

# IRISH OPINION

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## IRISH OR ENGLISH? By TADHG UA BARRA.

The Trade Unionists of Russia, we read have assumed the government of Russia. Despite all that we have been told by a subsidised press, we cannot but conclude that the workers of Russia were ready and organised, not to say educated, to assume the government when their time came. Are the workers of Ireland educated, organised and ready when their day comes—as come it must—when we will be governing Ireland from Ireland in the interests of Irish workers? We have heard so often of Ireland's capacity for self-government, that it must seem a shibboleth to us at times when we see Ireland's incapacity where Russia has excelled, namely national trade union organisation. Suppose Peace was suddenly declared to-morrow and that small nationalities—our own included—were told: "You are free to run your own countries," what would Ireland's story be? A Labour Party we would have as a matter of course, but of what kind or quality? What manner of men would our trade union leaders be? Would they be such as the Cork Trade Union leader, who objected to a Cork born teacher being appointed because his father was interned as an enemy of the British Empire? Where would the Irish Labour Party get their war chest? From England, where their funds go at present to support the war policy of the pro-conscription Thornes or Wilsons? Where would their ideas and ideals come from? Is it from where those essentials have been coming from for the last two or three generations? Queries like these arise from a study of trades unionism as I see it in Cork, and which is in keeping with working class organisation generally throughout Ireland. During the last few weeks we have seen rain besotted girls picketing shops and trade unionists allowed by their rules to do the work that those girls sought a living wage for? What is this but lack of organisation, and is not this general outside the I.T.W.U.? In fact, is it not the case that we have no Irish trades unionism at all, but have to depend on foreign trades unionism for an organisation to prevent the capitalists of Ireland from enslaving us soul and body? Were the Russians, with all the well advertised tyranny, so badly off in this respect? If they had to depend on foreign trades union leaders, funds, and ideas, where would

their "big push" have been? Where will the Irish workers be when our time comes? And where are we now? What is our hope or reliance, but the broken reed of English trades unionism, which could not save the English worker from being conscripted to fight the English capitalist war against the German capitalist, and would have embroiled us but for James Connolly and those who thought with him. Even now those who control Anglo-Irish trades unionism—the much relied on British Democracy—have expressed their readiness to give freedom to "enemy ruled" small nations, but ignore such small nations as Ireland. We pay the piper, they call the tune. We subscribe to English trades unions and are ruled by them because we are unable to rule ourselves or organise our workers. There can be no other inference drawn, and Ireland could not have claimed representation at the Stockholm Conference were it not that Connolly had died to deny that the Thornes or the Wilsons spoke for the Irish worker. Connolly is nearly two years dead and, it may be asked, do the Irish workers stand by Connolly or by Havelock Wilson? Are they followers of an independent Irish Labour programme or are they supporting the foreign connection which Connolly died to deny?

At the Republican Convention last October Madame Markievicz moved a resolution calling for a separate trades union organisation for Ireland. I had been deputed to move an amendment to the effect that the matter be referred to a committee of trades unionists to carry out the idea. Owing to the difficulty of ingress at the dinner hour I was not present for the discussion, and the resolution, to all intents and purposes, was about as effective as a vote of confidence in Mr. Redmond. Nothing has been done, and the Irish tail is still wagged by the foreign dog. Why cannot we do more than pass a resolution? Are the workers of Ireland unfit for self-government. And are they not as they stand an example of Irish incompetence?

Why not an Irish trades union organisation with Irish ideals, Irish funds, and Irish leaders, dealing with the Irish workers' wants, independent of foreign rule and independent of foreign aid? We shall try and outline our idea of such in a later issue.

# SOME TRUTH FROM RUSSIA.

"We shall Fight for the Revolution and the Revolution Alone."

We print below extracts from the special correspondence from Petrograd in the "Manchester Guardian" of January 22nd, and the "Daily News" of January 25th. These messages, from Mr. Phillips Price to the "Guardian," and Mr. A. Ransome to the "Daily News," help us to understand the motives and ideas that are moving the Bolsheviks.

From Mr. Phillips Price, Petrograd, Sunday, 20th January, 1918:—

"Last night I heard Lenin move a resolution for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in the Central Committee of the Soviet. His speech contained the following passages:—

"The Constituent Assembly is a stage in the process of the education of the labouring masses to political consciousness and not an end in itself. When that stage is passed, the Constituent Assembly, as an institution, becomes obsolete. In Russia we have passed quickly through this stage because the growth of class-consciousness in the exploited masses has developed with remarkable rapidity. The war started by the exploiters, has brought untold suffering, and enabled the masses, who otherwise would have had to pass through a long schooling in Parliamentary Government, to realise immediately the significance of their class position. What would in normal times have been done by the Constituent Assembly has now been done by the sufferings caused by the war. In all parliaments there are two elements, exploiters and exploited; the former always maintains class privileges by manoeuvres and compromise. Therefore the Constituent Assembly represents a stage of class coalition.

"In the next stage of political consciousness the exploited class realises that only a class institution and not a general national institution can break the power of the exploiters. The Soviet [i.e., the Council of Workmen, Soldiers or Peasants—Editor], therefore, represents a higher form of political development than the Constituent Assembly. We are passing through chaos and suffering to a new social order, in which political power will be concentrated in the hands of the exploited masses. The Soviets, the organs of the exploited masses, become dictators, removing the exploiting elements of the community, absorbing them into the fibre of the new social system."

From Mr. Arthur Ransome, Petrograd, January 23rd, 1918:—

I have never heard any orator listened to by a Russian audience with such absolute attention as this little elderly Ensign Krylenko, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army. He is a finished artist as orator, this little genius who could hold the audience of simple Russian soldiers breathlessly interested for an hour and a half while he put before

them the whole complex political situation.

He has the faculty of making his speech visible. When he spoke of the shame of the murderers of Shingareff and Kokoshkin he became the murderer, and without interrupting his speech, even by a dramatic pause, he made the whole audience see in his horrified glimpse some monster holding a pistol at the sleeping man in bed.

"A blot on the revolution was these killings," said he, "but" (with a complete change of manner) "that does not mean there should be no killing in revolution."

He denounced those who try to compare the deaths of the demonstrators of last Friday with the deaths of the demonstrators killed by the Tsar's Government on January 22nd, 1905. No such comparison was possible. Friday's demonstrations had as their ultimate object, not the workers' revolution, but the death of the workers' revolution and the return of authority into the hands of the Bourgeoisie.

