

GROWTH.

Next Week, the "VOICE OF LABOUR" will be permanently enlarged. Look out for the new shape of paper with the old heading, next Thursday. To make quite sure of getting it, order the enlarged "Voice" where you buy this copy.

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. No. 68

MARCH 8, 1919.

ONE PENNY

Open Letter to the Belfast Strike Committee.

AN INDICTMENT OF PROMISING LEADERS BY JAMES BAIRD.

Gentlemen,—I beg to congratulate you on your success in preventing a strike. I repeat, gentlemen, you **prevented** a strike, because although we "knocked off" to enforce the "44," you, by your action, prevented anything which could be accurately described as a **strike** taking place; however, we are still confident the "44" will come.

Might I briefly remind you how the trouble arose.

In the month of July, 1918, while the war was still raging, a few shipyard workers who were convinced that a 44-hour week was desirable, formed a committee and decided to commence propaganda at once; your Federation was asked to send representatives. They did so. A meeting was held in the Ulster Hall; a feeling of optimism sprang up; everyone seemed confident of success. The Federation then took over the business, interviewed employers in Belfast, followed Lord Pirrie to London, and also wasted much valuable time.

Many people are of opinion that had a little firmness and decision been shown three months ago, the position to-day would be more favourable. However, you displayed great "staying power," and it was most difficult to induce you either to **get on** or **get out**. Even when your policy was turned down, and your chairman had dramatically washed his hands of the whole business, you manfully stuck to your guns, and directed your men from a safe position in the rear.

I need not remind you of the mandate you received as a result of the ballot taken on the 14th of January, nor of the response to the call to cease work on January 25th. You doubtless will always remember with pride the battle with the

Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens, resulting in a bloodless victory for you, and you cannot have forgotten how many men and women went on strike, relying on **your** promise to **stand by them**; in fact, gentlemen, if report speaks truly, you were a most "**promising**" body; for example, I beg to remind you of your promise to stand by the piece and lieu workers in the shipyards.

By this time you had marched your men "half way up the hill," and not intending to attack the fort on the top, you decided to "march them down again."

As you had decided the fight should be **peaceful**, you made no appeal for financial assistance, and also refused the support of the I.T. & G.W.U.

Surely it is not true that when pressed by a deputation, you refused to send emissaries to different centres, and a little later changed your mind; but, finally, when some of those whom you did appoint to raise funds, were on the point of taking train, you again indulged in the feminine privilege of changing your mind.

Is it a fact that the employers challenged you to put their offer before the men, and that you fell into the trap? Did you give a promise not to influence the men against that offer? Why did you submit any offer which you could not heartily recommend, and why was the "Bulletin" not allowed to give a lead against the offer?

You are aware, gentlemen, that the Lord Mayor, after some delay, secured military assistance, and, like wise men, you then decided that discretion was the better part of valour. You may have heard rumours of warrants waiting for strike leaders, but of course there was some mistake, those warrants could not

have been meant for you; no one would accuse you of being strike leaders, you were strike **spoilers**; your chairman was only joking when he said the police would take him out of bed, if certain pickets did their duty.

Gentlemen,—I desire to remind you that the **stoppage** of work might have developed into a **stubborn strike** had you so desired, but as you were men of peace, accustomed to secure a crumb when sent to demand a cake, you naturally preferred peace to war.

Is it not a pity, after such a happy ending to the trouble, that anyone should suffer, but owing to your success in settling the strike, our old friends, the strike breakers, were deprived of their opportunity.

Gentlemen, you have earned, and doubtless will duly receive, the gratitude of all classes of citizens except your own class, so I presume you are satisfied.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JAMES BAIRD.

(The Voice of Labour will gladly find space for the Federation's reply to this open letter.—ED.)

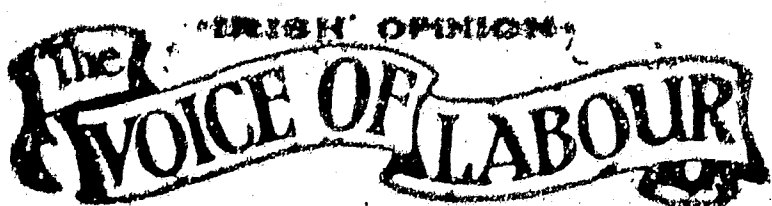
Wise Borderers.

Farm-workers were slow to hire at Berwick fair. They demanded a 50-hour week and Saturday half-holiday.

Why Insult the Bolsheviks?

"Bolshevik" was the abusive term used at a "dirty" match at Jones's Road last Sunday.

That "stuff" they're all talking about—we're handing out more of it next week.



Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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THE TREACHERY OF HORNE AND THE POWER BEHIND.

The great Industrial Conference of Labour and Capital is come and gone. A committee has been appointed, the Henderson-Thomas bunch industriously aiding Mr. Lloyd George and R. S. Horne, the Minister of Labour, to blow dust gently in the eyes of British labour. So far as we know, no Irish interests were represented at the Conference. 'Tis well that we have no part in the make-believe.

While addressing adroit and soothing words to the gathering, Horne was planning a new attack on trade unionism. Having the interests of British labour already delivered into his hands by Messrs. Henderson and Thomas, being thereby spared the trouble of fighting them, he springs upon Irish trade unionists the claim that the British Government, as employer, has the right to dictate the form of trade union in which the workers should organise. He refuses to recognise the right of Labour Exchange officials, temporary or permanent, to join the union of their own choice, in this case, the Irish Clerical Workers' Union. They may form an organisation within the departments, but it must have no association whatever with the labour movement. Trade unionists, according to this Edinburgh advocate, who is Minister of Labour, cannot be trusted to discharge confidential duties without betrayal of trust. They cannot function as civil servants with impartiality.

Like the new donation regulations, this refusal to recognise trade unionism applies only to Ireland. In England the Ministry of Labour and every other Ministry negotiates with the National Union of Clerks. The Commissioner of Works negotiates with the building trade unions, even with the revolutionary Building Workers' Industrial Union. The War Office and Admiralty negotiate with the A.S.E. and the other unions of the shipbuilding and engineering trades, in respect of the dockyards and arsenals.

