublin's aid when needed, and in such form as may be required, and there will be no reluctance on the part of the Irish Labour Party or the Dublin Trades Council to listen and to act.

Those who are desirous of demonstrating practically their support of the Belfast men can respond to the appeal mentioned by James Baird.

Militant Workers.

A fact not unworthy of notice in connection with the Belfast dispute is that many of those on strike are members of the Ulster Volunteer Force. In the event of a collision with the English Forces drafted into Belfast, this body of disciplined men will be a factor of considerable importance. The order maintained despite the desertion by the prancing lawyers who aspired to lead the U.V.F., is a tribute to the steadiness and determination of the men who, five years ago, were enrolled to fight for the last ditch of an obsolete Capitalist group. Eoin MacNeill was right when he refused to join in the shriek for the suppression by armed force of the U.V.F. Much may yet be accomplished by such forces as the Ulster Volunteers, the Irish Volunteers, and the Irish Citizen Army. An exchange of views between these groups might show that they now have more in common than was imagined. Much has happened since the Covenant was signed.

Cutting the Painter in Scotland.

Last week's "Forward" gives evidence that the workers on the Clyde are giving grave consideration to the problems of Trade Unionism brought into prominence by the strikes. There is talk of "cutting the painter" and establishing Scottish Unions in the shipbuilding and engineering industry. In the case of the A.S.E. and the Boilermakers' Society a split is imminent, and cannot long be postponed. The immediate question is the scope of the new Union or Unions. Will one industrial Union, catering for all crafts and for the labourers too, be established, or will there be a federation of shop committees for the support of which the Union dues presently sent to London, Newcastle, or Manchester will be appropriated? In either case some of the Unions which have supported the local strike would lose members and money, but the workers as a class and the Union members as individuals would

gain. This should outweigh the spectral bank balances which have fettered the larger Unions.

Co-operation Abroad.

The International Co-operative Congress which assembled last at Glasgow before the war, was shattered, like the other Internationals, on the outbreak of hostilities. As a first step towards its re-establishment, an inter-allied conference was held in Paris the other week, at which Irish co-operation, waiving the question of whether Ireland was enemy, allied, or neutral, was represented by Mr. L. P. Byrne. It is good news that the Inter-Allied Conference is to be merged as soon as possible in a revived co-operative international form from which no nation will be excluded. In the Inter-Allied Conference Ireland received that recognition of its independence which the movement at home is slow to realise and assume. The existing Irish Sectional Board of the British Co-operative Union has no power except what it derives from Manchester. A large part of the work that it ought to do is done by the I.A.O.S. Is the time not ripe for a practical recognition of the fact that consumers' and producers' co-operation are but two aspects of one movement, and as a consequence, have a fusion of the I.A.O.S. and the Co-operative Union?

Dublin and Co-operation.

The half-yearly meeting of the Dublin Industrial Society takes place on Thursday (20th Feb.), and it is hoped that there will be a big assembly of members at the Banba Hall. Co-operation is more than buying and selling, but the buying and selling is controlled by the members themselves. We hear the directors will recommend an increased dividend, but they require more consistent support from the members before they can equal the savings that co-operation accomplished for the workers in such centres as Belfast.

On Friday, 21st, the Joint Committee of the several Societies in Dublin, one necessary and three at least hampering co-operative progress, will bring the advantage of the movement before the public. We trust the attendance will be so large as to make the Committee's modesty in selecting the Oak Room appear as foolish as their restraint in advertising.

Educational Activity.

The classes in Co-operation at Plunkett House, Dublin, on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m., are being well attended. The Trades Hall classes on Sundays now muster 180 on the roll, with an average attendance of 120 students. The financial basis of the latter effort is not so satisfactory. The enthusiasm of the Unions which sent delegates to the Conference that established the classes cozed away on receipt of an invitation to send real money for their support. So far, eight organisations out of the seventy associated with the Dublin Trades Council, have put down hard cash. Nevertheless the Committee has arranged a series of extra lectures by Messrs. R. J. P. Mortished, H. C. Neill-Watson, A. Williamson, M.A., L. P. Byrne, Mrs. Duncan, and Professor C. H. Oldham. These will

be held on Monday evenings alternating with the Trades Council. Mr. Mortished leads off with an examination of the transport system by "Road, River, and Rail," on Monday, 3rd March, at 8 p.m. Tickets for the course are price 6d., and may be obtained at the classes on Sundays.

Purging His Hunnery.

