

THE NEW BOYCOTT.

No Promotion for Trades Unionists.

An Issue Labour Must Fight.

Negotiations between the Wholesale Druggists' Association and the Shop Assistants', Warehousemen, and Clerks' Union have been suspended because of the employers' refusal to consider and discuss a proposed clause in the new agreement which would preserve employment in the trade for men of tried skill and guaranteed service, proven by their membership of a trade union.

The employers refuse to meet the Union on the general wages programme until the Union gives the bosses a free hand to employ scabs. Their representatives have uttered the following document initialled by two prominent wholesale druggists, one of whom belongs to a firm which has a monopoly of the trade of Boards of Guardians throughout Ireland.

"That the employers' representative cannot discuss the claims made, unless the clause concerning future engagements is withdrawn entirely, as apart from the liberty of the subject being interfered with, IT IS LIKELY TO DEBAR AN EMPLOYEE FROM RISING TO A CONFIDENTIAL POSITION."

J. W. M.
W. H. B.

31/3 '19.

Note the threat. Trade Unionists cannot rise. They must be hewers of wood and drawers of water—slaves—and this we are told is the policy of the new Federation of Employers.

What does Dublin Trades Council say?

LAST WORDS ON THE BELFAST STRIKE.

The correspondence in these columns on the Belfast "44" strike threatens to become interminable. "Bonny fencers" as they are, the northern labour men are not going to occupy our space with gladiatorial efforts. "Northern Iron" will not be permitted to draw sparks from William Lorimer, nor Jimmie Baird to scalp Sam Haslett.

There is a common enemy, and he ought not to escape, as he will if these comrades in the great class war are allowed to engender an unreal paper antagonism.

The Federation's Weakness.

Comrade Baird's latest contribution re-asserts the charges which Sam Haslett denies, and brings forward more. His criticism of the Federation's bad organisation is, however, incontrovertible. The fact that it is only a federation proves its deficiency. If it remains a mere consultative body, without finance, and unrecognised as the local unit of organisation, by the executives of the unions that compose it, it will remain ineffective, a broken weed.

What Must be Faced.

As the craft union has become obsolete, so the federations that prolonged their appearance of strength have ceased to be equal to their task of fighting an employing class, which is not only fully conscious of a complete identity of interest among its members, but has expressed that consciousness by placing the larger industries under the control of one small group of directors.

Against that group, local federation of unconnected and often hostile craft unions is not organisation—it is an illustration of what Jevons means by "disturbance." Can the federation be developed into the one big union which, says J. Baird, many of our readers dream of, hope for, and work for?

The Lorimer's Spur.

We make one extract from Comrade Lorimer's letter, and commend it to the attention of Arthur MacManus, whose angels rush in where cuckoo's wings will not bear them:—

"The financial aid generously offered by our fellow-countrymen was unacceptable, not because of its inadequacy, nor because its utilisation might not hasten victory, but for precisely the same reason that a full-fledged debate was necessary before £100 could be accepted, because the donor had the audacity to rejoice at the blending of the orange and green; that the offer of a section of the I.T. workers was rejected, not because of the difficulty of obtaining unified action (because "drastic action" could have prevented any recalcitrant union from acting the scab), but because the patriotic capitalists and pseudo-labourites dreaded an industrial victory, lest there might be a dan-

(Continued on Column Four.)

The Workers' Republic.

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

Labour Day is May 1.

At the time of writing we do not know what line will be taken by the National Executive meeting this week on Labour Day, but we hope it will plump for a general holiday throughout the country for the First of May. International Labour Day is May 1, and there is no decent excuse for observing it anywhere on any other day. So far as we can ascertain, most of the local organisations, and most certainly the rank and file, are anxious to down tools on May Day. But it is said that May 3 is favoured in Belfast and a few other centres, because it is Saturday, and a half-holiday. Belfast has acted so magnificently well that we hope it will fall into line with all the rest of the country, and let the whole movement be of one mind and one act by holding its Labour Day on Thursday, May 1. There should be no need to persuade other centres, since the Berne Conference decided that Labour Day this year shall be Labour's League of Nations Day as opposed to the huge farce of the Paris Peace covenant. But there are only a few weeks in which to make preparations, including arrangements for demonstrations, meetings, processions, and speakers. Trade Unions, Trades Councils and Socialist Organisations must get to work before this week is out, and where the official bodies are slow to move, we have no hesitation in advising the rank and file to act for themselves.