Sir Robert Horne's attack on the I.C.W.U., in view of these facts, and of the not less important fact that it has already fought and beaten the War Office and the Ministry of Munitions on the question of recognition, can only bear one interpretation. That is, that it is the settled policy of the British Government in Ireland to beat down every defensive

organisation of Irish labour, to disable the nation on the economic field, and to preserve alien private capitalism in industry as it sought for nearly a century to preserve alien private landlordism.

The signal victory that has been won by the widespread stoppage of Labour Exchanges and the threat of strikes in other Government Departments, compelling the Ministry to seek a conference with the I.C.W.U. officials, does not lessen the truth of that statement. The forces that rule England for Capitalism have made a strategic retreat on the Irish front, but they have not relinquished their purpose. Nor can they, until they surrender their power, or until it is wrested from them. By the law of their being they must suppress by any means the national or proletarian organisations that threaten not only the unity of their Empire, but the sovereignty of their purse.

We are not without knowledge of the schemes propounded to that end, and the plans, be it noted, are not to be restricted in their operation to Ireland. The Scottish-Socialist workman, the Dutch Afrikaner farmer, the French-Canadian Nationalists, all the anti-imperialist elements embraced unwillingly in that political monstrosity, the British Empire, are marked out for treatment in like manner. Lord French has been designated chief vivisectionist, but apparently his heart has been softened, and he is about to be discarded.

The national aspect of the attack on the Irish Clerical Workers' Union requires immediate recognition, and recognition means the aid of closer support, particularly by other unions of Government employees and the teachers, who are scheduled as next to be put under the yoke of the allegiance oath, and the railwaymen of the N.U.R. and R.C.A., who may find their future status as state servants accompanied by the same degradation.

But the purely industrial aspect of the Labour Exchange crisis bears one lesson and meaning to British labour no less than to Irish labour. The present Government of Britain is unquestionably a class government. It has discarded at once the robes of obsolete feudalism and the rags of radicalism with which recent Cabinets have covered their political nakedness.

The Cabinet is Capitalism. The old hypocrisy by which ministers surrendered their directorships and retained their shares in public companies, on taking office, is abandoned. Pirrie is the type of the new reigning plutocrat who controls for the State, on behalf of the community (!) the business which he has trustified, and which he continues to manage for the private profit of himself and his accomplices.

The Hornes and MacPhersons, the hawk-eyed eunuchs originate nothing. They but do the bidding of their Sultans. Behind Horne's attack on trade unionism in Ireland is big capital, and if Horne succeeds in smashing the green wood here, he will soon make splinters of the dry wood of the British trade unions. British labour can yet save itself, but not by lion and lamb conferences, nor by reliance on the shifting, unscientific, and ignorant politics of the ex-Liberal election agent, Arthur Henderson.

THE "VOICE" WILL BE ENLARGED NEXT WEEK.

The "Voice" for week ending March 15th, which will see the light next Thursday, will be in a new form. We are taking elbow room by doubling the size of the page, and thus securing more space for the existing features, which have won the "Voice of Labour" friends all over Ireland.

We know the newsagents don't like frequent and violent changes in the get-up of the wares they sell. We have in the past year had three different designs on the front page, but this time we are leaving the riband unaltered. So look out for the big paper with the old heading.

Two further changes will be seen. We are putting the "Voice of Labour" in the apostolic succession, and incorporating "The Workers' Republic," which was founded by James Connolly on August 15th, 1898, the day of the '98 Centenary celebrations. Under many forms it persisted, despite the vicissitudes of the Irish Socialist Republican Party, and varied fortunes of its founder and his comrades.

It was revived to replace the "Irish Worker," and was suppressed in 1916. Since December 1st, 1917, the "Voice of Labour" has been carrying on its work; and if its conductors are lesser men than Connolly, their efforts have enjoyed a measure of public support that was for long denied him. "Your fathers stoned the prophets."

The "Voice" now becomes by vote of the Executive Committee of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union the official organ of the O.B.U. This implies no change of policy and no restriction of outlook. As hitherto, our pages will, as far as space permits, mirror the views and progress of the Nation's workers. But in our columns will be found the official notices of the I.T. & G.W.U. The "Voice" will be a direct link between headquarters, the branch secretaries, and the rank and file.

These changes are but heralds of developments that must come as our readers make the "Voice" more widely heard. We ask every reader to secure one other regular supporter. Don't keep a good thing to yourself. See that your newsgent displays our poster. When you have read your copy of the "Voice" pass it on to a non-reader.

If you can sell a few copies in your workshop, at local meetings, aye, or even from door to door, let us know. We look for your help now that, together, you and we may co-operate to give Irish Labour a weekly newspaper worthy of labour's historic mission.

W.E.A. (Belfast) and G. A. Dunlop.

Will try to find room next week.

To Correspondents.

All work at this office is seriously in arrears, so save your stamps.

Nameless One.

See above. In the circumstances a new Reformation in the Protestant Church is beyond our capacity. When we have a spare moment, we'll deal with "bishops, curates, and congregations committed to their charge."

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

The Armagh Pastoral.

The archaic tradition that the Bishops should annually deliver a current comment on passing affairs at the beginning of Lent is one seldom justified by the nature of the deliverances. A summary of the leading articles of the "Freeman's Journal" and the "Evening Telegraph" hardly commands serious consideration, even though sanctioned by the venerable authority of the See of St. Patrick. When such a document is obviously weighted by the purely personal political opinions of the author it is difficult to avoid the language of controversy, which it is not our desire to use with respect to archiepiscopal utterances. It is regrettable to observe that the venerable Cardinal has less confidence in the Catholic democracy of Ireland than he was accustomed to repose in the Westminster Party, organised by a Secret Society which was nowhere stronger or more defiant of ecclesiastical authority than in his own diocese, and which had for long as its link, on one side with the Hierarchy, and on the other with Freemasonry, a graduate of the school of Free-thought once centred in London Codgers' Hall. It should not be forgotten that in past ages the Catholic people of Ireland did not sue as paupers before a foreign Treasury for the means of education. What the people once provided they are as ready to supply once more. Trust the People.