With extreme cleverness he then put the Bolshevik case for the suppression of the Constituent Assembly. "What did Chernoff promise?" he asked. "This, and this, and this, and to every one of three promises the Bolsheviks could say, 'You are a little late, for we are doing them. You had authority for eight months and did not do them. The October revolution taught you wisdom, and you say 'Give us back authority and we will do better.' There is no need, since we are doing precisely what you asked should be done. We disagree only in this, that you wish to substitute your unreal authority for the authority of Soviets, which are the only guarantee that the revolution will not fall back."

"If in every town and every village the local Soviet of Workers and Peasants does indeed make itself the actual Government, does indeed reverse the old order (here he made a gesture of turning a bucket upside down), then we shall have so strong a net of local workers, a Government working in co-ordination with the Central Workers' Government, that not all the bourgeoisie in the world will be able to overthrow it. If we can hold for four months or six the thing will be done, and the clock can never be set back.

## A Lesson from 1871.

"But remember that this revolution of yours is more dangerous to the propertied classes than any other revolution. In 1871 the French workmen seized the power for the moment, but the propertied classes were able to set other French workers to fight against them. They were overthrown, and paid for the momentary sovereignty of the working classes with

their blood. Yet theirs was only a little revolution. The blood that ran in Paris after the Commune was a drop beside the rivers of the blood of the Russian workmen that will run here if the rival propertied classes have a chance of taking their revenge. In your blood we shall pay if we fail."

He spoke of the ruin being done to the Russian railways by masses forcing their way home from the front, and said that they were wearied out by three and a half years of war. They must demobilise the old army of tired men and make a new army of volunteers, who would be willing to die for the revolution.

"There is no help for us except from ourselves," he said. "Our Allies care nothing about our revolution. When they heard we were breaking off peace negotiations and forming a volunteer army they pricked up their ears. We could be useful to them again. First an American officer, then an English officer, and then a French officer came and said to me, 'You are going to raise an army?' 'Yes.' 'Will it fight?' 'We hope so.' 'What about money?'"

## Not for Imperialism.

"Yes, they were willing to pay us money for fighting for our Revolution, thinking that, no matter what we fought for, if we fought we should be useful to themselves. But we shall not be cannon fodder so that the Allied Imperialists may celebrate a victory. We are against the whole world, and we shall fight for the Revolution and for Revolution alone."

He stopped as suddenly as he began, just walking round the table, taking up his papers, and seeming to forget the audience entirely. I made my way out of the barracks with the conviction that when history comes to be written that little orator, with his quiet voice, expressive hands, and strutting, heavy-shouldered figure, will be one of the most significant characters of the Revolution.

The "Roger Casement" Sinn Fein Club, Liverpool, asks us to warn Irish workers against proceeding to Liverpool on the strength of the assurance extensively advertised that there are "lodgings in abundance." The city is overcrowded. Incomers are obliged to sleep in railway stations and parks, to the danger of health and life. The secretary advises workers to secure a guarantee from contractors before travelling. We would add that no Irishman should respond to these advertisements unless they are accompanied by the endorsement of the Trades Council of the district from which they emanate.

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

The affecting superstition still prevails that America has been divinely appointed to liberate the seas for the benefit of humanity. Whether this is a tribute to the eloquence of Woodrow Wilson, or a proof that faith springs eternal in the human breast, let the optimists decide. Neither in the present war nor in history can we find the remotest evidence of the altruism which is now so freely attributed to the United States. As has already been pointed out, the blockade of neutrals, described by Wilson at one time as indefensible, has become more stringent than ever since he started to make the world safe for democracy. American history, moreover, shows the same tendency to seize and control strategic points as has been characteristic of Old England. "Nationality" related last week the story of England's attempt to blackmail the Panama Canal by the purchase of the "Galapagos Isles" from the government of Ecuador, as these islands would have given her in the Pacific a strategic equivalent to Jamaica in the Atlantic. The plan was defeated by an Irish journalist, and the innocence of America was spared. This charming anecdote says nothing of the annexation by America of the Colombian territory, now known as the Republic of Panama, it being the belief of the American militarists that the Canal zone must, for strategic reasons be taken from the control of the Colombians. Similarly, Hayti and San Domingo were found essential to the security of the Panama Canal, and were accordingly taken under the benevolent wings of the American eagle. Yet America is the country that is going to ask England to release points held to be strategically advantageous to her sea power!

## Where Innocence is Not Bliss.

We cannot too often urge upon Irishmen the absolute absurdity of this policy which assumes that America, or any other country in the war, will be in a position to enforce conditions corresponding to the lofty platitudes of such soothsayers as President Wilson. These generalities which tickle the ears of sentimental Liberals, are not meant for serious scrutiny, for the simple reason that none of the Great Powers is guiltless of those manoeuvres which we in Ireland are too apt to associate exclusively with England. The Germans are well aware of the precarious position of a Wilson throwing stones in an international glass house. Hence the suggestion that the Allies might begin nearer home to "disannex" those strategic possessions whose presence does not disturb Dr. Woodrow, when he rolls his eyes in pious fervour while denouncing Germany. All the belligerents have a pretty collection of violated treaties, the results of "military necessity," and they will never loosen the grasp of their hidden hands upon weaker countries until social re-

volution has changed the ways of war and democracy. Does anybody imagine, for example, that Wilson's heroics about Free Trade and the freedom of the seas will materialise in an abolition of the American Tariff, and a renunciation of the naval bases in the Atlantic and Pacific?

## International Recognition for Irish Labour.

As our readers know, we have repeatedly protested against the British complacency of certain Labour leaders in England, whose enthusiasm for every nationality oppressed by the Germans is only equalled by their silence so far as Ireland is concerned. They have, in fact, quite the Wilsonian touch in these matters. We know, of course, that the Labour movement the world over has been divided on the subject of the war, and that Blatchford, Gompers and Hervé, for example, do not represent English, American or French opinion. The editor of "Nationality" has no use for such subtleties, but finds it convenient to assume that whatever is most offensive to Ireland represents the attitude of Labour in England. As for Irish Labour, he has apparently never heard of it, if we may judge by his leading article last week, which presents the Nottingham Conference as a purely English gathering, and makes no reference whatever to the presence of Irish delegates. This is Sinn Fein with a vengeance, and is a poor compliment to those of us who honour and cherish the name of Connolly—a name not altogether unconnected with the present growth and strength of the Sinn Fein movement. Is Irish Labour to be recognised by Russia, while ignored at No. 6 Harcourt Street? It sounds rather like the British Foreign Office and its refusal to recognise Litvinoff. These vulgar materialists and Socialists are to be ignored . . . perhaps!