The Irish Socialists in London.

Mr. William O'Brien informs us that on his way back from Newcastle he found amongst Irish Socialists in London, some of them veterans of the long-fighting tradition of the Old Guard, and notable figures in the movement, a keen desire to keep up their connection with the militants in Ireland; and to help the Labour and Socialist movements on this side. This welcome news prompts us to suggest to these comrades, that they should organise an Irish Socialist and Labour group in London, or several groups if necessary, or Connolly and Lehané clubs might be formed. The group might well undertake propaganda in certain directions, and it could fulfil as well several social and educational functions. There are many Irish Socialists in various organisations in London, and if they organise in this group they can help forward the revolution in England and in Ireland without dropping their connection with the organisations of which they are members, as they well know the Italians, the Russians, and Socialists from other countries have given most valuable service to Socialism at home by organising in this way and keeping up the direct connection with the home organisations. If our London comrades will do this, both the Socialist Party of Ireland and the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress will gladly welcome their help and keep them informed of developments and progress here. We hope some of those of them who are readers of "The Voice" will take the hint and make a start by, say, enlisting the support of that grand old war-dog, Jim Connell.

Proportional Representation for Cork.

The Cork Trades Council, we are glad to hear from a correspondent, is already making arrangements for selecting Labour candidates for the next municipal elections. The earlier the better, and we wish the Councils and Unions in other districts would follow Cork's good example in this respect. Our correspondent goes on to add, however, that it is proposed that the selecting committee in Cork shall be constituted on the old anti-democratic and unjust basis of one representative from each organisation affiliated to the Council. This is ridiculous and, if true, highly discreditable to Cork. Indeed, it is a startling departure from the Cork Council's agreement with the basis of representation laid down for the selection of Parliamentary candidates in the new constitution of the Party and Congress and accepted by the Cork Council ever before it had been voted for by the Council's delegates to the November Conference. No party, local or national, can tolerate a basis of representation which allows the same number of delegates to a branch of 30 members as to a branch of 300 or 7,000, and it is only an anti-Labour spirit which would reject a more proportional basis of selection for an election in which the proportional representation system itself will be exercised. The Cork Council ought to have the good sense and good spirit to follow its own decision of November last, and adopt the Party

basis. The Party basis is not strictly proportional because it is intended to help the smaller organisations, but it is at least reasonable. We hope to hear from Mr. Twomey that the Cork Council will do the right thing.

The Preservation of Order.

We are unable, for obvious reasons, to inform our readers of the military arrangements made last week to prevent the State entry of De Valera into Dublin. For the same reasons we refrain from comment upon both the decision to have a State entry and the abandonment of the fixture. But the whole episode is not without its salutary lesson for lovers of liberty in Ireland. Certain of last week's events will serve as a reminder to the people that they can hope for nothing which they do not take the ordinary measures to obtain. As important will be the much-needed reminder to peoples abroad that the will of the Irish people and the free exercise of that will is thwarted by one thing and one thing only. That thing is the naked sword of England's large military force of occupation in Ireland. But even in some of England's strongholds in Ireland that force is unable to restrain the Irish love of liberty, as the escape in broad daylight of twenty Sinn Féin prisoners, convicted and unconvicted, from Mountjoy Jail showed last Saturday. Coming after the escape of Mr. R. O. Barton, M.P., from the same jail, and the events of Monday and Tuesday, the escape of these men is as significant as it was excellently timed. Even the standing guard of police, now a permanent part of the staff of the jail, was no obstacle to the well-planned and well-executed escape of Messrs. J. J. Walsh, M.P., and Piaras Blaslaí and their companions. The time-table seems to have been worked out to the minute, and it was necessary to lay hands on only one warder. And was not the courage and self-sacrifice of the prisoners who were selected to remain behind in keeping with the splendid tradition of these later years? After all these proofs of England's inability to govern Ireland the English Government might in decency leave the Irish to govern themselves.

