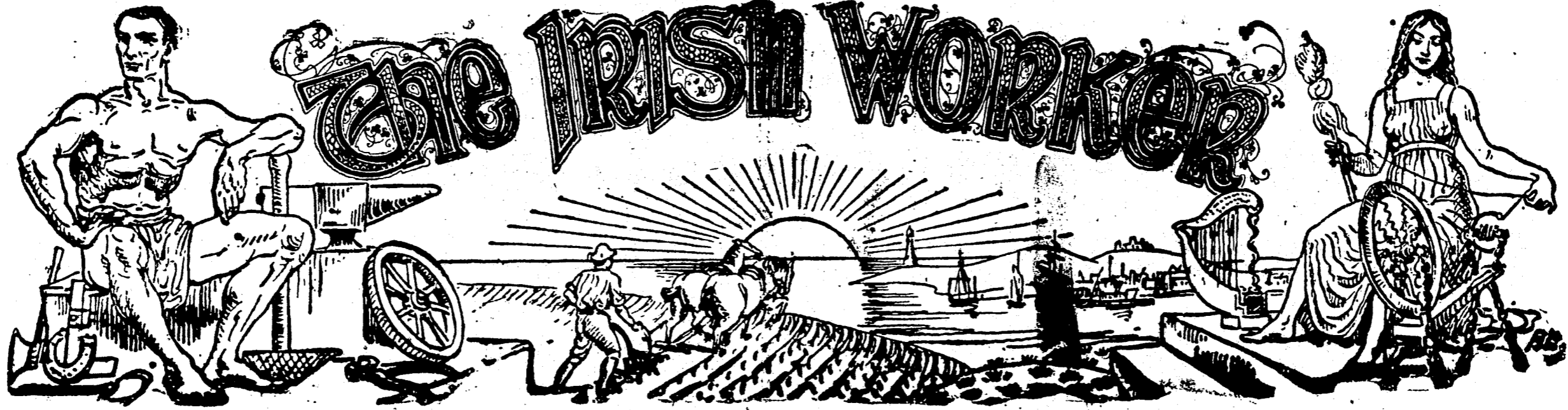


"The principle I state and mean to stand upon is—that the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun and down to the centre is vested of right in the people of Ireland."

James Fintan Lalor.



Who is it, speaks of defeat? I tell you a cause like ours; Is greater than defeat can know— It is the power of powers. As surely as the earth rolls round As surely as the glorious sun Brings the great world moon wave, Must our Cause be won!

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Edited by Jim Larkin.

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DUBLIN, SATURDAY, JULY, 6th, 1912.

ONE PENNY.]

NATIONAL IDEALISM.

Are You an Irish Idealist? By "EILEEN."

In the course of this article I propose to deal with the subject of National Idealism as it applies to Irish affairs generally. My aim is rather to suggest views and stimulate thought, than to furnish a complete formula or code of principles applicable to everyday needs.

Idealism we might define as progression from the imperfect or less perfect to the perfect. Irish Idealism stands for progressive movement towards the perfect condition of Irish life in all its phases.

police, armies and navies, will gradually decline and disappear, and the huge wealth now expended on these will be set free to be devoted towards developing to the highest degree the political, social, intellectual, moral and physical qualities of the race, and in eradicating poverty, destitution, crime, disease, ignorance and so forth.

Idealism, as we see, is a principle of emancipation. It stands for the complete emancipation of the individual from the fetters of traditionalism and history, with all their embedded sophistries, errors and falsehoods.

History furnishes us with much useful information as to what we are to avoid. We know that perfection is not to be found in the past; as neither our ancestors themselves, their laws, conduct nor institutions were perfect.

Is not history, when we come to analyse it, a mass of imperfections? Not much more than a record of fierce struggles for power by individuals or masses—the power to tyrannise over and rule others.

Encourage Home Trade. S. ROBINSON & SONS, Manufacturing Confectioners, 53 CAPEL STREET, DUBLIN.

day like to revive the bloody, and oftentimes inhuman, frays of the clans and tribes in their efforts to dominate and tyrannise over one another? Yet, let us think for a moment, do we not see something very like this when one locality brags counts the number of heads that will follow his lead, and says to his adversary: "Now, come on, I am more powerful than you, because I have more heads following me," and then he gets elected to power on the strength of the quantity not the quality of the heads supplied.

Had our Saxon invaders been as superior in virtue, honour and justice to the conquered Irish as they were in numbers and brute force, what a different story would have to be told to-day! How different would the whole course of the world's history be!

I would have nothing but contempt for a law made by one not my superior in truth, honour and justice. If he cannot govern himself, why should he presume to govern me or prescribe my course of conduct? History answers, because he has got the power, and it doesn't matter how he got it.