## Peace by Negotiation.

The resignation of that renowned Knock Out Blower, Sir Edward Carson, and the continued negotiations at Brest Litovsk, are the best indication of the attention which the capitalist governments are paying to the ever-increasing demand of the world for peace. The great strike in Vienna, which began in some munition works as a protest against food shortage, spread rapidly and became, as it grew, a gigantic peace manifestation. This should strengthen the hands of Lenin and Trotsky in their amazing diplomatic duel, in which Germany is learning the possibilities of open diplomacy. They are learning, for instance, that if they refuse to arrange for a referendum in Poland, Courland and Lithuania, their motives will be suspect to Labour in both Germany and Austria, and will probably lead to revolutionary outbreaks, especially in the latter country. The fondness of the Germans for the Courland Diet, a hand-picked

assembly, about as representative as the Irish Convention, is an interesting hint of what Ireland has to expect from the professional diplomatists. Trotsky, however, has no illusions on the subject, and we are glad to see in this another justification of our faith in the Bolsheviks as the only group in international politics which can honestly champion such causes as our own. The ovation to Litvinoff at Nottingham, was a welcome sign that Labour in the Allied countries has begun to realise the importance of peace with Bolshevism.

## America to the Rescue.

The press reports of the war preparations of the United States indicate that all is not well in that great Republic. The coal shortage has led to the most drastic restrictions, which mean the interruption of industry, just at a time when the process politely known as "speeding up" was necessary. The coal shortage has come in the midst of the severest winter for many years, and considerable hardship has resulted, of which the American newspapers give vivid accounts. At the same time Governmental inquiries have been held into the working of the Army and Navy departments, and great dissatisfaction and disappointment are expressed at the findings of the two Commissions. It seems that avoidable delays have not been avoided, and that the preparations upon which the Allies are counting are not so advanced as had been anticipated. Fortunately, Labour is benefiting to this extent that the coloured workers are at last being seriously organised, as the exploitation of this hitherto cheap labour imposed measures of self-protection. By way of a counterblast the capitalists are moving to rescind the laws restricting and prohibiting the immigration of Japanese and Chinese. The Jingoists also are doing their bit. To the man imprisoned for selling extracts from the Declaration of Independence they have added Bishop Jones of Utah. This gentleman stated that he believed a lasting peace could be secured only by the Christian principle of brotherhood and reconciliation, for which sentiment he has been called upon to resign by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church of America. On the same front a further victory has been the practical suppression of the "Irish World" and "Gaelic American," two Sinn Fein journals which have been barred from the mails, a fate long since decreed against the Socialist press. The denial of mailing facilities makes it impossible for an American paper to circulate, and means death financially.

## LE FEILE BHRIGHDE.

Feile Bhrighde will be celebrated at St. Columba's Church, Drumcondra, by a special Irish service on Sunday, 3rd February, at 4 o'clock p.m.—Rosary, Sermon and Benediction: Irish sermon by Rev. Walter MacDonald.

# How to get Cheap Food—Australia's Example

While we are clamouring for effective food control we are reminded by a pamphlet opportunely issued by the Reformers Bookstall, Ltd., Glasgow, that Government control of food supplies is not a guarantee either of plenty or cheapness, while on the other hand government ownership of the food supply, when the right men are in office, will secure the people's foodstuffs at lowest prices. The pamphlet is called "Socialism in Practice," and is written by Mr. H. A. Campbell, of the Western Australian Labour Party, to tell the people of these islands what Labour Governments have achieved in the Commonwealth of Australia and in New Zealand.

To call their achievements "Socialism" is perhaps a misuse of the word, for it connotes something more far-reaching than temporary majorities in legislative assemblies. We are not, however, going to quibble with Mr. Campbell. He shows us what can be accomplished by the action of the State when the State is controlled by working-men on behalf of the mass of the people, working men and working women.

We are threatened with a meat famine in Ireland, and for most town workers the prices are so high as to make an actual present famine. Here are some prices in force in Australia since last October:—

Roast Sirloin	...	...	6½d. per lb.
Rump Steak	...	...	7½d. " "
Corned Round	...	...	5½d. " "
Sausages	...	...	5d. " "
Shoulders of Mutton	...	...	4½d. " "

These prices obtain in the State meat shops opened by a Labour Government. Look at them again! Smack your lips! But always remember Socialism is Atheism, Free Love, and all the other things! Thank God, the Christian Religion does not derive its authority from the practice of its professors in the Irish meat trade.

The fisheries of Ireland are one of our ruined industries, carried on by poverty-stricken villagers whose labours are taxed by the railways, the merchants, and profiteering retailers. The public is similarly exploited, supplies are uncertain, and prices at the highest level to which the traders rings can force them. New South Wales put government trawlers on the seas, landed their catches on government quays, distributed them to all parts of the Colony by government delivery services. The surplus was placed in government cold stores or packed in government canneries. Fresh and smoked fish, oysters and rabbits are sold in government fish shops, fresh salmon at 3d. per lb., smoked fish at 5d.

Labour Governments have done these things. Can you expect a United Irish League Government of money-lenders, publicans and private traders to make food cheap for the workers? Will a government of linen Lords and Tory lawyers revive your fisheries? Will a government of Papal Counts and reactionary journalists, equipped with the economic doctrines of German protec-

tionism, secure the same results as the Labour Governments of Australasia.

Some of them have never had the wielding of power. We know how North of Ireland Toryism works in practice. We can only judge the others by their attitude toward Labour when in 1913 the people of Dublin were fighting the profiteers.

Nothing should be left to chance. No risks should be run. Irish Labour, whatever the future holds for it in the way of national self-government, should organise now to ensure that Labour shall not only control, but shall actually own the sources of all wealth the land, the railroads, the factories, and all the things that are equally necessary to all in the community, and which are only made fruitful by the labour of the common people. And perhaps we shall call home Ryan from Western Australia, and Gilday from Queensland, to show how Irish-Australians have organised the food supply for the people of Australia.

Mr. Campbell's pamphlet is dedicated to the new women voters of Great Britain and Ireland. It deals with subjects within woman's own sphere, the home. The publishers want to sell half a million copies in Ireland, Scotland and England. We should make it our business to sell that half million in Ireland. Trade Union branches should have it on sale—along with "Irish Opinion"—at all meetings and Trades Councils should order it for their members.

"Socialism in Practice." By H. A. Campbell (Reformers' Bookstall, Ltd., Glasgow). 1d.

## In Freedom's Cause.

"I du beleave in Freedom's Cause,  
Ez fur away ez Payris is."