The Great European Push.

The tide of Bolshevism flowing all over Eastern and Central Europe has frightened the Western Powers as the armies of the Kaiser never did, and the Peace Conference of Paris has met in it more than its match. It is a greater menace to the humberg of Paris than even the extremely delicate situation in Poland and Jugo-Slavia. It has broken the sanitary cordon drawn round Russia, and if, as is not at all unlikely, it engulfs Germany, the day of the Lloyd Georges, Clemenceaux and Orlando is happily over and done. The Roumanians, Serbs, and even some of the Czechoslovaks have caught the fever, and the great international task Lenin and his friends set themselves is well begun. So far no active measures have been taken against Hungary, but if the Big Four in Paris (by the way, what has become of the "open covenants openly arrived at?") think that the military chiefs of the Entente, or even the League of Nations covenant, can furnish a solution, they are making the great historical mistake of their generation. As a high authority told the Paris correspondent of "The Daily News": "Bolshevism, whatever else it may be said about it, is a tremendous idealistic force—unquestionably the greatest idealistic force, in my opinion, since the birth of Christ. You may vilify it. You may spread reports of its excesses. You may advocate military measures against it. But there it remains—a tremendous idealistic force. It may be blind. It may be destructive. It may be chaotic. But, all the time, it is the irresistible uprising of vast masses of people in pursuit of an ideal."

We have already said, and we repeat, that we are putting our money on Lenin in the greatest race in history. But—how many Soviets are there in Ireland?

Another Apology.

We shall have to ask our readers to bear with patience the holding over until next week of our report and impressions upon the general proceedings at Berne, but our space is overcrowded, and we do not want to crush other people's contributions out this week again. We are compelled, too, to hold over some interesting American matter.

SOVIET HUNGARY.

Lenin has got into touch with Budapest and the Hungarian Soviet Republic is shaping well. The new Ministry includes: Garbai, President; Landfi, Home Affairs; Baga, Finance; Kunfi, Education; Bela Kun, Foreign Affairs; War, Pogany. Kunfi was the Socialist Minister for Education in the late government, and the Irish delegates had the advantage of his company at the Berne Conference. Kun, recently released from prison, knows his revolutionary business well. Pogany, who is President of the Soldiers' Council, has said: "The political revolution, although apparently at an end, is in reality only beginning, and will be succeeded by a social revolution, which will only end when we have completely crushed the old system."

Not the small landowners, but the farm labourers must carry out the land reform. In the development of Socialism we can proceed step by step, but the question of power must be settled now. "The London Times" calls him "the strongest man in Hungary." This provisional government of United Social Democrats and Communist or Bolshevik Socialists has declared the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the socialisation of mines, industries, banks, and the land, and the abolition of the stock exchange and all titles and ranks. It is establishing Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Councils to wield supreme legislative, judicial and executive power, and has appointed a committee of five to arrange for the election of these Councils.

Finally, and not least important, by a long way, the German Government is sending as its special envoy to Russia the veteran Karl Kautsky, who told us in Berne that the Irish had fought long and well, and Radek, after Lenin, the cleverest Bolshevik propagandist and greatest organiser abroad, has been released by the Weimar government, and is operating again somewhere in Poland.

WE ARE ARRANGING

further permanent improvements in "The Voice," and while these are under consideration we can promise a bumper number—the biggest and best yet—for the First of May. Readers and news-agents should order extra supplies in advance.

Last Words on the Belfast Strike.