One curious result of the pastoral must be that a member of the Catholic Socialist Society from the Archdiocese of Glasgow, of the Independent Labour Party from Down and Dromore, a Fabian from the Archdiocese of Westminster, or a member of the Socialist Party of Ireland from Dublin, who is a good Catholic at home, is barred from the sacraments of the Church when he crosses the frontiers of Emania. A strange decision truly, and oddly at variance with the utterances of other Bishops, who actually advocate the commonwealth denounced from Armagh.

The Vicious Circle.

The following paragraph should have followed that entitled "The Vicious Circle" on this page last week, but was inadvertently omitted. As the note appeared it did less than justice to Miss Bennett, whose contributions we value very highly:—

It is Working.

But Miss Bennett probably has in mind the fact that the "vicious circle" theory has been applied in war time by the English Government as a settled method of enabling its friends, the profiteers, to enrich themselves. If the seamen received more wages, the Shipping Controller re-adjusted freights. The Corn Production Act was based on the payment of a minimum wage to farm labourers, and whether the minimum was paid or not, fixed prices based partly on these wages were secured to the farmer. One might range all over the multitude of controlled articles and find many instances of like kind. No means of a constitutional kind are available for correcting this method of administrative robbery. The English electorate set the seal

of their approval on it at last election. The vicious circle that Miss Bennett speaks of is therefore actually in operation, but—not through the unchangeable work of economic law—only by the express will of the Capitalist class, through its organ, the Government of England. **Miss Bennett's Reply.**

Dear Sir,—I confess to abysmal ignorance of economics, and also to the unhappy belief in the "vicious circle" theory as to wages and prices. I think there are many others as much in need of enlightenment on this question as myself, so let me put the case as it appears to me. I am aware that many causes influence the rise and fall of prices; but the particular instances you give to disprove the vicious circle theory do not seem to me to cover the whole ground, nor to answer the question,—**Who eventually pays the increases in wages?** Doubtless, in some cases the extra expenditure is made up by readjustments in the factory or workshop, by more skilful management, by labour-saving machinery, and so on. But such expedients have their limit. When the limit is reached,—who pays? I am quite satisfied that the employers will not, except in the very last resort, pay out of the profits which they claim as their own. Who then but the consumer, whether directly or indirectly, can pay? And the majority of the consumers are wage-earners.

Surely the experiences of the war have proved that it is the consumer who pays—and pays exorbitantly—for every fresh financial burden laid upon an industry?

I have imagined that we must achieve our Co-operative Commonwealth before we can attain to an intelligent and fair adjustment of rewards for labour, which will not at the same time penalise the worker in his capacity of consumer.—Yours truly,

LOUIE BENNETT.

[In the "normal" times, now gone for ever, the competition between employers and the technical progress induced by the dual pressure of competition and labour organisation prevented wage increases being passed directly to the consumer. In our file we have Miss Bennett's own testimony that Dublin employers are content with haphazard rule of thumb business methods as long as labour is cheap and sweated. When Miss Bennett comes along and compels, or at least secures, decent wages for the workers re-organisation begins. To the other points in Miss Bennett's letter we had replied in anticipation.—Ed.]

Free Elections Wanted.

There is in Ireland one striking and unescapable condemnation of machine politics, a Dail Eireann, which has not one direct representative of labour, a National Assembly in which the industrial class has no voice, however much goodwill it may hold. For this result the Trade Union Congress of last November shares fully the responsibility with 6 Harcourt Street.

Are the local elections also to be machined? Is the local grocer and publican, who has changed his old green cloak for

a tri-colour, to monopolise the district councils, the boards of guardians, and the county councils? In other words, is the only test to be the pronouncement of party shibboleths, and is Labour to abandon control of local government closely touching at all points the life of the worker, to non-labour elements? The views of a councillor on Westminsterism are no proof that he is sound on direct labour, and no guarantee that he, himself an employer, will yield fair conditions to council employees.

Proportional representation may ease the situation, but proportional representation or not, elections are not won without organisation, and labour lags there. It is time to speed up the preparations, for the struggle has begun.

THE DRAPERS' FIGHT.

At the moment of writing, a conflict between the Dublin Merchant Drapers' Association and the Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association is almost certain. Our old friend, the general public, will be inconvenienced, but if he is open to reason, which we doubt, he must admit that the assistants have done all in their power to avoid a struggle. We have no love for Industrial Councils. We believe they are part of the machinery of the capitalist state, designed to perpetuate the subjection of the working class. Their operation can only benefit employers. They may conduce to industrial peace, and they may secure some relief of excessively oppressive conditions. The drapers' assistants offered to enter into an industrial council with the employers. The employers refused the offer.

The issue between the parties now is the victimisation of active trade unionists. That is a matter of which a trade union assured of its right should not submit to the chance of arbitration. The right to organise is an elementary guarantee of the worker's personal freedom. Without it, his lot is servitude. Yet, in the interests of peace, for the convenience of the public, the Drapers' Assistants' Association has offered to submit the individual cases of victimisation to the arbitration of a third party. Again, the employers have declined the preferred peaceful settlement.

"War is Hell,"

said Sheridan. The Merchant Drapers want war, and we hope the I.D.A.A. will let them have hell. A forced fight, the real issue is the continued existence of trade unionism in Dublin and Ireland. The blow is aimed at the I.D.A.A., but it is intended to wreck the entire Irish labour movement. The Arnotts, the Pims, and the ubiquitous Murphy are all concerned in the fight, and these three dominant interests rule Irish industry outside Belfast. It is not without significance that these interests time their movement with that of the Ministry of Labour against the Irish Clerical Workers' Union.

Mem. for Thursday: Buy the "Voice of Labour." Mark the new size.

WORKERS' UNION IN DOWN.

The monthly meeting of the Workers' Union District Committee was held on Saturday, 2nd February, in Downpatrick.

There was a record attendance of delegates from the County Down branches. After considerable discussion it was resolved:—"That on and after 1st April, 1919, all male agricultural labourers over 20 years of age be paid 50s. for a working week of 49 hours. Overtime to be paid for at time-and-a-half rate."