"Britannia" is the weekly organ of the newly-named women's party—late the W.S.P.U. It is edited by Christabel Pankhurst and is one of the most violent of the war-without-end organs in Britain.

Recent issues have paid particular attention to the case of Ireland, and, following the "Morning Post," the fiat has gone forth in the name of "The Women of England" that, in view of this country's strategic position, England cannot afford to allow even a modified Home Rule to Ireland.

But the Czecho-Slovaks—their freedom is dear to the heart of Christabel, as the following extracts from "Britannia," dated 11th January, will show. (Our readers who are unversed in the Hottentot language should understand that B-o-h-e-m-i-a spells Ireland!)

"As regards the Czecho-Slovaks, the

Allies proclaimed their liberation to be one of their war aims a year ago, while now, by consenting to the formation of an autonomous Bohemian army on the French front, they have again recognised the de facto sovereignty of Bohemia."

"The Czecho-Slovaks, to whom the Allies promised liberation from the Hapsburg Empire, constitute the nation of Bohemia. They demand and are fighting for the complete national independence which the Allies definitely promised them a year ago.

"Here is the historic fact about Bohemia:—

"Bohemia concluded a personal union with Austria and Hungary as an independent State in 1526, and freely elected the Hapsburgs to the throne of Bohemia. Bohemia had nothing in common with Austria and Hungary except the dynasty, and that is still the legal position at the present day, notwithstanding the Haps-

burg's treacherous breach of this relationship. Bohemia has, therefore, the moral and legal right to break away from the Hapsburg connection, to become wholly independent of Austria-Hungary.

"The debt which the Allies owe to the Southern Slavs and Czecho-Slovaks includes the military help which they have given to the Allies—help whose results the Allies have been glad enough to accept! Allied victories in the war have frequently been due to the action of Southern Slavs and Bohemian soldiers, who, at frightful risk, have deserted in great numbers from the hated Austro-Hungarian Army, and thus given the advantage to the Allies.

"The Bohemian Army formed by the Czecho-Slovaks to fight with the Allies for the national independence of Bohemia has received official Allied recognition, and Allied recognition has also been given to the political control over the Czecho-Slovak or Bohemian Army of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, which is really the Provisional Government of Bohemia."

# A Novel for Quiet Hours.

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation," said Thoreau the hermit. With this for text the author who gave us "The Spancelled," quivering in the deeps of life, set himself a heroic task when he attempted a novel in which the scene of tremendous conflict would be taboo. He has succeeded in achieving truth to the mass of men's lives—your life and mine, among the rest—in which there is nothing on the surface to pique our neighbour's curiosity; nothing but a rotation of days without denouement, hours when the silence is oppressive. It is, on this side of physical crash, the quietest novel ever written. But quiet people have the greater significance, for the happenings are within themselves. The conflict in the soul of Lily Bresnan or of Martin Cloyne or of Stevie Galvin is of tragic and unceasing intensity. The release for the girl comes only when she buries all trouble in the world, and finds rest in the shelter of the cloister. The men had struggled against fate, and peace of soul is denied them until all that they yearned for is put beyond power of attainment. On this side the book is a chapter torn from the furies of life, and calm is only at intervals or at the end of merciless agitation.

Our novelists as a class have sought after dazzling people, whose masterly way in the conduct of the affairs of life, of success or defeat, of virtue or vice, strikes into our lives with discouragement, to say the least. But here are lives as helpless, neglected, and outwardly as uneventful as our own. We sympathise with them the more deeply because the humanity which does not get into the newspapers is much truer to life than to fiction, which has overlooked it.

Frank Bresnan, the merry commercial traveller, has been found drowned when the story opens. He can be replaced by the big firm to whom he was "our Mr. Bresnan." The interest of Cork is excited while the body is being picked up, or by the newsboy's cry: "Body found in the lee!" But the interest will not outlast the wake and the funeral, and the matter is really only the concern of his brother, sister, and father, and a very small circle of friends.

Had the general public known that he had thrown himself into the river, it would have drawn him out further. It would have looked for the motive of suicide elsewhere than in "quiet desperation," which it would not have understood. Though he is dead when the story opens, his influence permeates the whole. There is a tender fragrance about the baffled love story of Lily Bresnan and Martin Cloyne. In her own life the girl had suffered most deeply, but these scars were nothing to the warfare in the heart of her when the convent beckoned one way and her love for Martin Cloyne the other.

The quiet life becomes of absorbing significance to us. Frank Bresnan maintains his sway on to the end, for Lily chances to hear that her brother had wished her to enter a convent, and the

torture of the spirit ends, for she believes that her life should be dedicated to atonement for the last dreadful action of the brother she loved. We are almost pained, even troubled by the choice, and yet we feel that this beautiful girl could not of her true nature have acted otherwise.

Finbarr Bresnan, the boy, is a conception of lyrical loveliness. At one time careless-free, with his hopes aboard the ships at moorings, and then again with a longing to enter a seminary and "become a priest." We are amused, but are reminded of another side, of intense little sorrows borne in secret, instance his drawing aside from the wake, where people argued and took refreshment as if his brother Frank were not lying dead upstairs. His adult friend, Martin Cloyne, wins his confidence, and the friendship is described with rare insight. This intimacy of soul between boy and man is recalled back to literature again after a very long absence.

Somebody who affected the humorous style of criticism recently spoke of "Stevie Galvin's romantic and rather futile grief for his dead brother." The fact that Stevie is bookish, an intellectual marauder, marks him down as "romantic." Does the fact that it is futile make grief the loss? One thought its intensity sprung from its futility. Stevie's mind had a hundred objectives. He sought to dodge life because he was afraid of it. Ned Connell, the athlete, is described by Mr. Corkery as "single-thoughted," Stevie Galvin as "myriad-minded." Not myriad-minded men are wanted by those who abide by the prose of mock-life.

Our bourgeoisie lead mock-lives. Grafton Street at the "correct" hour reveals mock life, and the satirist alone will seek a vehicle of expression for it other than pedestrian prose. It finds interpretation in the revue, the musical comedy, the musical café, and the military flag-day. Its clothing is a uniform or chiffon. The long-haired men who mingle there are alcovists, not artists. But seek life among the homely people of the "Threshold of Quiet," in Cork of the quays and alleys, with the bookish clerks, the old men with the hearts of boys, the youths with long, long thoughts, gentle men and women—seek life there and you will find it.

CITIZEN.

["The Threshold of Quiet." By Daniel Corkery. Dublin: The Talbot Press, 6s.]