(From Column One.)

ger of the strikers longing for more classical music than "the big drum"; that the Belfast Worker's expounding of Marxian theories was so dangerous to Bossocracy that it was suppressed, having only enjoyed one day's companionship with the 'Bulletin.'

"N.I.'s mind was carried away by his imagination when he supposes that I gloated over defeat; but I certainly do say that had victory crowned the patriotic and bigoted efforts of the Federation, it would not have been victory in the truest sense, it would have been ignominious defeat. The educative effects of the strike would have been nullified had '44' been granted, because the workers would not have learned that only by joint action (irrespective of any extraneous consideration) can Irish labour be successful. The strikers also discovered that political action is not class consciously used by returning either a Unionist or, worse still, a "Labour" Unionist to the House of Nobilities. Let N.I. rejoice with me at the material failure of the strike.

"The consideration of international labour seems Utopian because N.I. and, unfortunately, too many like him, decree it thus. That Ireland is nearly hopeless in regard to forming a National Industrial Federation is entirely contrary to recognised facts. The one-day strike against Conscription, and the strike for the "44" surpassed anything that either England or Scotland performed; but in both instances the industrial power was not class consciously used. Education can rectify that.

"I have great hopes for Ireland—North and South—and some day, perhaps not far away, Ireland will become 'the bright spot' for labour; and it is not too much to claim that as Irish labour learns from its industrial and political defeats, a fraternity will be engendered that will bridge the religious chasm, and allay the bitterness that has always prevented Irishmen entering into their rightful heritage."



:: ALL-IRELAND LABOUR WEEKLY. ::

Egypt Bursts the Bubble.

At the Berne Conference Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, speaking in the name of the British Labour Party, said that the Egyptian question had not recently come before British labour, and implied that, indeed, British labour had not had much need to concern itself about Egypt. As soon as he had uttered the words we realised that with Egypt, as with Ireland, Great Britain and British Labour never wake up until some great uprising of the oppressed themselves shakes them out of their national indifference to the state and the aspirations of their subject peoples. Nor were we long in Switzerland until we had learned from the European Committee of the young Egyptians that England would not have many months to wait until Egypt would wake her up in no very gentle manner. We hope that to-day, after all the events of the last three weeks in Egypt, Mr. MacDonald and the British delegates are wiser men. The wonder is that Egypt has borne the heavy hand of England so patiently, since Great Britain, against the will of the whole people, turned the occupation into a Protectorate. But now at last it is clear that the Egyptians have torn off England's mask, and shown up the whole hypocrisy of England's battle-cries of small nations, freedom, and self-determination. For the truth is, that, in spite of what has been said in the British press, the nationalist movement is both strong and widespread, and the risings of these last few weeks have been both serious and extensive. To the legitimate political claims of the Egyptian nationalists have been added the equally legitimate and pressing economic claims of the Egyptian workers. The 11,000,000 fellahin have contributed as much to the revolt as the thousands of educated and professional men.

More even than in Ireland, the Egyptian agricultural labourer or fellah is the great and most important asset of the country. Under the English protectorate, as under the English occupation his lot is the worst in any civilised country, most certainly worse than the worst labourer in the most backward country in Europe. From sunrise to sunset he is tied to the soil for long hours under a broiling sun. He interrupts his continuous labour only to snatch one hasty and utterly inadequate meal, consisting of a small piece of kneaded wheaten or maize bread, seasoned with a very little salad, and only occasionally with a little cheese. His only clothing in all seasons is a short cotton shirt. His dwelling is a vile hut of the most primitive construction, some three or four yards square, with no aperture except the door, and with a small chest for its only furniture. It cannot well be otherwise, when his day's wage is no more than from eightpence to tenpence. There is, of course, no such thing as a legal minimum wage for the fellahin.