The Organiser (R. McClung) was asked to make a report re Rural Surfacemen. He reported that as a result of a strike in Co. Armagh, the rural surfacemen had secured an increase of 6s. per week, bringing their wages up to the same level as agricultural workers. And as regards the same class of labour in County Down, there were various rates paid, but in no single instance were they as well paid as farm workers. However, he hoped as a result of the next local elections that this state of affairs would be altered.

The wages paid at present were as follows:—Kilkeel, 22s. 6d.; Newry No. 1, 22s.; Banbridge, 25s.; Downpatrick, 26s.; Newtownards, 26s.; Hillsborough, 26s. Hillsborough has a one o'clock stop on Saturday, and Kilkeel men stop at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The other rural districts have a 4 p.m. stop on Saturday.

"It was resolved that immediate steps be taken to secure a 30s. minimum, and a one o'clock stop on Saturday for County Down rural surfacemen."

After arrangements had been made for propaganda meetings at different parts of the county, the business concluded.

BELFAST'S "ORGY OF DESTRUCTION."**General Regan's Town Shocked.**

It has been said, "the onlookers see most of the game," but the "Mayo News" sees more than the game, as witness the following lurid description of Belfast on strike:—"This Union has paralysed the trade of the Northern Capital, and has set loose all the worst elements of a population as thoroughly steeped in ignorance as the serfs of the iron works in the Black Country. The suspension of labour, accompanied, of course, by a suspension of wages, has produced the usual characteristic of Belfast: looting. Business houses have been wrecked and rifled with impunity, and the looters have quite a happy time in their orgy of destruction and thieving. Apparently the Belfast rabble have descended to the worst forms of Bolshevism, as described to us by English correspondents in Russia." We reproduce this gem of artistic fiction for the benefit of Belfast readers. When they read in the "Telegraph," the "Whig," and the "Newsletter" horrifying accounts of outrages in the dreadful south and west, this example will suggest that the scribes of the Black North may be as ill informed about the South and West as the Westport journalist about Belfast.

Lisnaskea.

Has been visited by Frank O'Donnell, own brother to Monaghan Pate, who reports that all's well.

Transport Union and Coming Elections.**Circular Letter re Local Elections.**

A chara.—The elections for local representatives on Rural and County Councils for 1919 are now approaching. These representatives will be charged with the administration of affairs that concern the daily life of every individual in the country—housing, public health, poor law, roads, etc.—and will have the spending of large sums of public money subscribed by all. The laws under which we live are either wholly bad, or very imperfect, and to make matters worse they have hitherto been administered by one section of the community—the employers—in their own interest. Whatever politics they profess, they were all the same in dealing with their employees. The claims of humanity were made subordinate to the interests of property.

To these councils of farmers, shopkeepers, and party agents, the workman came hat in hand to plead for a crumb from his own table. When he was well backed by force he got an instalment of his rights; when he had only his tears or the justice of his claim to rely on, he got nothing but contempt.

For this miserable mockery of a democratic system the worker has himself to blame. He elected those people after feeding and clothing and enriching them by the sweat of his brow, at the cost of misery and privations to his family. Like Esau, he sold his right to the earth for a mess of pottage. A slave himself, he despised his fellow-slaves, and thought nobody fit to sit on a public board who was not above him in social position. Thanks to the wage slave himself, the extension of the franchise has only resulted in rivetting his chains more firmly than ever.

The rich are now richer, and the poor are poorer than when the first Franchise Bill was passed in 1832. Election after election sees the people who own the papers ready with a new catch cry, and seldom, indeed, does the workman fail to respond. Forgetting realities, blind to his own interests, ready to sacrifice his little all in any fight except his own, unable to understand that the cause of Labour is the cause of humanity, of civilisation, of progress, of true religion and honest patriotism, he either casts his vote for the current shibboleths, or doesn't vote at all.

He has the reward of it. By birth, Lord of the Universe, heir to the Earth, he passes his life a beggar on his own doorstep, and hands on to his offspring a heritage of misery.

If the worker wishes to regain his place in the sun he must learn to depend on himself. He will find his political welfare where he gets his social welfare; not in any other political camp. His Trade Union will supply both, because the Labour cause includes and goes beyond all other causes worthy of support.

Where a Labour candidate is in the field the duty of the Trade Unionist is clear—he will vote "Labour every time."

A Labour candidate, however, is not a mere sympathiser outside the ranks. He must be an active Trade Unionist himself, nominated by his Trade Union

as a candidate, and pledged to act and vote with the Irish Labour Party. Even then he will not be a regular unit in the labour forces unless his union is affiliated to the Irish Labour Party, as is the I.T. & G.W.U.

In areas where labour organisation is strong, an effort should be made at once to find suitable candidates, men or women. Better a small number of strong representatives than a large number of weak ones. The whole position cannot be captured at once, but a sound footing can be gained this year with good organisation, and the general attack made next time. To secure the best results, special delegate conferences should be held of all the labour organisations in the area covered by each public board. Candidates should be selected by the conference, and all the unions present pledged to support them. The expenses of the election and of attendance should be borne by the trade unionists of the district, and the candidate should be protected from victimisation by employers on the ground of their labour activities.

We have left the running of the world to those who were called 'our betters,' and as a result we are surrounded with misery that no one can describe. For the future, let us make up our minds to do our own work ourselves, to take over the country in the interests of progress, and so save the nation from the horrors of capitalism.—Yours fraternally,

THOMAS FORAN,
General President.

CHEAP LABOUR IN ART.

"The 'Home Talent' movement has its seamy side, as some of the rank and file know to their cost.

"All honour to the men who have unselfishly done their best to encourage native genius. But there are others.

"It is time the Irish Theatrical Artists' Federation woke up. But is there any longer such an organisation? It looks as if it had died in infancy."

So says "J.A.P." in last Saturday's "Telegraph" (Dublin). It may be rivalry with the Abbey Street shop, which has exploited Home Talent for some time back, just as its dramatic notes exploit, adapt, or adopt foreign talent; it may be J.A.P.'s own concern to secure decent treatment for skilled artistes, but it's time somebody spoke up on behalf of the sweated talent, and we award the palm to J.A.P. for speaking first.

One of the chief advocates of patronising the home-bred musical talent pays the operatic chorus £1 per week. That works out at five hours' work for 3s. 4d., or 1s. 8d. per performance. Rehearsals are not paid for.