## NOTES FROM KERRY.

### Trades Councils.

The two Trades Councils in the county, although not too long in existence, have done a lot of work for democracy, and Tralee and Killarney workers have reason to be proud of them. Meetings are held regularly, though not reported in the Press as much as heretofore. No doubt there are obstacles in these days to a full Press publicity, but it is hoped these will be in a great measure overcome, and that the regular meetings of the Trades

Councils will be reported almost as fully as meetings of public boards.

### Munster Warehouse Dispute.

It is said on good authority that the strike at the Munster Warehouse is about at last to reach a settlement. We trust it will be a satisfactory one for the Drapers' Assistants who have so long and so heroically fought the Munster Warehouse for breaking the agreement entered into between the Assistants' Association and the Tralee drapers for the abolishing of the living-in system. But until the settlement is effected we must remember the "blacklegs" are still "blacklegs."

### A New Departure.

The Tralee Urban Council recently took over the Council Assembly Room or Theatre and invited tenders for the management. About half-a-dozen applied, and the lowest tender was accepted. This is a departure from the recognised principle of fixing a salary first and appointing a man to the position then. Trade Unionists should see that this is not a precedent—the thin end of the wedge which is to take away the benefits secured by past and present combination. If the tendering for jobs principle spread to every occupation Trades Unionism would almost certainly lose its power, and workers would again go back to the slavery, economic and political, from which they are emerging.

### Trades Unions Active.

The Tralee, Killarney, and Killorglin branches of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union report good progress. The Tralee branch has now about 800 members, and has secured a further weekly advance of 2/- for carters, storemen, etc. The employes at Slattery's Bacon Factory have been granted an all-round advance of 3/- and double "pig money," quite a welcome change in the tactics of a firm that two years ago dismissed men for being members of the I.T.W.U. In Killarney the I.T.W.U. applied to the local Urban District Council for an advance for their unskilled workers, and 5/- per week was given. The newspaper report, however, left out all mention of the I.T.W.U., Killarney Trades Unionists must know whom to blame. Killorglin members of the I.T.W.U. have also benefited by increased wages. Tralee printers, through the instrumentality of their Union and the Organiser, Mr. Cassidy, have secured a 5/- weekly increase by peaceable negotiation, and a lessening of the working week by two hours. The Killarney branch of the Irish Asylum Workers' Union some time ago put in a demand for higher wages for the staff at the local Asylum. Mr. M. J. O'Connor, Tralee, appeared at their request and put their claims before the Asylum Committee, who, after a discussion, granted a war bonus of 5/- per week to each married attendant, and 2/6 to the single attendant. A public meeting was held in Killarney on Sunday, 20th January, under the auspices of the local Trades Council and local branch, I.T.W.U., when important resolutions dealing with the housing question, the food problem, and a living wage were adopted.

# Notes and Comments

## Ulster Uber Alles.

"The announcement of the resignation of Sir Edward Carson is the most important piece of news that has been published since the beginning of the war."

Thus did the "Northern Whig," in its leading article, reveal the inner mind of the Belfast Unionist. "Ulster Uber Alles." Not the retreat from Mons nor the battle of the Aisne, not the submarine war on merchant ships nor the entry of America into the European cauldron, not the Italian debacle, the Irish insurrection, nor even the Russian Revolution—but the resignation of Sir Edward Carson from the British Cabinet is the outstanding fact in the history of the war!

"Truly Burns' prayer, so often uttered by the "Ulster Scot," has been answered. The Lord has indeed "gien a gude conceit o' oorsels."

## Nottingham.

The meeting of British Workers at Nottingham during the past week showed signs of much greater real liberalism than the so-called Labour Leaders have shown since the outbreak of war. The new man-power proposals of their Government have stirred the workers very deeply. The promises made to them are again proven to be of the pie-crust variety and, so far as can be seen to-day, such a state may be continued indefinitely. The British Government got men before by sectionalising the British workers. It is trying the same system again and if it succeeds now it will try again and again until no more men are left. At a time when the Russian workers have shown such strength of will and the possession of such power the game of the British Ministry seems dangerous. And then we have the further demonstration from Austria of the workers' power. At the moment we cannot say much about the Austrian strike except that it began as a protest against the reduction of flour rations and developed into a demonstration in favour of peace. We should like to see some genuine stand made by the British and French workers against the demands imposed and the sufferings inflicted upon them. The words of the leaders do not inspire much confidence, but we gather that the spirit of the Conference was much more strongly marked than that displayed by the leaders. The food position in England is probably as serious as it is in Austria, but the workers are for the moment held in a double subjection. They are dominated by their own leaders and by the pugnacious rhetoric of Lloyd George. However, the spirit in evidence at Nottingham suggests that organised labour in England is beginning to do its own thinking, and as democracy depends very much upon widely-spread and comparatively deep thought, the hopes of an English democracy in the future are perhaps better than we have hitherto suspected.

## The English Liberal View.

The Editor of the London "Nation," speaking of the Conference, says: Meanwhile, I summarise the leading features and tendencies of the Conference: (1) The rapidly-developing movement towards democratic internationalism as the best and swiftest road to peace; (2) the marked sympathy for the Russian Revolution, qualified by disapproval of the internal violence of the Bolsheviks, as shown by the silence which greeted M. Litvinoff's defence of the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly; (3) the great enthusiasm shown for Mr. Snowden, Mr. McDonald, and the leaders of the left, while Mr. Purdy's able but rather stiffly-worded utterance fell well behind the general sentiment of the Conference; (4) the coldness shown to the Labour members of the Ministry and the complete discredit into which the British Workers' League has fallen with all sections of Labour; (5) the sense of the gravity of the industrial position and of the Government's growing errors in food supply and food distribution; (6) the essential unity of Labour and the resolve to intervene firmly in the peace settlement." So far as we can gather this is a pretty accurate summary of the Conference. The great ovations at Nottingham were reserved for Litvinoff, Longuet, and the British "minority" leaders. Henderson was not enthusiastically received, and Messrs. Barnes and Clynes were very severely criticised. We regret that a combination of coal and cotton secured a temporary setback to the proposed new Constitution of the British Labour Party. It is only temporary, however, and we trust the new Constitution will be accepted when next it is brought forward in a month's time. The proposed new Constitution will bring British Labour practically into line with Continental Social Democracy constitutionally, while, at the same time conscription, "combing-out" and food queues are doing useful, but quite incidental work in generating the necessary democratic motive power in the most approved continental manner. A year from now silence would not perhaps greet Litvinoff's defence of the dissolution of the Russian Constituent Assembly. Let the spirit grow.