It goes without saying that these educational experiments will not benefit from the donation of £500,000 which Sir Ernest Cassel has placed in trust with Lord Haldane, H. H. Asquith, A. J. Balfour, H. A. L. Fisher, Sir George Murray, Miss Philippa Fawcett, and Sydney Webb. The Workers' Educational Association is to be the prime beneficiary under this grant, and it may be regarded as now beyond all doubt that after King George's reception of the Secretary of this "worker's" association, and its lavish endowment by a titled gentleman of German origin, that its possibilities of genuine service to a militant democracy are ended. Fortunately this chloroforming agency has little grip in Ireland. A rambling club bears its name in Belfast. In Cork it has been smothered by the University College, which, in any case, is regarded as a sweating den by the Cork workers. In Dublin the two Universities live so much apart from the people and are so indifferent to the workers, that they have made no attempt to serve the master class by leading the awakened mind of the proletariat down the cul-de-sac of astronomy. For such mercies, let us give thanks.

A Word of Terror.

The article by Mr. T. M'Hugh which we printed last week did not appear as written. To meet the wishes of our associate editors of the Press Censor's office we had to substitute "Socialism" throughout the entire article for a newer word of which our Grafton Street colleagues are, we think, unnecessarily nervous. We are offering no prizes for guessing the word written by the author, but if anybody is in doubt we'll supply the necessary word on receipt of a stamped addressed postcard.

Dublin Co-operative Committee.

CO-OPERATION FOR DUBLIN.

A MEETING

will be held in the Oak Room,

The Mansion House, Dublin

(By kind permission of the Lord Mayor),

On Friday, Feb 21st, at 8 p.m.

Mr. R. C. Barton, M.P. in the Chair.

Speakers: Sir H. Grattan Bellew, Bart.; Miss Cunningham, Trinity College; Mr. W. McGuffin, President Belfast Co-operative Society; and Mr. William O'Brien (Sec. Dublin Trades Council).

LABOUR IN IRELAND

N.A.U.L. in Lisbellaw.

The boasted prosperity of Ulster has been so little known in Co. Fermanagh that, on the betrayal by their political leaders, the workers are taking affairs into their own hands. The first step is the formation of a branch of the National Amalgamated Union of Labour. The next step is to convince Messrs. Henderson and Eadie that if Lisbellaw is not to be the foundation of the New Jerusalem, it must at least be a village in which comfort and decency and independence of character are possible.

A rumour of Lord Leverhulme's Six-Hour Day has reached Messrs. H. & E., and their workers have it. That is, they start at Six a.m. and they stop at Six p.m. Two intervals for meals interrupt the labours of the day.

When even Charles Hubert Oldham and Sir T. W. Russell are fain to admit that the Bradbury pound-note is only worth 10s. of the old gold coin, and when really the £1 of to-day can only buy 8s. 3d. of pre-war value, Messrs. Henderson and Eadie keep on forcing their reluctant workers to accept weekly donations of from 17s. to 20s.

The women workers obtain from 8s. to 13s. a week. They would require five weeks' wages to purchase one of the new modes advertised by the Grafton Street Blouse House, "Silk Georgette—the pin-tucked collar and revers, look particularly smart with distinctive lace edging. Price 39s. 6d."

Boys begin at 7d. per day and advance g. r. a. d. u. a. l. l. y to 1s. a day.

Lest this profuse philanthropy should demoralise the delicately balanced minds of the frontiersmen, the wages are only paid fortnightly. Let no harsh or uncharitable person allege that Henderson and Eadie keep the wages money in the bank for the sake of interest. The banking magnates of Ireland are too cute to allow that.

But—as that Fermanagh man, Eddie Cooney, used to say, "After 'but' comes the devil"—one of the principal shareholders in this Irish industry controls the food supplies of Lisbellaw, and the dependent grocers and merchants keep a grip on the workers by means of the fortnightly tally stick. Wages are spent before they are received. The workers are perpetually in debt.

Once they revolted, but this modification of the truck system starved them into surrender.

The dwelling-houses of this Earthly Paradise belong mostly to the firm or the aforementioned shareholder. Rents are 9s. a month, rates extra, and house room therefore causes a deduction from wages of about 3s. per week. The men try to rear their families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord on from 14s. to 17s. per week, or at most 6d. per day per head in the statistical family of five persons.

But—again the devil—the aged worker is cared for. One who laboured fifty-seven years in the service of the firm entered into a period of rest from toil on a pension of Three Shillings a week.

After this recital please repeat the Beatitudes, and remember **this is the Isle of Saints and Scholars.**

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION. Propaganda.

A promising beginning has been made in connection with the organisation of the Nurses. A Provisional Committee of Nurses has been formed, and a public meeting will be held at the Mansion House on Friday, February 28th, at 5 p.m., to inaugurate the Irish Nurses' Union as a branch of the I.W.W.U. The Lord Mayor has consented to preside at this meeting, and there will be a number of speakers representative of the medical profession and of Trade Unionism.

The organisation of Domestic Workers proceeds satisfactorily. Two public meetings, one on the north, the other on the south side of Dublin, will be held on March 2nd and 9th.