Take care, comrades, when next you support home talent you are not encouraging sweating.

The Irish Theatrical Artists' Federation had better get together again, and, this time, affiliate with the Transport Workers' Union, which already organises the other theatrical employees. (O.B.U. for Home Talent, and S.D.U. for the exploiters.)

S.P.I. INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	119	15	0
Corporation Abattoir Employees, N.C.R. (per Jos. Flanagan) ...	1	0	0
Rev. Hy. A. D. Barber, Castledermot ...	0	10	0
Proinsias h-Aicead ...	1	0	0
Subscribed by C. P. Kelly, Postmen's Federation (as profits from sale of the "Voice") ...	0	5	0
A few Members of the I.T. & G.W.U., Cork (per L. Prior) ...	0	10	6
Grant from No. 1 Branch, I.T.G.W.U., Liberty Hall, Dublin ...	10	0	0
No. 1 Branch I.T.G.W.U.:—			
Shipyard Employees (per Jas. Byrne) ...	0	15	0
Nicholls' Bank Men (per T. Larkin) ...	0	11	6
Richardson and Fletcher's Men (per E. McFarlane) ...	0	13	6
Ross and Walpole's Men (per F. Cullen) ...	1	7	6
City of Dublin Co.'s Men (per J. McDermott) ...	1	2	0
T. J. Nicholl's Drivers (per J. Finn) ...	0	16	0
The Markets' Employees (per Jos. O'Neill) ...	0	11	6
Patk. Stafford ...	0	1	0
David O'Leary, Liberty Hall ...	0	5	0
C. ni Inglis, Beal Atha na Slaugh ...	2	0	0
	£141	3	6

CUMANNACHT NA h-EIREANN.

At the meeting on Friday last Comrade Carpenter reported that during his recent visit to Belfast a desire was strongly expressed by members of the Belfast I.L.P. for fusion with the S.P.I., and it was decided to convene a Conference between the two bodies to bring this about, on the return of Comrades O'Shannon and Johnson from the Berne Conference.

Comrade Peterson lectured in the Trades Hall on Sunday last on "Phases of Revolution," and dealt particularly with the situation in Russia. His lecture provoked considerable discussion.

On next Sunday evening at 8 p.m. Comrade Mrs. Cogley will lecture in the Trades Hall on "The Evolution of popular French Songs," with musical illustrations, and a large audience is expected.

The Paris Commune Celebration will be combined this year with a "house-warming" in the new club premises at 42 Nth. Great George's-street, where a social and dance will be held on St. Patrick's Night, Monday, March 17th, commencing at 8.30 p.m. Tickets are 3s. 6d., and can be paid for at the door on the night of the social. This includes refreshments, and tickets may be had at the branch rooms any evening.

Subscriptions to the S.P.I. International Delegation Fund should be sent to the Treasurer, Cumannacht na h-Eireann, Liberty Hall, Dublin, and will be duly acknowledged in the "Voice." Cheques and postal orders may be crossed "I.A.W.S. Bank." G. S.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION. Irish Nurses' Union.

The meeting at the Mansion House on February 28th was extremely successful. There was a very large and keenly interested audience. But the matron element was perhaps too largely represented. An office for the Irish Nurses' Union has been taken at 29 South Anne St., and the Secretary, Mrs. Mortished, will attend there every afternoon, except Saturday, from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

Wages Campaign.

The Dublin Manufacturing Co. have given increases of 3s. per week all round to the women employees. Messrs. Reckitt have given a 25 per cent. increase on piece rates. Messrs. Marks, of Henry St. and George's St., have added 5s. and 6s. to former rates, and have promised other improvements, which ought to give these shops a very different reputation in the public mind.

This week claims for increases on behalf of sack-menders in a number of city firms are being sent in. And a comprehensive claim for women in the tobacco trade is also in preparation. Negotiations are proceeding with Messrs. Hill, of Lucan.

Miss Hoyne has re-organised the branches in Tullamore and Clara, and is sending in claims for several classes of workers in Tullamore.

Domestic Workers' Section.

We hear that there is a movement on foot amongst employers of domestic workers to form an Association of Householders. If this is done, servants must lose no time in joining up with the Union, and preparing to meet the employers as a strongly organised body.

New Game in Italy.

The Capitalist political parties in Italy are at a low ebb, and to prevent themselves being entirely stranded they are unloading anti-clericalism and anti-popey. A new Catholic Party is being organised, and, we are told by the "Daily News," has been approved by the Government, which cannot hold office without its support. We shall shortly see this fake Catholic Party, in full communion with ex-Syndic Nathan and the Freemasons, waging war on Socialism in the name of religion. Interested parties at home will expect us to take the political programme of the Italian Catholic Party as the utterance of the Vatican, but forewarned is forearmed. The tricks and dodges of the Savoyard usurper are too obviously thimble-rigging.

The Dawn Mist.

This play, if devoid of all dramatic quality, has yet the elements of a popular success. It draws its inspiration from Easter Week, and its keynote is, in Countess Markievicz's words, "the great sacrifice that is no sacrifice to the Gael." It has eight characters, five men and three women, whose portrayal requires only intelligent sympathy in the performers. But the main success of the play will be in the audiences, for they cannot fail to respond to the sentiment. The play is published by T. Kiersey, Palmerston Gardens, Dublin. Price 1s. 6d.

Introduce the bigger "Voice" to your non-union friend.



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SEED POTATOES—Grigors Red Cup, Irish Queen, British Queen, Black Skerry, Colleen, Scotch Champion, and Shamrock, at 2/6 per stone, or 13/6 per cwt. Bags extra. Sent carriage forward.

RHUBARB ROOTS—12/- and 15/- per doz.

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We are not appealing through your national sentiment for orders. This is simply a Business Proposition. You cannot do better or quite as good elsewhere. If you require the Very Best Results from your Allotment or Garden, send us your Seed Order.

Cash with Order, less 10 per cent. discount. Deliveries made within a week of receipt of your Orders.



A CORK PIONEER.

To Memory of Cornelius Lehane.