The fellah has the advantage of no insurance, accident, or relief laws, and he has no legal protection of any kind against the most scandalous exploitation. Lacking the most elementary provision for securing hygienic conditions, he is the prey of all kinds of endemic diseases and epidemics. Amongst his class

infant mortality rises to appalling heights. Thus a French authority, M. de Chambert, in his "Enquête sur la condition du fellah égyptien," in 1909 calculated that three-fourths of the children of the fellahin die at a very early age. Within recent years, too, a new scourge, which always accompanies advancing English civilisation, is playing havoc with the fellahin. This is drink. Of late years, under English influence and encouragement, the fellah, the most temperate of all labourers, has taken to alcohol, manufactured in small Egyptian distilleries, and frightfully adulterated, in order that his miserable wage may allow him to purchase it. Having conquered the population of the towns, where it is consumed not only in the cafes and drink-shops, but as well in the groceries (is not the tempting spirit grocery a right British institution?) alcohol is now rapidly conquering rural Egypt. And what is more serious, although we do not agree with our Egyptian friends when they considered it more surprising, is that no real supervision of the traffic, and no energetic or sincere effort to oppose the spread of this plague has been made by the protecting government of a country where the dominant religion, that of 94 per cent. of the population, prohibits the use of alcohol.

Is it any wonder to anybody, except an ill-informed British labour leader, that this kind of thing should lead to insurrection? Add to this the undeniable facts of the treatment of the fellahin during the war. Hundreds of thousands of them were employed, under the worst housing and clothing conditions, in various labour and transport corps. Their period of service was nominally six months, but after the first six months they were kept in the service by direct compulsion. Nominally, too, recruiting for this service was voluntary. In actual practice it was, in fact, brutally compulsory. "A party of recruiters of labour went up to a little village in the Delta, about dusk, and waited for the peasants to come back from their fields. With the recruiters was the Omdeh, the Mezor or Headman of the village, and under the orders of the recruiter and of his official superiors, as the fellahin came in from the fields they were rounded up, and the ones suitable for employment picked out. These 'recruits' were then signed on, and if they showed any foolish tendency to object to this procedure, the Omdeh was at hand, and the recruiters—and the lash. Those who did not enlist 'voluntarily' enlisted after being lashed." This was the regular practice, and the use of the lash, abolished some years ago, became a British war measure in Egypt, while thousands of the fellahin died like flies from epidemic diseases, because "they were hard worked and underfed, and we did not feed or clothe them." This was English Christianity.

And now General Allenby is openly proclaiming that he is taking repressive measures, and the last and least rebellious class on God's earth, the lawyers and the officials, have gone on strike, and have joined the revolt.

Must Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and his friends still wait until the Egyptians, the Indians, and the Irish carry the war into England's green and pleasant land?

A Government Noose.

Why this sudden anxiety of the Government to protect the workers by the establishment of Trade Boards? In the days when sweated wages in Ireland were general, and organisation was weak Trade Boards were few. Now, when trade unionism is a power in the land, we are to have trade boards all round! It looks like protection for employers rather than for workers. There is only one plausible excuse for the establishment of a trade board, and that is, sweated conditions in an unorganised trade. But what trade is now unorganised, or not in process of organisation?

Trade unionists in Ireland would be well advised to oppose this new policy of the Government, which tends to create a tame and shackled labour movement. Let us fight our own fight, however slow and uphill it may be. If we assent to Government interference we put our heads in a noose.

But, we are told, the help need not be permanent. We may take the Trade Board now to help us in organisation (under the new programme, only trade unionists will be recognised on the Board as workers' representatives), and to fix a minimum wage for the whole industry. Afterwards we can drive a coach-and-four through the Board. But that coach-and-four might prove a costly experiment.

The boards once there, I think nothing less than a Zepp. or a tank would upset them.

Again, we are told that the Board, by establishing fair rates in every district, safeguards the industry everywhere from unfair competition. But the trade unions can achieve that on their own. The workers are drawing gradually closer together, and realising more and more the necessity for a uniform scale of pay. Here in Ireland, where national sentiment is the strongest emotion the people know, the workers will, for national reasons, be as anxious to safeguard an industry as any Government official will be. But the workers' ideals in regard to Irish industry are likely to differ somewhat from those of the British Government, or even from those of the average Irish employer. Therefore, we should maintain our complete independence as trade unionists, if only in order to establish industries on a basis which will secure the welfare of the whole community rather than one part of it.