Wages.

Laundry Workers' Claim.

The I.W.W.U. has just sent in the following claim to the Dublin laundries:—

1. For Time-Workers:

10s. per week for the first year, increasing at the rate of 2/6 every half-year for four years, 30s. per week being then the minimum wage for qualified workers.

2. For Piece-Workers:

Either (a) a 40 per cent. increase on present piece rates, or (b) the abolition of piece-work, the ironers being given standing wages at the rates mentioned above.

3. A 44 Hours' Week,

Arranged in such a way as to allow one free afternoon in the week, preferably Saturday.

4. A Week's Holiday on full pay.

Claims for increases and a 44 hour week have been sent in on behalf of Mitchell's bead workers and the girls in the Dublin Lin Manufacturing Co. An increase of 3s. has been given to the workers in Burke's bottling stores.

The Committee adopted a resolution protesting against the resolution of the International Conference at Berne, which recommends a 4 hour working day for women. The I.W.W.U. claim that to make the working hours of women considerably less than those of men would tend to drive women out of industry: they contend that the minimum should be the same for women as for men, but that women should be exempted from all work which would overstrain their physical powers.

EDENDERRY TRADES COUNCIL.

The Council has decided to ask the affiliated Union branches to take steps to contest every Local Government seat in the interests of Labour, and to nominate candidates.

The question of child labour is also under consideration, and early steps will be taken to stop this white slave traffic. Domestic servants are joining the Transport Union. Council premises are being sought.

Fermoy Storemen Score.

Callaghan and Walsh's storemen, after a few days' strike, obtained 33s. a week. The branch acknowledges the aid of Mr. John Sheehan, of Ballyhinden, in arranging the settlement.

CO. KILDARE TRADES COUNCIL.

Meeting of Executive of Co. Kildare Trades Council was held on Wednesday, 5th February, in Newbridge, Mr. W. Cummins, N.T. (Chairman), presiding. Delegates were present from Newbridge Branch Shop Assistants, Carpenters and Joiners (Newbridge), Painters (Newbridge), National Teachers' Association, N.U.R., I.T. & G.W.U., and Mr. Smyth, Secretary.

Mr. W. Cummins, N.T., Chairman, was appointed delegate to Labour Congress in Mansion House, Dublin, on Saturday, February 8th.

Local strikes—Carpenters and I.T. & G.W.U.—were discussed, and arrangements made to try and bring about a settlement, and also to get all Trade Unions in district affiliated to Trades Council.

It was decided to send forward Labour candidates for Local Government elections in May, and to make preparations for same.

Meetings to be held alternately in Newbridge, Naas, and Kildare.

On the Curragh of Kildare.

The following increases have been won since beginning of new year:—Wallace Bros., 33s. to 35s.; Heiton and Co., 33s. to 35s.; stokers (Curragh), 27s. to 37s.; barrack department (Curragh), 30s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.; remounts (Curragh), 39s. to 42s.; malthousemen, 35s. to 46s. 8d.; Co. Council roadmen, 33s. to 36s.; carters, 10s. to 14s. per day.

The "Big Push" still continues, and demands are receiving the consideration of the following firms:—Wallace Bros., 35s. to 40s.; Heiton and Co., 35s. to 40s.; Ordnance department (Curragh), 39s. to 49s.; sewage farm staff (Curragh), 37s. to 47s.; range wardens (Curragh), 40s. to 45s., or 12½ per cent. war bonus.

Several demands on farmers for arrears of wages have not yet been settled.

Malthouse men in Rathangan have received full demand of 46s. 8d. and an undertaking that none but Union men will be employed in future.—M. Smyth, Athgarvan, Newbridge.

Ballyragget.

At the Petty Sessions two farmers handed over, one £15, the other £9 15s., wages withheld from farm labourers.

Castlecomer.

Women and girls are working as garden labourers at from 8s. to 12s. a week.

Theatrical Branch, I.T.G.W.U.

The Theatrical Branch, I.T.G.W.U., held their annual general meeting at Liberty Hall on Sunday, February 9th; Mr. Foran presiding. The following officers were elected:—Chairman, Mr. Patk. Kearns; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jas. Foley. The present Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Messrs. Michael Judge and Wm. Minahan respectively were re-elected un-animously. Committee:—Queen's, Mr. J. Nugent and Mr. J. Walker; Royal, Mr. T. Dangan and Mr. J. M'Auley; Gaiety, Mr. F. Byrne and Mr. W. Curtis; Empire, Mr. B. O'Reilly and Mr. M. M'Donnell; Tivoli, Mr. James Walsh; Abbey, Mr. B. Murphy; Casuals, Mr. H. Wall. The Picture House members decided to elect their Committee on Sunday, February 16th.