"At a meeting of circle 6 of the Young Socialist Organisation, held at 1538 Madison Avenue, New York, the following was read and adopted by a unanimous rising vote by all those present:

To the Memory of Our Deceased This is Consecrated.

'So you passed away, our Comrade. Peace be unto your soul.

'No longer will your voice be heard in our midst, your voice, which so frequently thrilled us with the promise of the new day, which urged us to better manhood and womanhood, to brotherhood, to nobler life.

'You are gone forever, at a time when your hopes are about to come true, when the dawn of the morning is already aglow on the sky, when your own homeland to which you gave all is about to free itself from the chains of the oppressors.

'Like the ancient Moses, you fell before tasting the hard-won freedom.

'The clutch of death succeeded in adding your name to the toll, the long, grim death toll of the fighters for Socialism. That toll is daily increasing, —New York, Seattle, Bisbee, Colorado, Frisco, Russia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, the whole globe is painted red by the scarlet blood of yourself and your noble Comrades.

'But, behold. We, of the hosts you led, will not betray you. We know what caused your death, and we have sworn to bring about justice. We are ready to join you in soul and body if need be, in order that this cursed system based on murder, want, and pestilence of the masses be smashed, demolished, and obliterated from the face of God's earth.'

Truly a prophet is not without honour save in his own country. The eloquent tribute we have quoted from the "New York Call" is to the memory of one of the pioneers of the Irish Socialist Republican Party.

Con O'Lyhane was a native of **COACHFORD**, who joined the left wing of the Nationalist movement as a boy. In the centenary year of the United Irishmen he met James Connolly in Dublin. Then about 19 years of age, he joined the little group of active Socialists, and fired with enthusiasm, carried the message to Cork. Soon surrounded by a band of young, able, and eager spirits, Con was the originator of a vigorous propaganda of Socialism. The notion that the working-class should rule society aroused alarm, and the Bishop of Cork, one of the Capitalist watch-dog type, issued a letter in 1902 denouncing the young movement. Cork Trades Council, dominated by the politics of petty bourgeois, refused to recognise the historic mission Lehane would have it, as the organ of Labour, assume, and solemnly expelled him.

Some people tell us that Socialism is unable to inspire men to suffer and to sacrifice. Lehane, starved out of Cork on episcopal dictation, James Connolly starved out of Dublin, out of Ireland, by the forces of political intolerance and bigotry, and the life-story of practically every man or woman who dared publicly

to profess Socialism during the past thirty years, these form a record of suffering nobly borne that matches that of any other movement in history. But in Ireland those martyred by an alien Government are honoured, those tortured by the blind hate of our own people are cast into an oblivion as unjust as the persecution itself.

In London, Lehane became a foremost member of the Social Democratic Federation, but the influence of H. M. Hyndman drove him to secession, and he became the first secretary of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. In the trade union movement he was a member of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, and represented the Cork branch at the Irish Trade Union Congress at Sligo in 1901. He was appointed Irish Organiser in 1904, but did not accept the position.

He emigrated to the States in 1914, and up to the time of his death was actively engaged in Socialist propaganda along with Jim Larkin, Jack Carney, Pat Quinlan, and others. He still loved the land that bore him, and starved and expatriated him, and had the design of starting an Irish Socialist anti-war paper to be published secretly to evade the drastic regulations framed by Postmaster Burleson in defiance of the American Constitution. He was arrested last year and held by Free America—sweet land of liberty—for six months before being admitted to bail. His death has followed his prison experience, and his comrades have enrolled him in the Red Calendar of those who were faithful unto death.

He was a very fluent and able speaker, having a fine platform presence, and was possessed of a wonderful organising ability, the outcome of a unique personality which made friends even of his enemies. He had a thorough grasp of the internal organisation of the Capitalist system, having studied its working from the inside while employed as private secretary, business organiser, and promoting specialist by foremost Capitalists in London and New York.

The new branch of the Cumannacht na hEireann at Cork may well invoke his memory and with gratitude recall the man who made smooth their path.

Like the Socialists of New York, from whose midst he passed, we too must bring the reign of justice which Con O'Lyhane lived to establish, and like them also we say, "Peace be unto his soul."

Religious Art.

We have posted on the office wall the chaste specimen of religious art that adorned the front page of last week's "Church of Ireland Gazette." We have also re-read the Marriage Service in the Book of Common Prayer.

Castlereagh.

Young, who tried a lock-out of Union men, grew wiser as he grew older. His men have been taken back. Organiser Healy is doing well with other local disputes.

The Claims of the Blind.

Copies of the following open letter have been addressed to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Local Government Board:—

Irish Council National League of the Blind,

1 Fitzroy Avenue, Dublin, 22/2/19.

Sir,—In the early days of 1914 the Local Government Board appointed an Inter-Departmental Committee to inquire into the conditions of the blind in the United Kingdom. This Committee published its report in 1917, and subsequently Advisory Committees have been set up in England, Ireland, and Scotland for the purpose of advising the Local Government Boards in the respective countries as to the best methods of treating the blind. All this time the blind have been suffering acutely from the effects of the most stupendous struggle in the world's history; thousands of blind people have been driven to want and beggary, and thousands have been compelled to seek shelter in the workhouse. Surely such appalling conditions righteously demand some measure of legislation to mitigate the dire hardships of this section of the community? Now that the old order changeth, and we are on the eve of a Ministry of Health being established and the coming into operation of the schemes of reconstruction, surely it will be the duty of the Government to take action, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee, and make provision for the Education, Employment, and Maintenance of the blind, and thus make the lives of those deprived of sight brighter, better, and more useful, by placing them in a position whereby they may render real and lasting service to their country.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

J. P. NEARY, Secretary.

Look out for the enlarged "Voice of Labour" next week. Out on Thursday.

CUMANNACHT NA h-EIREANN.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES.

Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin,

Comrade Mrs. Gogley

Will Lecture on

"THE EVOLUTION OF POPULAR FRENCH SONGS,"

With Musical Illustrations,

On Sunday next, the 9th instant, at 8 p.m.

Admission Free. Questions and Discussion. Collection.

New Club premises at 42 North Great George's Street; open every evening. More members wanted. Applications for membership will be considered each Friday at 8 p.m.