The woman-workers of Ireland have served a long apprenticeship to sweated toil. But they have spirit enough to rise out of it by their own efforts rather than risk a new form of bondage under the cloak of enhanced comfort.

WHAT WE DIDN'T SAY, AND WHAT WE DID.

To the Editor, "Voice of Labour."

Dear Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your issue of 15th inst. to the effect that I gave instructions to the members of our Drogheda branch not to take part in the Labour Demonstration held in that town on the 8th inst.

Permit me to say that there is not a word of truth in this statement. Not only did I not advise the members of my Union not to take part in the demonstration, but when my advice was sought I wrote to the local Secretary stating that the matter should be left in the hands of the local members, who knew the whole circumstances, and were, therefore, in a much better position than I was to decide which course was best for our union in particular and trade unionism in general.

I am sure you will give the same prominence to this letter as you did to the paragraph complained of.—Yours respectfully,

M. GALWAY,

Gen. Sec., Textile Operatives Society of Ireland,

Avenue Hall,

Belfast, 25th March.

(We gladly give this prominence to Miss Galway's letter. She has, however, misquoted us. The paragraph in question was this:—

We understand that Miss Mary Galway, Secretary Irish Textile Operatives, Belfast, sent instructions to her Drogheda members not to participate in any demonstration at which the Red Flag was displayed.

We shall be glad to remove any misapprehension that may exist as to Miss Galway's dislike of the Red Flag.—ED.)

WAGES AND PRICES.

Relations Concisely Summarised.

The prices of commodities never have been nor can they be determined by wages.

The capitalist to start a concern must first of all have money. With this money he buys raw materials and machinery, etc., and labour power to transform the raw material into finished products. But long before he knows the prices ruling on the market for these products he would have to furnish wages for his employees.

Wages then are not paid from the results of the workers immediate work and have no relation to it.

How, then, are prices determined? In this way. You will find that one capitalist can pay his workmen £2 a week and sell his products cheaper than a capitalist who is only paying 30s., simply because the former is getting his workers to turn out more goods in the week. Those who have studied the inside organisation of factories will know how this is done.

The price of an article will depend on an average on the socially necessary time taken to produce it. The less necessary time it takes, the cheaper, because more of the articles are produced.

Hence the clamour to-day of our masters for greater output. They are quite prepared to raise wages and shorten hours even to six a day (Lord Leverhulme) so long as they are assured of a greater output; for then the masters can easily compete against their rivals. This in itself proves that wages do not control prices.

From 1880 to 1900 prices were falling while wages were actually rising. From 1900 to 1911, prices rose while wages fell. (See table in "An Encyclopædia of Industrialism," page 513.)

Who pays? The workers, if they have to pay more, will have to receive more to pay it with.

Wages are simply the necessary amount that the workers must have to exist. Here and there workers may rise above the average, whilst again many live below it—then there is a chance for our goody-good charity mongers. Once it is understood by the workers that they are simply wage-slaves in capitalist society, they will not be interested in prices at all, for no matter whether these be up or down the workers must seek to improve their conditions; thus they can only do, in capitalist society, by encroaching on the spoils of their masters. We are indebted to Comrade H. Lawson for the substance of the above.

THE DOCTRINE OF FORCE.

It was only when they threatened to go with their spades on their shoulders to the Phoenix Park that they had been listened to, and it was now a recognised thing that the only way to move the English Government was by force, and they were determined to take any and every means they could to get plots, and no matter what any Government Department said to the contrary, they were going to hold on to their plots. P. J. Quinn at Plotters' meeting.

Carpet-Planners.

The "Shop Assistant" (London) says furniture porters are paid £3 per week, and packers £3 10s. in the London warehouses. It's up to you, boys, to make Beatty pay up.