THE INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	102	7	0
Miss K. McCarthy, N.F.W.W., Waterford	0	2	0
L. Veale, Dungarvan	0	5	0
A. Leahy, Bristol	0	10	0
Collected by M. McCarthy, London:—			
G.B.	0	2	6
M. McCarthy	0	1	0
J. McCarthy	0	1	0
T. O'Donovan	0	1	0
A. Claud	0	1	0
Patk. McNulty	0	1	0
Collected by Patk. Farrelly, Pembroke, Dublin	0	13	6
Collected by James McIntyre, Middlesboro':			
James McIntyre	0	3	0
Joe McIntyre	0	3	0
A. McDonald	0	2	0
H. Roach	0	1	0
P. Ketterick	0	1	0
T. Smith	0	1	0
P. Moran	0	1	0
M. Mulligan	0	1	0
A. Nolan	0	1	0
Tim Linskey	0	1	0
T. Kenny	0	1	0
J. McEvaddy	0	1	0
M. Gallagher	0	1	0
T. Durham	0	1	0
J. Snee	0	1	0
J. Sweeney	0	1	0
Eva O'Flaherty, Achill	0	2	6
C. G. Thompson, Dublin	1	0	0
	£106	9	0

THE INTERNATIONAL.

The meetings of the International at Berne have ended. A permanent Commission to carry on the work has been set up, and will remain at Berne for some time.

The Commission consists of MM. Renaudel and Longuet (France), Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Stewart Bunning (Great Britain), Herren Kautsky and Muller (Germany), MM. Alexrod and Soukholmline (Russia), MM. Troelstra and Wibout (Holland), Borghery and Band (Denmark). Dr. Adler and Herr Seeliger (German Austria), MM. Keto and Wnohjoki (Finland), Sakasoff and Dimitroff (Bulgaria), MM. Seja (Lettland), and Martisha (Esthonia), M.M.

Kossovsky and Kursky (Poland), MM. Chasnovitch and Locker (Palestine), Senores Justo and Tomaso (Argentine), Messrs. Franck and Draper (Canada), MM. Olandjanian and Akanin (Armenia), MM. Branting and Engberg (Sweden), Signor Silvertri (Italy), MM. Buchinger and Kunff (Hungary), MM. Tschenkeh and Csavichilvy (Georgia), Senores Besteiro and Caballero (Spain), Messrs. Johnston and O'Shannon (Ireland), with M. Branting as Chairman, Mr. Henderson and M. Huysmans (Secretaries), acting as the Executive Committee.

A Commission of Inquiry was appointed to visit Russia, composed of Senor Tomaso (Argentine), M. Lefarma (Finland), M. Buchinger (Hungary), MM. Faure and Longuet (France), Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Great Britain), Herr Kautsky or Herr Selfering (Germany).

The detention of the delegates does not lessen the expenditure. We are glad to report an increase in the Fund, but we wish to see it so large that the expenses of the Irish section of the International will be met without the necessity of further appeals.

CUMANNACHT NA HEIREANN

Booms Movement in Belfast and Cork.

Cork has at last opened a branch of the Socialist Party of Ireland, with a satisfactory membership, which will grow as Connolly's message is heard. Sunday, 9th inst., the lecture campaign began, and will continue. Headquarters has sent forward membership cards and application forms. Mr. G. Bury, 8 Camden Quay, is local Secretary.

Belfast Central I.L.P. is again moving towards unity in the Irish Socialist movement. Now that the International is forming an Irish section, it is more than ever important that there should be one flock and one fold.

In Dublin, John Farrell interested a good audience with an explanation of the working of the Press Agencies. He advocated an Irish Labour Daily and co-operation in the circulation of labour news.

Forthcoming events are: Lecture next Sunday, in Trades Hall, Capel Street, at 8 p.m., prompt by Comrade Nagle, on "Sinn Fein and Labour"; Monday, 3rd March, concert, and the first production of the Socialist play, "A Man of Ideas," in Liberty Hall. The Commune Social

will be held on or about the anniversary of the Paris Commune, March 18th.

Paisley has formed a local branch of the Catholic Socialist Society.

"S. Antonino (O.P., Archbishop of Florence, 1446—1459) insists on the principle rightly understood, which Karl Marx has in recent years made so popular, that the value of things commercial (i.e. exchangeable) depends upon labour, whether of head or hand. Things in themselves are useless until they have been either completed by human industry, or, at any rate, transferred to more profitable markets by Human Labour."—Dom Bede Jarrett, O.P.

The Emmet Concert.

The Wolfe Tone Memorial Committee which helped to make history if its efforts are still shamed by the Stephen's Green Gateway, is renewing its appeal for funds. The Emmet Centenary Concert on 4th March at the Mansion House should be a powerful attraction even as a concert. Tickets are obtainable from Irish-Ireland news agencies, or from Diarmuid O h-Eigheartaigh, 41 Parnell Square, Dublin.