## Carson, England, and the Convention.

From all appearance, if they be not deceptive, we can gather that the so-called Irish Convention, upon which Arthur Henderson pinned his faith for an "Irish settlement," has reached a very critical stage. Gossip is, of course, very busy, and speculation is taking its accustomed flights, but these are impossible on paper and in print. So far talk is not censored if it is private and D.O.R.A. is powerless to touch it. But when it comes to print, Dora, and the blue pencil of the Censor which is its outward and visible sign, are very powerful indeed: There is no need for us to write

what we think of the Convention as it would provide unnecessary work for the Censor, but our readers will be fully aware, by gossip, rumour, and speculation, of what has happened at that assembly. As it has been printed during the week we can say that certain selected members of that body are going to London to confer with the great Lloyd George and his War Cabinet. Appearances point to the possibility of our having "settlement" thrust upon us and with a Land Purchase bribe, too. Meanwhile Carson has left the British War Cabinet and is coming "back to Erin" to speak to his old war cabinet in Belfast. We understand he will advise them to accept a Convention settlement "in the best interests of the Empire." It appears that affairs in Canada, Australia, and the United States are very threatening and, therefore, some "settlement" must be arrived at as soon as possible. He will, however, inform his old colleagues of 1913-14 that if they decide not to accept he will stand by his pledges; he will die in the last ditch with them in resisting an Irish Parliament. So it is possible that we shall have all over again the threats of civil war, of Provisional Governments, and of Covenants. And the members of the U.V.F. have been allowed to retain their guns while Nationalist guns have been raided for and confiscated with the greatest energy. Carson is one of the greatest enemies democracy in any country could have. It is sad to think there are workers in Ireland who will not only tolerate such a man, but actually accept him as their leader. How long, how long!

## Organise.

We are pleased to note the success attending the efforts to organise the women workers of this country. It has been a recognised game of the capitalist in the past to employ women at the lowest possible rate of wages. In factories, workshops, shops, restaurants, and even in schools women have been and are being employed at rates of wages upon which body and soul can scarcely be kept together. This exploitation of women in the interests of dividends and profits is a blot upon our civilisation and must be stopped. The Wages Boards in certain industries have done something to make the life of the women working in these industries more bearable than it was, but very much still remains to be done. And it must be done by the women themselves. The experience of men is that trade union organisation is essential to reasonable wages and decent conditions of work. Women have that experience to guide them and to learn from. It has been said that experience teaches, but it is a very dear school, so we hope that women will not continue taking lessons without learning anything.

(Continued on page 116.)

# IRISH OPINION

THE VOICE OF LABOUR

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

EVERY THURSDAY, ONE PENNY.

Literary communications should be addressed to the Editor, and business communications to the Manager, at the Office, 27 Dawson Street, Dublin.

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## The Workers' Food.

How long must we continue to tolerate the existence of the farce called officially the Irish Food Control Committee? This committee has muddled and messed our food supply in such a way that nothing short of its utter annihilation will satisfy the worker. What a story of ineptitude its history makes? From Dublin milk to Derry bread, from Achill flour to butter exportation, it is such a story of bungling inefficiency as even Ireland has not before witnessed. Just this week we saw some correspondence which for utter callousness could not be equalled anywhere else in Europe. The Chairman of the Belmullet Board of Guardians wrote to Wrench & Co., informing them that no flour was procurable within the boundaries of the Union; and that in consequence an epidemic was raging caused by the potato diet. Potatoes were the only food the people had. It was making them ill, and many had to be admitted into the workhouse hospital. The entire district, said the Chairman of the Guardians to us, was in a really deplorable state. People were literally starving, and no food could be had. They had money, of course, but, as we pointed out before, "John Bradburys" make very poor fare. The state of affairs existing was pointed out to the so-called Food Control Committee. A supply of flour was requested and a cheque was tendered. The reply of the Committee's secretary was typical of the communications from that body. The gentleman pointed out that a wagon of flour and a wagon of meal had been despatched some days ago to Belmullet. Just imagine 5 tons of flour and an equal quantity of meal to supply the needs of about ten thousand people, including the town of Belmullet! Yet that is all the satisfaction that could be got from the Food Committee. The cheque was returned; no more flour would be sent. The people might go on eating potatoes and suffering from fever so far as the gilded officials of the Food Control Committee was concerned. It is time that Wrench and his Land Commission clique were cleared out.

We are particularly gratified to note that the workers are about to take the matter into their own hands. It is certainly not a moment too soon. The only use the old Wrench Committee has been was no use to the Irish workers. It succeeded in providing quite a large number of very good jobs indeed for its friends and relatives and acquaintances. They were very good jobs, too, with fat salaries and comfortable offices. At any time one may visit Kilworth House and find very nice ladies and gentlemen toasting themselves before good, cheery fires. But doing anything! Certainly not; it is not for working those jobs were brought into being. We want a Food Committee that will conserve food, distribute food equitably, and control food in every possible way. Such a committee can only be provided by the Irish people themselves. And that committee will be provided. The meeting to which Mr. Thomas Farren referred at the Food Protest meeting in the Mansion House last week will provide the committee that the Irish people wants. Wrench & Co. have tried to help England; the committee we want must be prepared and willing to help its own country. It must be prepared and willing to help Ireland. This patriotic altruism is not to be expected from any committee appointed by and responsible only to the great Coal Controller and millionaire, Rhondda. Our committee must be appointed by, be controlled by, and be responsible only to ourselves in Ireland. By this method only can Irish food resources be made available for the Irish people. Our people must not be allowed to starve while we stand idly by. The fever of Belmullet Union must not be permitted to cover all Ireland. We must have no widespread repetition of the poor old woman who recently died from starvation in Dublin City. We are on the verge of famine, and the sooner we recognise that fact the better for ourselves. It is enough to have one '47 in a country's history. If we permit another it will probably be our own fault. We have food; we must control it ourselves.

The three great forces in our country to-day are Sinn Fein, Co-operation and Labour, and upon these great organised forces will devolve the salvation of our people in these very critical days. These three great forces have come together in an endeavour to meet the crisis impending and have faintly outlined a scheme of organisation and control which Mr. Farren outlined at the Mansion House meeting, and which will be submitted to the All-Ireland Food Conference. The scheme consists of parish, county and all-Ireland committees. The parish committees will see to the feeding of their own parishes and give the county committees the disposal of any surplus. The county committee will, under the direction of the Central Committee, see to the feeding of its own county. The All-Ireland Committee will be in complete control of the entire scheme. It will set up an Irish Food Exchange, which will regulate the disposal of all surplus food.

stuffs. Towns, being primarily consumers, will set up committees of their own to act in concert and in harmony with the All-Ireland Committee. This machinery ought to have been set up long since, but late is proverbially better than never. Meanwhile every effort must be made to increase our food production. Allotments for townsmen and the break-up of those tremendous grazing ranches in the country should occupy at least part of the attention of the committee when it sets to work. We hope

this scheme will be worked with energy and enthusiasm and that it will be backed by the local rates upon the Oldcastle basis. If this is so we shall have a Food Control scheme and Committee with only one objective, which will be to feed the Irish people and preserve them from another '47. Sinn Fein can supply the motive power, the Co-operative movement has the machinery, and Labour has a tremendous power in reserve. The three together can save Ireland, and we sincerely trust they will at least make a gallant attempt.