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Offers sound and attractive money proposition to energetic Irishmen who can influence insurance with this purely Irish and First-Class Society.

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'FLU FOLLIES.

Few crises in public life find the great cocoa specialist, who is Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, without some joke to spring on the public. At the first hint of the recurrence of the khaki plague, which the doctors cannot yet treat effectively, and of which they remain in uneasy ignorance, Sir Charles screamed "Eucalyptus!" Straightway the atmosphere was poisoned by the catarrh-causing pungency of Australia's most nauseous product—bar William Morris Hughes.

On the very day we learn that a Corporation Model House has slain an entire family, the wiseacre from far Lochaber advises:—

"If the schools are closed, children should be kept at home, or sent to friends in the country."

No doubt the tenants in Foley Street will keep the children confined to the nursery, and if that is inconvenient will arrange to send them to friends on the Riviera!

The picture houses, the only places of resort that are decently ventilated, regularly disinfected, and in which the atmosphere itself is purified by frequent spraying, he asks should be closed.

Satisfy the public, Sir Charles, that you and your learned brethren—and sistern, too—know what the so-called 'flu is, what is the cause of it, and, perhaps, some attention will be paid to the preventive measures suggested.

DUBLIN CO-OPERATIVE'S PROSPEROUS HALF-YEAR.

Sales—£23,000.

The half-yearly meeting of the Industrial Co-operative Society was held last Thursday in the Banba Hall. A crowded attendance and much discussion betokened the keen interest of the members. The accounts were passed, and payment of dividend authorised by an unanimous vote. The chairman, Mr. L. P. Byrne, appealed to members not to withdraw dividend, but to let it be transferred to capital account, thus strengthening the resources of the Society.

A proposal to constitute local advisory committees in each district, to watch over the Society's interests and conduct propaganda, was approved, and the plan will be brought into operation shortly.

Discussing trade conditions, Mr. Byrne said people spoke of these times as "abnormal." Abnormal they were, as compared with the pre-war period, but students of history knew that Europe was not free from the cost of the Napoleonic wars until about 1873. The Napoleonic wars were as a picnic compared with the present world war, and he was certain that the present conditions of trade would be "normal" for a long time to come.

Sales during the past half-year totalled £23,150 3s. 4d., an increase of £9,576 13s. 8d. over last half-year. Share capital has substantially increased, but members, as a whole, have not realised the importance of providing sufficient funds to finance the Society's progressive development. Sums ranging from 3d. a week are accepted at any branch in payment of capital subscriptions, and interest at the rate of five per cent. is paid on all shares fully paid. The advantage that this system of mutual trading and mutual financing offers to the poorest cannot be too strongly emphasised. In this co-operative enterprise the trades unions might play a fuller part. The economic expenditure of wages is really more important than the increase of the money or nominal wage. Any trade union branch in Dublin that wishes to come to close quarters with the methods of co-operation should ask the Secretary, 17 Annesley Bridge Road, to send the organiser to address its members.

Bray.

Union representatives (J. Metcalfe, L. Redmond, and T. Crimmins) following parley with the firms, secured for coalmen Dublin rates for large tubs, Dunleary rates for small gear, and advances of 7/6 (to 45/9) for carters and yardmen.

"THE IRISH HOMESTEAD."

A Weekly Journal founded by Sir Horace Plunkett, keeps you in touch with Modern Agricultural Economics. It is obtainable only by Subscription, 10s. a year, 5s. half year (post free), from the Manager, 13 South Frederick Street, Dublin.

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500 SECOND-HAND BICYCLES, Ladies' and Gent's; Price £4 10s. 0d., £5 10s. 0d., £6 10s. 0d., £7 10s. 0d. to £8 10s. 0d.; carriage paid. Also 500 stove-enamelled frames, all sizes, ladies' and gent's; Trade supplied. New Covers from 5/-, 6/6, 9/-, 12/-, 15/-. Tubes from 2/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/-, carriage paid. New Machines from 11 to 15 gns.; Dunlop Tyres and Brooks' Saddles. No shortage of anything.

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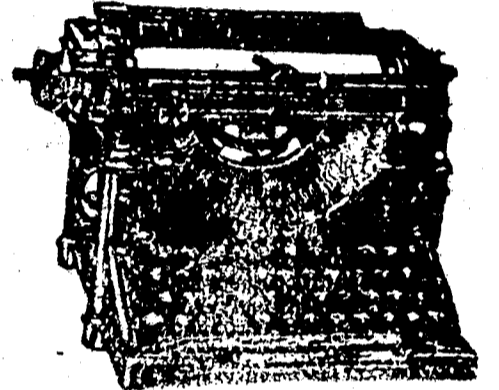
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DENTAL SURGERY

NEW SETS FITTED TO A "T" TEETH ROUBLES REATED HOROUGHLY

PEACE & GOOD HEALTH

You cannot enjoy good health if you have a mouthful of Bad Teeth, because you cannot masticate your food properly, and because stomach trouble and indigestion are sure to follow. Then you do not know the minute when they will start to ache and rob you of your sleep, giving you no peace.

Go at once to
MR. M. MALAMED,
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For Treatment and Advice.
MODERATE TERMS.

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(The "Mary-O.")
Star Pictures Always.

THE ELECTRIC THEATRE,
TALBOT STREET.
First in Dublin and Still the Best.

Co-ops.

The several disputes in progress with Co-operative Creameries throughout the country were discussed at a fruitful meeting with Mr. Anderson, Secretary to the I.A.O.S. If some of its farmer members were as sympathetic to Labour as the Society itself, things would look better for the Co-operative commune. Immediate investigation of complaints has been promised, and all Co-op. concerns are to get some hints from their H.Q. with regard to their relations with their labourers.

Grist Mills.

The Ministry of Labour has been in labour for three months concerning the demand, and has brought forth an undersized mouse. A single arbitrator is appointed to deal with sixteen firms who have agreed to arbitration, these comprising most of the large firms in **Munster; Ballyhaise Co-op.; E. Kavanagh, Maynooth; and T. J. Smyth, Donabate.** The other 71 firms must presumably be dealt with by direct action. Right!

Flour Millers' Hours.