CUMANNACHT NA HEIREANN.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES,

TRADES HALL, CAPEL ST., DUBLIN.

SUNDAY, 22nd inst., at 8 p.m. prompt.

T. NAGLE.

Subject:

Sinn Fein and Labour.

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Ballymena & District Trades and Labour Council.

BALLOT.

Will all holders of Duplicate Tickets in connection with above please return them to the Secretary, Railway Station Place, Ballymena, not later than 28th Feb., 1919. JAS. McILHAGGA, Secty.

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This was James Connolly's estimate of the I. T. & G. W. U.

"It found the Workers of Ireland on their knees, and has striven to raise them to the erect position of manhood; it found them with all the vices of slavery in their souls, and it strove to eradicate these vices, and replace them with some of the virtues of free men; it found them with no other weapons of defence than the arts of the liar the lickspittle and the toady, and it combined them and taught them to abhor these arts and rely proudly on the defensive power of combination."

IRISH TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION.

THOMAS FORAN, GENERAL PRESIDENT, LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

Some Lessons of the Strike.

Sir,—By way of contrast to the scholarly articles which usually grace your columns, I desire to place before your readers in a crude way the thoughts and opinions of a striker.

It is a mere truism to state that the war has changed the opinions of many of the workers, and must as a consequence have a powerful influence on the struggle between capital and labour, and in spite of the assurances to the contrary, of many well-meaning people, it would seem as if "Industrial Warfare," as the capitalist Press term it, is likely to be with us for a time at least, in spite of assertions that we are all brothers, and that this country is to be made "Fit for heroes to live in."

Assuming that little differences as to hours and conditions, as well as the division of the product of industry, are likely to arise, it is necessary for the workers to realise that in industrial disputes the theory that the best guarantee of peace is to be prepared for war is sound, it is therefore necessary to decide how we can best prepare. In Belfast we have at present an object lesson of how to do it, and also how **not** to do it, which should be learned by each of us.

In the first place we have splendid unity and a clear cut issue, but on the other hand, the fine feeling which **does** exist is to some extent being wasted, owing to the fact that the necessary organisation was not built up previous to hostilities commencing, and more important still little attempt has been made to provide "munitions."

The able article by Mr. Williams graphically portrays the dangers of sectionalism, but to carry his arguments to their logical conclusion it will be necessary to move rapidly in the direction of the One Big Union which shall include every worker of hand or brain.

Having organised on these lines it will be wise to arrange a "supplies" department, as the saying that an army marches on its stomach is literally true of a labour army, however a chain of co-operative societies owned and controlled by ourselves, acting as bankers, whose wealth would mainly consist of abundant stocks of food, fuel and clothing, and **not** of foreign securities, fluctuating railway shares or even war stock, would be easy to organise and manage.

Assuming such an organisation possessed of even **three months'** supplies to be an accomplished fact, one can imagine the different position of the workers with the haunting fear of starvation replaced by the feeling of conscious strength, the weapon which has always beaten us, namely, the hunger weapon, broken or at least blunted.

To commence a struggle such as we are at present engaged in, with perhaps ninety per cent. of our people on or below the poverty line, may be magnificent, but it is **not** war, and I hope before this appears in print (if it ever does) an appeal for assistance will be made to trades unionists and others likely to respond, such appeal **not** to be confined to this country only.

To me it seems strange that men who show such a splendid spirit of unity in

direct action, fail to unite with a view to capturing the political machine, fail to see that by taking possession of the machinery of government they would prevent bayonets manufactured to liberate "Gallant Little Belgium" being used to protect those unfortunate brothers of ours whom we sometimes call "Blacklegs," fail to see how the political institutions of the country which at present are used in the interests of the classes, could be used to bring about any and every reform, including the "44."—Yours, etc.,

JAMES BAIRD.

ANDREW E. MALONE WOULD COMPEL THE STUDY OF BLACAM'S BOOK.

The professed object of "Towards the Republic" is to astonish the bourgeois, but the last paragraph that invokes the beauty of the City of God set among the Irish hills is the true keynote of Aodh de Blacam's book, of which a new edition has been published. It is a summary of Irish history, and a criticism of that imperialism that after seven hundred years of struggle, mastered the Irish mind in the seventy years that began with Catholic Emancipation, to be overthrown more completely than ever before by a few obscure but resolute men whose Last Offering woke the nation.

"Towards the Republic," too, is an armoury of weapons for the propagandist of Labour's Ideal. Mr. Blacam's Republic is the Workers' Republic, and the arguments for it which Connolly drew from the nature of things Mr. Blacam reinforces by copious quotations from the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. The lessons of the past two years are enforced and the possibility of immediate and profound social change is emphasised beyond the timid peradventure of the fearful.