The revenge of the "upper" classes is always more brutal than the wrath of the oppressed.

GAINS FOR LAUNDRESSES AND PRINTERS IN THE IRISH WOMEN-WORKERS' UNION.

A settlement has now been made with the Leinster Laundries' Association. The minimum wage of time-workers is raised to 22s. 6d. per week. An increase of 33½ per cent. is given on piece rates. Hours are reduced from 50 to 48. And a joint committee of employers and employees is to be appointed to consider a further gradual reduction of hours and arrangements for a week's holiday on full pay to all laundry women workers.

Considerable improvements in the printing trade have also been recently made. The minimum wage of time workers has been raised to 18s. per week. A minimum for piece-workers has been established. The hours are reduced to 48 per week; and all holidays will be paid for, including a week in the summer.

Ballymena Dressmakers' Wages.

The dressmakers, coat, skirt, and bodice hands employed by the drapers of Ballymena, have just concluded negotiations with the employers, through Mr. E. Owens, Organiser of the N.A.U. of Shop Assistants.

As a beginning, it has been agreed that after two years' apprenticeship no girl will receive less than 7s. 6d. a week. Advances on present wages have been secured as follows: Up to 2 years' experience, 5s., with a further 2s. 6d. a week on completing two and a half years' service. Girls with 2½ years' experience, advance by 7s. 6d.; with 2s. 6d. additional on completion of 3 years. Girls with 3 years' service and more receive 10s. a week advance.

A 49-hour working week has been agreed to; with time and a half rate for overtime. Fifty-nine workers share the advantages and arrears as from March 1st.

Belfast.

The Shop Assistants' Union is going strong. Wholesale drapery, retail drapery, stationery and grocery trades are organising vigorously. Over six hundred members have been enrolled in the last three weeks.

A Grateful Country Will Never Forget You.

A discharged soldier, formerly a grocer, applied for reinstatement in his former position. His kind employers, whom he had saved from the barbarous Hun, replied in these terms:—

"In reply to our letter of February 18th we propose to re-instate you (any way for the present) at High Street, as Provision Hand. You are, of course, aware that although wages have gone up a considerable height, yet it is still more economical for us to employ girls rather than men, and although we have no wish to take advantage of an unfortunate position, yet common sense compels us to offer a wage which is compatible with the coming fall in prices, and consequent loss of profit.

"We go out of our way to give you this explanation, and we trust that you will accept it in the spirit it is given.

"The wage we propose to pay is 30s. per week; should you not feel able to accept this, please let us know per return."

The Plotters.

The meeting in the Theatre Royal, Dublin, was remarkable for its example of public spirited co-operation by people of all political opinions in a movement of common utility.

There appears to be something about freshly turned soil that makes the most respectable townsman a rebel determined to hold his plot in accord with natural justice if in defiance of state-made laws.

It is almost astounding that a mixed body of workmen, shopkeepers, merchants and public employees should adopt this resolution:—

"That this meeting commends the principle of a just socialisation of Irish lands, and to the end of preparing the way for the application of this principle consider it the duty of the plotters of Ireland to use every means consonant with justice and economic laws to secure permanent possession of cultivable lands for the purposes of food production, recreation, and public health."

Walton Newbold.

The workers in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Wexford, will join in our regret that last Friday the lecture engagements arranged in these centres for J. T. Walton Newbold, the noted Marxian scholar and pulveriser of international capitalism, had to be called off owing to the sudden and rather serious breakdown in health of the lecturer. They will join with us equally heartily in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery, and hope to have the pleasure of a visit from him as soon as he is on the road again. We do not wonder that Newbold, as his telegram put it, collapsed, for he is a most strenuous worker, and is never at rest. His visit would have done the Irish movement a world of good, but we can venture to promise that it is only a good deferred.

A Levy on Capital.

Prof. C. M. Oldham lectures on this subject on Thursday, April 3rd, in the Swedish Hall, 41 Harcourt Street, at 8 p.m. Admission, 6d.