Transport passed the post first, after all, in the 44-hour chase in big industry. The I.F.M.A. is fixing up a conference to arrange the bringing into operation before month-end of the settlement in the British Trade, which means a 44-hour week for shift workers, 47 for day men, 4 extra Band Holidays, and a week's ordinary holidays, with pay.

Skin and Hide Operatives.

The Flour Milling victories would not have been achieved but that the demand was on a national basis, and now a similar move has been made for workers in the Skin and Hide trade, who claim 15s. advance and a 44-hour week. Failing settlement at the coming conference, there'll be no skin and hair flying.

Some of the New Ones.

Portion of last Sunday's bag, with the Organisers responsible:—**Mullingar, 800 strong (T. Farren, W. O'Brien, M. O'Murchadha); Ballymore-Eustace (F. M'Case), Lurgan (D. Houston), Summerhill (E. Rooney), Louisburg and Ennis-crone (W. J. Reilly),** who will shortly take in **Clifden and Easkey.**

Spring Offensive on the Land.

In the spring, the farmer's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of tillage, and his labourers' to demands. Where organisation warrants, branches in each county ought now be in touch with a view to a concerted move on a county basis, if possible, for better terms for agricultural workers.

And in the Gardens.

Already the 50s. and 44-hour week has been granted in cases in **Dunleary** district, which was first away for the hoe-men. **Bray** and the City are also in the running. We want all Co. Dublin gardeners to enter for the race. Outsiders haven't even a long-odds chance.

Another C.D.B. Atrocity.

We really shall have to remove those cobwebs in Parnell Square. The Board can't spare a boy-clerk to even acknowledge our letters. At **Louisburg,** Organiser Reilly found C.D.B. men working for 18s. weekly, with broken time, but without broken spirits, as they shortly will prove. The Board is running its **Crossmolina** job with scabs.

Transport Union Notes.

TO ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES.

The Head Office has arranged that all circulars and instructions to branch secretaries will appear in the "Voice of Labour," and will be distinguished by a sub-heading, thus:—

(Official.)

Articles thus headed are to be brought to the notice of branch committees, and action taken, as in the case of circulars sent by post.

A Right Honourable Strike-breaker.

In "Heaven's reflex," Organiser Dempsey, during the strike, found the Duke of Lancs-Stout Yeomanry carting goods for the Right Hon. the Earl of Kenmare. After a sharp talk, the Captain pledged his word that the scabbing would cease. Most of the other **Killarney** strikes have been settled on good terms. Council roadmen now have 40s. to 42s. And Dublin boggles at 40s.

Irish Transport & General Workers' Union.

PÁDRAIC Ó CONAIRE

Will Read a Paper on

LABOUR AND THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK,

in Liberty Hall,

On Tuesday, 18th March, at 8 p.m.

Beid fáilte roimh sae saeéal.

Discussion invited. Entire proceedings will be conducted in Irish.

Killeshandra.

Saw-miller Fletcher called off his emigration stunt and, after the five weeks' strike, gave advances of up to 10s. The men have resumed, and the branch is jubilant.

"The Glittering Fake" at Castlecomer.

The alleged Board of Trade Regulation, on the strength of which local employers prevented workers getting employment on the new railway, never had an existence, it now appears. At least the B. of T. say so, and they ought to know. Organiser Branniff is pursuing further inquiries. After these—the exodus, unless the local bosses advance wages to railway rates.

Caledon.

Last out an Armistice Day, the local band greeted Peadar O'Donnell with a red flag, emblazoned "Up, the Transport!" Besides leading the strike of 156 textile operatives, O'Donnell figures in incidental roles, such as fire-fighting captain, chief of police, etc. Workers of all political hues stand solidly together. Orange and Green will carry the day.

Strokestown.

D.O.R.A. has laid her dainty claws on Secretary O'Dochartaigh, but the branch is going right ahead.

Westport.

Molloy—"it's an Irish name, my boy" still refuses to recognise, and some local employers, who conceded the general demand, are scabbing it for him, sub rosa. They will receive attention. The town has "gone dry" owing to the water-works strike.

Castlebar.

All the same people are joining the I.T.G.W. At Castlebar Asylum, W. J. Reilly enrolled the entire staff of 75, including nurses, banged in a demand instanter for £1 on pre-war rates and a 56-hour week, and spoke fair words to the Committee, who will consider the claim on 26th inst.

Ballinrobe.

We blush to have to write that the Sisters of Mercy, who dismissed their employee and replaced him by a non-Unionist, alone refused to fall into line with the general town settlement, which otherwise resulted splendidly. In Killarney, the two convents conceded the workers' claims in full.

Co. Carlow.

Corn and grain store men and boat-fillers in Carlow town have settled at a 3s. advance, 2s. extra for Sunday carriers, and a 45-hour week. T. Farren attended on Wednesday to fix up the Gas Works dispute. His new branch in **Tullow** numbers 400 already, and is doing famously.

Adare.

Has unearthed another wageless farm labourer. But—hark to the perquisites! An old "boragan" trousers and a pair of militia rejects twice a year, and a whole shilling to sport at fairs where his breakfast cost 1/2. But in Eden itself, Adam was less gorgeously clad, and hadn't even a sixpence on fair days. The squanderer is actually prosecuting his benefactor. "Man's ingratitude to man—"

Tubbercurry.

Conditions here are not a big improvement on Russia's under the Tsarist regime. However, organisation is good, and the spirit of the workers better, and, with these two essentials, all is in train for the general demand, soon to be launched.

Sligo.

160 men are involved in the demand for 150 per cent. on pre-war and 44-hour week served on the Importers' Association, which has been referred to arbitration. Corporation employees are formulating a somewhat similar claim.

Kenmare.

County Council approval and L.G.B. sanction of an increase to 30s. for roadmen, and to 35s. for stewards, wasn't good enough for the local R.D.C., who put up a munificent 2s. increase on 18s. and 23s. The men promptly struck, and will strike again next election.

Killorglin.

J. Dempsey secured offers of 5s. to 7s. 6d. increase and a 56-hour week for town workers.

Notice.—New orders and alterations for the "Voice" should arrive at the office not later than Tuesday evening.