We will not be content that this book should remain the pleasure of a few readers. Its arrangement makes it a useful text book for reading circles, where one might read and all discuss not the text, but the prolific ideas that it engenders. Trade Union branches, Sinn Fein clubs, and even, if any survive, the T.P. Literary clubs, could use with great advantage this sincere and challenging essay towards the larger freedom, both of the nation and the individual.

"Towards the Republic," by Aodh de Blacam. Second Edition, with Foreword by Andrew E. Malone. T. Kiersey, Dublin. Price 2s. 6d., by post, 2s. 10d.

N.A.U.L. Active.

The Enniskillen Trades Council and the branch of the N.A.U.L. are actively spreading Trade Unionism in the district. On the 8th inst meetings were held with great success at Florencecourt Co. Fermanagh, and Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan. Mr. Leathercoat presided at the latter place over a packed meeting addressed by Messrs. W. Clarke and T. Maguire.

Arklow.

Coal carters' strike was called off, on the men getting an increase of 33s. and reduction of working hours.

THE GLORIES OF DOMINION HOME RULE.

Chinese Labour in Toronto.

The condition of workers in Free Canada can be gauged from these extracts from a private letter received the other day by a reader from his brother in Canada:—

"I was in a perplexed state of mind as to where I could go out of Toronto to get work to do, but having written a few men who went away from here before Xmas, I learn that everything is downright flat.

"I am trying to get on in the shipyards here, and every morning there are upwards of 200 men at the gates seeking work.

"As for the factories, they are all filled up, some of them employing Chinamen at low rates of pay. With the return of the soldiers things are becoming serious. According to the papers there are **25,000 out of work** in Toronto alone. Throughout the U.S.A., it is estimated, there are ten millions (10,000,000) unemployed. So you see the capitalists have made a good job of their rule.

"They say that over a hundred new millionaires have been made in Toronto alone through the blood and slaughter and sweat of the workers, and I assure you that if work is not put through quickly by the employing class there will be bloodshed right here.

"They have suppressed all Socialist publications and imprisoned men up to three years for carrying banned literature and speaking on Socialism, or, as they term it, Bolshevist propaganda. In fact, they are creating the very thing they are trying to suppress.

"The Socialists held a big meeting here a few nights ago to protest against the imprisonment of two members, one an ex-policeman, who had been sentenced to three years hard, for circulating Karl Marx's works and the Russian Declaration of Rights. The sentences were reduced to thirty days' imprisonment.

The Press Gang.

"As all the papers here are in the pay of or are owned by the Manufacturers' Association—who are really the Government—we read nothing but lies about the world in general. They calumniate the Sinn Feiners, let alone the Russian Bolshevists. I have not done anything since 15th Nov. last, and work will not open up until the middle of March unless it is forced upon the Government to do something."

No wonder Murphy wants to be free from the vacillating restraints of Kildare Street Club and Dublin Castle. Hurry up, boys, and give him Dominion Home Rule with the Boss Class on top, jail for the Socialists, and no unemployment donation!

A Gold Ball Costume.

Among the many wonderful dresses worn at a London ball this week was a Chu Chin Chow costume all in silver and gold, with a wide head-dress of gold and silver.

She's Dead.

Sir Hedworth Meux has sold Whistler's picture of the late Lady Meux for £10,000. We, too, prefer the art of John Bradbury to Whistler at his best.

THE TRUTH

"Your paper is good, pity that you are radical." —*Dep. of Justice Official.*

"One fine paper, breathing the spirit of revolt." —*E. V. Debs.*

"Congratulations on issues received." —*Jim Larkin.*

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Shock the highbrows.
Make the capitalist rub his eyes.

THAT IS ALL.

Our paper is too good, no sample copies sent out. Send Two dollars and receive it weekly for one year. 2½d postage on letters. Edited by Jack Carney, Late Associate Editor of Irish Worker.

THE TRUTH, Duluth, Minn.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

UNITY OF RAILWAY WORKERS. Thanks and Aspiration.

We, the members of the clerical staff in the Loco. Dept., Broadstone, beg to tender our heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to the men of the various Trades Unions employed in the different workshops, running department, and coal bank at Broadstone for their unanimous assurances of loyal, unstinted, and whole-hearted support, both morally and financially, on our behalf in our recent fight for the recognition of our Union with the Railway Executive Committee. We are certain that by their action they hastened the achievement of the glorious victory we have just attained.