## One Big Union: Sink all Differences.

I have read your reprint of Jim Connolly's plea for a united proletariat, and believe this is the most vital and urgent matter that the workers of Ireland could consider. It is of more importance to us than the European war or margarine queues, although it is not likely to be given the same amount of space in the daily papers.

Let us try to forget, for a few moments, the different shades of religious and political opinions that divide us. As members of the working class, let us examine it from a purely working class basis. The workers are at present divided and sub-divided into as many separate groups as the animals in the Zoological Gardens. And, like the animals, each section is able to move only inside the bars of its own cage. It is a sight that anyone who cares to look may see. Each group confined in its own cage, fretting and fuming only about its own affairs, each intent on snapping the meatiest bone, not caring who else goes hungry so long as their own bellies are full. The pathetic thing about it all is that the bars of the cages are but the shadows of their own rules. The carpenters think the world spins smoothly when they succeed in gaining an increase of a penny an hour. The tailors, bricklayers, stonecutters, bakers and candlestick makers thank God or the Government when their weekly pay envelopes contain a couple of shillings extra. They smile at their own victory and condescendingly advise the re-

mainder of us to go and do likewise, as if doing likewise were wisdom.

It seems to me that the simplest and most comprehensive division of which the people of this and every other country are susceptible is:—Those who produce wealth and those who claim to own it when it has been produced. Into either of these classes every man and woman in the world will fit. Into these two groups the working class of Ireland should immediately decide to divide the inhabitants. Let the workers think and act as workers in the interests of all the workers, and no financial or political power could stand against them for twenty-four hours. Until this is done it will not be possible for the working class to do anything worth doing.

The old formula, "Union is strength," has been twisted into "Separate unions are strength," which is an obvious absurdity. The more unions there are the more the workers become divided and the less effective for vigorous action. No section of workers can hope to win any lasting benefit until they are backed by every worker in the country. When the carpenters or any other group of tradesmen find themselves thus powerfully armed they will awake to the glorious knowledge that they have arrived at the goal of one big union. They will then realise that they are not fundamentally carpenters or tailors or dock labourers, but members of the Working Class.

S. O'E.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

(Continued from Page 114.)

The recent victories in Cork and Derry should inspire confidence and bring every working woman into the trade union movement. We hope the clerical unions are making provision for the woman clerk. Since the outbreak of war the woman clerk, already established, has become more and more prominent a feature in our offices. Many of them are new to the work and know nothing whatever of trade unionism except, perhaps, when they think of it as something beneath their dignity, something for navvies and miners only but not for them who are so very superior, so very genteel. All workers are—just workers, and therefore ought to be members of trade unions. We are pleased to note that the work is progressing. Sooner or later women will recognise the necessity of trade unionism. They will recognise it sooner if our unions thrust themselves under the notice of women workers. For this reason we welcome the "big push" now in progress and wish it the greatest success.

#### Food Pooling.

Sean O Cathasaigh protests against the seizure of Galvin's Field, in the

parish of St. Loran O'Toole—the school-boys' hurling ground—for conversion into allotments. He asks Councillors Daly and Brohoun to preserve this patch of land. The health and physical development of the young is more important than cabbages. Surely more suitable ground for allotments can be found.

#### Food Pooling.

An announcement was made in the House of Commons the other night on behalf of the Food Controller that the Irish Food Committee approves of the proposal that all food supplies for Great Britain and Ireland shall be pooled.

That is to say that Ireland, having produced more food than she needs to feed her population, is to ship, not merely her surplus, but all that may be called for, to England, to place it in the pool there and run the risk of submarines preventing other food being imported to replace that which we have exported. It will not do. We must at all costs ensure that there is retained always in this island sufficient sustenance to carry us over until September. If that is assured, then we can deal freely with our neighbour. We have no confidence at present that either the Food Control Committee or the Department of Agriculture have any

thought of conserving Ireland's food. While the submarine challenges British shipping our demand is to conserve our food. We refuse to run the risk of famine merely for the sake of sharing the glories of sacrifice.

### DERRY NOTES.

#### Strafe Respectability!

The firm of J. J. Pollock & Co., Ferryquay Street, could not recognise the Shop Assistants' Union when 20 employees applied for an increase in wages. The faculty of recognising, however, was quickly developed when, on Wednesday morning last, the assistants went on strike. J. J. Pollock & Co. then decided to open up negotiations, and on this understanding the assistants returned to work on Thursday morning.

#### So Far, So Good.

Encouraged by the success of the factory workers, the workers in the laundries sent in a demand for an increase of 3d. per dozen in the rates of pay. This being refused they went on strike, causing all the domestic laundries in the city to have to close down. After a week's strike a compromise was arrived at, an increase of 1d. per dozen being offered and accepted.



# LABOUR IN IRELAND.

## Sinn Fein Opportunity.

On Thursday last the Trades Hall held a lively company of girls, the dressmaker members of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses, who came to hear Mrs. Pete Curran and Alderman M'Carron (Derry) give an account of the negotiations between the Union and the Dublin employers. The first conference took place in November and the second this month. The Union's programme is three-fold. First, it wants to abolish the compulsory holidays without pay. Some girls get 31 weeks in the year. Second, it urges employers to make up the stock required in Dublin, thus giving permanent employment to their own staff. Third, a higher rate of pay is wanted for this body of highly-skilled women workers. A committee of members will draw up the wage scale for discussion at a future conference.

The employers have met the Union officials in a friendly spirit and good results are likely to ensue. The second item of the Union's programme is one that calls for support from the general public of the city. The women of Dublin can bring it into effect, by demanding, when purchasing ready-mades, blouses, skirts, or coats, that they should get Dublin-made goods and not imports from Leeds or Manchester. It is noteworthy that this demand for Irish manufacture is put forward by a union with its headquarters in England.