In that fight a great principle was involved, namely, the freedom of conscience—the elementary rights of citizenship, which demands in our case that every individual has a right to join the Trades Union of his own choosing. Our fight was of short duration—nevertheless the victory which followed was not a bloodless one. For our part—and we are sure we are speaking for the majority of our members, we are sorry the "scrap" did not last longer, not by way of inconveniencing our railway officials in any way, as our grievance was not with them—but in order that we might demonstrate to the whole Trades Union world by a manifestation of prolonged sacrifice that we were a practical and live Trade Union Organisation. The present time is fraught with great possibilities for members of the Trades Union world—for the railway clerk it marks the beginning of happier times, a new era, the dawn of freedom. Never again shall he (or she) be looked upon as a "scab" or a "black-leg." Never again shall he (or she) be the poor crawling slave as heretofore. Providence did not decree him to be such. Rather, shall he learn to appreciate and respect the plain work-a-day man, cooperate with him in any legitimate scheme that tends to advance the interests of both, always remembering that each are united by every tie of interest, affinity, and affection.

Yes, we shall go on, on, on, in brotherly accord, working together for one common purpose—the uplifting of democracy—the clerk always adhering to that cardinal rule which his privileged position in the railway service demands—that the observance of the strictest silence be at all times faithfully maintained on all matters of a confidential nature appertaining to his duties. There is at the moment a new spirit of comradeship and progressive tendencies awakening in the minds of men of all sections in the Labour world. When this spirit has sufficiently matured and found expression in actions guided by justice, prudence, and common-sense, they shall by their efforts have proved themselves to be the real benefactors of humanity. The consummation of their labours shall be their crowning glory—emancipating themselves, they will free the world, which will at last be made safe for democracy.

LOCO. CLERKS.

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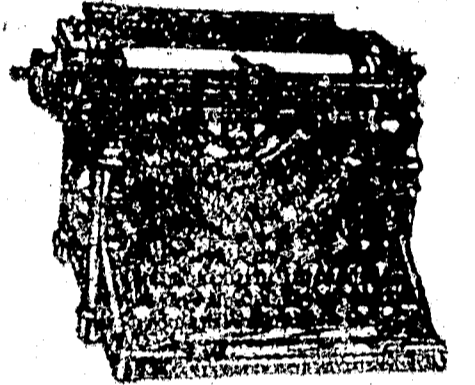
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Transport Union Notes.

When the Wires Get Hot.

H.O.'s first intimation regarding disputes comes from some branches in terracotta envelopes. It's too late to make the telegraph wires buzz with calls for organisers and dispute-benefit when the men are actually out if H.O. has previously been kept in the dark. All branches, and particularly the young bloods, should note that wages movements must **not** be undertaken without consulting Headquarters or the nearest organiser.

A.W.B. Days of Grace.

Owing to the Board's dilatory methods, there is a hiatus in their Regulations between 9/11/18, when last season's schedule expired, and 4/1/19, when this season's came into force, and the Board has ruled that arrears cannot be claimed in the interval. What about bridging the gap by means of the "prescribed rate" clause under the Wages (Temp. Regln.) Act, Chairman Charlie?

Preparing for Elections.

If the bone-heads on the public boards are to be removed, all branches should now be well forward in preparation for coming local elections. **Lucan** Branch was addressed by Jas. O'Neill and Jem Moore on the subject on Sunday, and has its candidates ready for the field, as have **Swords** and **Lusk**.

The Sins of the C.D.B.

Asked to increase the wages of their men in **Crossmolina** by 7s., the C.D.B. reduced them from 20s. to 18s., much less than even the local agricultural minimum, next closed down the works, and now attempt to prevent the men getting Unemployment Donation.

Fletcher's "Goodbye."

Fletcher, the **Killeshandra** saw-miller, who previously "couldn't see his way," attempted to split the strikers' ranks by offering some of them an increase and others nothing. When the move failed, he announced sadly that he was leaving for Australia. Queensland, at any rate, may regard him as an undesirable alien.

Dublin Roadmen's Strike.

The note pinned on the dead Marquis's bosom by the blue-bloused mender of roads in the "Tale of Two Cities" was: "Drive him fast to his tomb.—This from Jacques." We are not asking the Co. Dublin roadmen to emulate to the full the deed of their comrade of Dicken's pages, but if they fail at next election to consign to the tomb of oblivion their County Councillors, who prate of 36s. being a living wage, then they deserve all they get and perhaps a little less.

Derry.

The sensational turn promised by Organiser O'Donnell to the Opera House manager for his audience half-way through Saturday's performance was knocked off, on the manager raising operators' wages from 50s. to 70s., stage hands from 12s. to 21s. 6d., checkers from 9s. to 14s. 6d., and permanent men from 30s. to 40s.

Swords.

The Local Fund will benefit considerably by the visit on Sunday of the Liberty Hall players, who staged "The Vegetarian" and "Poached." An excellent concert was also held, concluding with the singing of James Connolly's

"The Call to Erin" by his daughter, Nora Connolly. The players have been asked to give another date to Swords.

Newtown (Crostyard).