## Dope Merchants.

The wholesale druggists' assistants held a successful meeting in the College Hotel under the chairmanship of Mr. R. W. Todd, of the Dublin Branch of the N.A.U. S.A.W. & C. Wages and general conditions were discussed and a committee appointed to draw up a programme to be submitted on February 4th to a meeting in the same comfortable place.

## S.P.I.

The Dublin Branch of the Socialist Party of Ireland is preparing for a forward move in socialist propaganda in the city and outside. The formation of branches in the country is urgently needed to ensure the growth of the Connolly ideal. An appeal for funds to that end will shortly be circulated by Secretary Russell (Room 3, Liberty Hall, Dublin).

## Up, Bolsheviks!

The Round Room will be crowded on Monday, 4th inst., when Irish Labour assembles to hail the Russian Revolution and to hear from representatives of the Russian Republic the epic tale of the social revolution. Wm. O'Brien, as President of the Trade Union Congress and Labour Party, will preside. Comrades Foran, O'Shannon, Mrs. Connery, Coates, and Hughes will speak for the organised workers of Ireland, and Mesdames Gonne-M'Bride, and Markievicz and Laurence Ginnell for the democratic elements of Sinn Fein.

## Sack the Bosses.

Dublin Industrial Development Association reports many useful activities during the past year. Incidentally it exposes the general incapacity of the Dublin bosses to look after their own interests, for this Association, which aims at fostering local trade directly for the benefit of the local employers, can only raise from them £229 16s. 6d., and on the last account it carried forward a cash balance of 4s. 4d.!

## Swift Strike.

The smiths' helpers employed by Messrs. Thompson, Brunswick Street, struck on 28th inst. to enforce an increase of 5s. per week. The firm had offered 1s. advance on Saturday, but two hours' strike induced them to concede the full demands.

## Portarlington.

Mr. Dowling has been restored to the town temporarily and the dispute here continues. Messrs. Russell will appear before a special Munitions Tribunal next Monday on a charge of locking out their workers. We trust workers everywhere will take note of the tactics of the police in this case. A warrant for the arrest of Comrade Dowling was granted in connection with East Clare bye-election, and held deliberately in suspense until Dowling is engaged in defending the Union from the aggression of Messrs. Russell. Then the police kidnap the organiser, intending to break the strike by this means.

## Ballyshannon.

The good trade unionist is the active missionary of labour and his message is not reserved for his own craft or industry. Whenever he sees men unorganised and helpless, he sees the opportunity of work for the cause, which is bigger than his Union, his craft, or his industry. The Railwaymen of Castle Caldwell are of this type, and by their efforts a branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union has been formed in Ballyshannon and district, and under their guidance set on its way as a self-reliant unit of the Irish working-class.

## BELFAST NOTES.

### Strike of the Black Squad.

As stated in last week's issue the men met on Tuesday last week to receive the award which was definitely promised for that day. But no award arrived and no explanation except that it would be certainly issued before Saturday. But the men were not in a mood to be jobbed off by persistent promises, and decided to force the pace by stopping work until the award was issued. This was done, and the award came on Friday, granting 7½ per cent. on present earnings. At a specially called meeting held on Saturday this was accepted and work was resumed on Monday. But there is grave dissatisfaction brooding. The feeling prevails

that wage movements and advances granted in the shipbuilding trade across the water have been deliberately kept from the knowledge of the Belfast men, and that advantage has been taken of their "loyalty and patriotism" to deprive them of the advances granted to their fellow tradesmen in Great Britain.

In support of this view it is stated that the Belfast rates for caulkers, platers, riveters, etc., have been advanced only 15 per cent. over list prices prevailing in July, 1914; that applications for increases were presented by the Boilermakers' Society's district committees on the Clyde, Mersey, Tyne and Tees, as far back as September last, but that nothing of this kind was done by the Belfast Committee owing to the absence of information, which should have been given to the members by the responsible official.

The "Labour Gazette" for January gives particulars of several awards by the Committee on production, which for the information of the boilermakers on the Lagan, Foyde, Liffey and Lee we summarise as follows:—

**Clyde.**—Standard ships—Caulkers awarded 20 per cent. additional on piece work list, beginning November last. Riveters, percentage advance on list rates to be increased to 60 per cent., plus 2½ per cent. for holders on. This, in addition to the 13s. per week granted by Committee.

**Hull.**—Riveters: Tyne and Wear list to be adopted for merchant work, 55 per cent. advance (to include all previous percentage advances, but not including the 13s. per week) on the Tyne and Wear list prices. Bonus to begin January.

**Tees and Hartlepool.**—Riveters: Same as Hull, except that advances shall be retrospective to the first pay day in September. Platers, Caulkers and Anglesmiths: From 19th September a further advance 10 per cent. on gross prices for platers and anglesmiths and 20 per cent. on current piece rates for caulkers, these advances to be payable to those men on standard ships. Previous additions to list rates to be merged in advance now given, except the special advance of 13s. per week.

**Tyne and Wear.**—Platers, Caulkers and Anglesmiths on standard ships: Same award as for Tees and Hartlepool, as from 15th September.

**Mersey.**—Caulkers on standard ships: Same award as Tees and Hartlepool, i.e., 20 per cent. on current rates.

**Dundee.**—Platers on standard ships: From first pay day in November. Rates payable shall be piece rates, in force, July, 1914, plus war wage increase of 10 per cent., plus special advance of 13s. per week, together with a further advance of 10 per cent. on piece rates.

As the 7½ per cent. granted last week appears to apply to all shipbuilding areas as well as other trades, the position of Belfast boilermakers relative to their fellow tradesmen in other districts remains about the same.

Next week we shall publish a statement of the A.S.E. controversy with George and Geddes.



Cumann UMMAÖAIR NA hÉIREANN.

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## Shop Assistant Notes.

### CORK.

The local branch of the Shop Assistants' Union is accredited with 17 new members for the week ending Jan. 19th. We understand the growth continues.

### LIPTON'S, LTD.

We regret to learn that the Shop Assistants' Union is not satisfied with the manner in which the recent agreement with this firm is being carried out. Throughout Great Britain the firm and the Union maintain the friendliest relations, and it is to be hoped that moderate counsels will prevail and that the Irish managers of Lipton's branches will understand that behind the Union stand their customers—the other trade unionists.

### SLIGO.

We learn the Shop Assistants are organising strongly here; ten new members last week.

### DUNDALK.

Mr. Thos. Johnson, Belfast, addresses an organising meeting of the Shop Assistants' Union in Dundalk on Sunday next.

### RUSSIAN REPUBLIC RECEPTION.

## MASS MEETING

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