A Branch member, who refused to work with scabs, has been served with ejection notice in respect of his cabin, in which he has a joint tenancy with a colony of rats. The slothfulness of the Rural Council is responsible for there not being another available house in the district. The local workers intend to assume the role of evictors at the coming Council election.

Granard.

Non-recognition by a local employer may lead to trouble—for the employer. E. Rooney has visited the Branch, as well as **Aughanacliffe**, **Kenagh**, **Killoe**, and other centres.

Ballycallan.

Another wageless farm labourer has been discovered, his employer being none other than a wealthy relative of D. J. Gorey, whose mission some time ago was to save Ireland and Christianity from Liberty Hall and Bolshevism. Arrears are computed at £48 for the past season. Multiply by 27 for the 27 years during which the wageless one has been employed, and guess how the wealthy one's bank account has swollen.

Maryboro'

has been a Belfast in miniature for some weeks past owing to the stoppage of Gas Company men. Lights are now on again, the men securing a 6s. advance and a 48-hour week. The long-pending strike at Kelly's foundry has also ended satisfactorily, with reinstatement all round and good advances.

Turraun.

An early settlement is expected of the Peat Works' stoppage, which was caused by a shutting-down on the men refusing, pending the reinstatement of two boys, to do the latter's work.

Coolloney.

The strike at the Carbide Works has resulted in complete victory, the men getting full terms demanded. Girls at the Woollen factory who have been receiving an average wage of 8s. per week—not per day—are on strike.

Longford.

At a full-dress debate before the Urban Council, Saw-Miller Fee, non-recogniser, was slated by E. Rooney and M. O'Donoghue, organisers, who addressed a fine meeting, following a big demonstration of all town workers. Outside the masonic ring, public sympathy is altogether with the strikers, who are receiving £10 weekly from a mysterious source. The organisers incidentally scooped in two new country sections, and have strengthened the female section of the Branch.

Ballinrobe.

M. Healy has had all demands settled, the majority being granted in full. The successes have given an impetus to the branch, which is making fine headway.

Skibbereen.

F. O'Neill addressed the annual meeting, at which the report noted big improvements in members' wages and conditions, and the recovery of £200 in arrears claims. Assistant Secs. had to be appointed to cope with increased branch work.

Cork.

Maire Mullen, organiser, has secured a 48-hour week for Cork Laundry Workers, and 1s. better rates than those in Dublin. For experienced workers, wages run from 8s. at 15 years of age, to 17s. at 21. Piece-workers get 3s., bonus 6d., for each full-day worked. All men 2/6, boys 2/-. The scale for learners improves each quarter, varying in the 4th quarter from 8s. for those of 15, to 17s. for those aged 21. Immediate arbitration having been promised, D.P.O.S. men resumed work.

Co. Meath.

A strong branch will result in the fusing of forces in **Ashbourne** and **Ratoath**. E. Rooney set **Robinstown** moving on Sunday.

Kilmallock.

Organiser Dowling is handling a threatened stoppage of saw-mill men, grist-mill employees and chauffeurs, concerning whose demands there has been overmuch procrastination.

Bandon.

Labour enthusiasm is at fever heat here and in surrounding district. Bottling firms and Messrs. Allman have conceded a 1 o'clock Saturday stop and 5s. advance, bringing some employees to 40s. At the timber works in **Kilbrittain** two non-Union men joined up following a short strike.

Oldcastle.

Firms in town are considering a demand for a minimum of 30s., with 2/6 for Sunday work for labourers and carters.

Newbridge.

The trio of overseers, who refuse to join a Union, still hold up work on the N. Kildare roads, some 60 roadmen being out yet.

Newry.

The shop-assistants' and women's sections are booming. P. O'Donnell, organiser, has carried the defences of Boden's, mineral water manufacturers, who have come into line with other firms.

Navan.

Arbitration on the claims of Clayton's Woollen Mill employees was held yesterday.

Limerick.

Wm. O'Brien was the principal speaker at the splendid meeting of city workers on Sunday. The One Big Branch will be in full swing at once. Many local wages movements are in progress. J. Dowling has started a new branch in **Caherconlish** with a section in Ballyneety.

Rathfarnham.

Marlay Grange 5-weeks strike has been settled, harvest bonus having been paid. Men on Lamb's fruit farm, who have less than the Co. Dublin rate, are claiming 36s. weekly.

Ennis.

M. O'Donoghue, organiser, was one of the speakers at a meeting of county workers in the Clare capital on Sunday. Prospects are good for the O.B.U.

Tipperary Roadmen.

The North Riding Co. Council will be faced at next meeting with a demand for 10s. increase.

The Two Stradballys.

The Co. Waterford branch has won its demands from most of the employers, and the remainder will speedily cave in. Malthouse workers in the Leix branch have claimed Maryboro' rates.