Telephone No. 961. Telegraphic Address—"Signal," Dublin. ENCOURAGE HOME TRADE.

VII. History does not teach us that all laws, all rules and regulations are so many tyrannies, and that the real freedom is freedom from all laws, rules and regulations of whatever kind whether Irish-made or of alien manufacture.

TO THE DEATH. A Dramatic Episode.

Scene—The old spot by the river. Time—a Sunday afternoon. Enter Jim Larkin bearing aloft the family escutcheon whereon are emblazoned the words—"who is it speaks of defeat?"

Till thou didst steal the blessed lamp To light the opposition camp. Thou "Anti-humbag" "Anti-cant," But I have seen that all thy rant, And all that thou hadst sought to do Was but a bolt from out the blue. "God save the workingman," you say, Then go and give the pass away.

CAUTION. The Pillar House, 31a HENRY ST., DUBLIN, IS THE DEPOT FOR GENUINE-BARGAINS BY POST.

COAL. For best qualities of House Coals delivered in large or small quantities, at City Prices ORDER FROM P. O'CARROLL, BLACK LION, INCHICORE.

To Convince You of the superiority of OUR COCOAS We are now offering Quarter Pound "Health" Cocoa...

If You Have not the Ready Money convenient there is an Irish Establishment which supplies Goods on EASY PAYMENT SYSTEM. It is THE Dublin Workmen's INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION, LTD., 10 SOUTH WILLIAM ST.

Workers! Support the Only Picture House in Dublin Owned by an Irishman. THE IRISH CINEMA, Capel Street (next to Trades Hall), New Open Daily 2.30 to 10.30.

MEN'S BOOTS, Special Purchase of Manufacturers' Stock. We will clear the lot at 5/11 a Pair. Now, Men, here's a chance, as they are honestly worth 2/- a pair more.

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CURTIS, LETTERPRESS AND LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTER, BOOKBINDER AND STATIONER, 12 TEMPLE LANE, DUBLIN. High-Class Work. Moderate Prices. Telephone 3492.

WOMEN WORKERS' COLUMN.

PEMBROKE LAUNDRY STRIKE.

This dispute is still on, so all who are interested in it and the results must not be fooled by the lying rumours that are circulated about it to the effect that the strike is settled. Mr. Sorohan and his tools are strangers to the truth, and therefore any statements they make concerning the strike are not to be believed.

This laundry is still getting a certain amount of laundry work, and we want to tell all workers here and now that the workers who send their washing to Sorohan's laundry have just as much right to be termed blacklegs as those who stayed in to work in the laundry when their fellow-workers came out on strike.

The workers who still continue to patronise this laundry are guilty of a great act of injustice towards the brave girls who are out on strike. Think for a moment of what you are doing by sending your work to the Pembroke Laundry. Firstly, you are helping a man whose vile and foul language to young girls should place him outside the society of decent men and women, a man who has had young girls arrested and charged, and has done his utmost to get these girls sent to prison. Secondly, you are helping to support scab labour, helping to maintain blacklegs by keeping them supplied with work, and by this very act of sending your work to this laundry you are helping Sorohan and his scabs to defeat the strikers. Think well over your action in this matter, and if you do you will vow not to send one article of washing to the Pembroke Laundry, and in this way you will be the means of bringing the creature Sorohan to his senses. I know some people send their washing to the Pembroke Laundry because the work is done there at a cheaper rate than in the other laundries in the city. But do those people realise what this under-cutting of prices means? In this particular laundry, prior to the present existing strike, it meant low rate of wages, long hours, the ignoring of the Factory Act as far as the hours were concerned, wretched conditions, brutal treatment of the employees by the manager and managers; or, to sum it all up in one sentence, sweating of the worst description. Of course the majority of the customers of this laundry would be highly indignant if they were told that they were one of the chief causes of the sweating which existed in the Pembroke Laundry. But such is the case, and sometimes the truth is not always palatable or flattering.

Workers, why not be true to principle and patronise the laundry where the work is done by Trade Union Labour, where the workers are loyal and true to each other, where the conditions are favourable, where the standard rate of wages is good (although not so good as we would like them to be), and, above all, where the employers treat their workers in a respectful manner. These are the conditions which exist in the Pembroke Laundry in Mespil Road.

When Mr. Sorohan tried to get coal in to his establishment, and was prevented from doing so by the girl strikers, he then resorted to other means which are quite worthy of him. He succeeded in getting a certain lady who resides in Clifton Terrace to allow him to have some stock and coke stored in her yard until such time as he could remove it. So, procuring the loan of the cart belonging to the man Young, junior manager, Abbey-street, and assisted by the two male scabs and some policemen, he managed to have it removed from Clifton Terrace to his own establishment in the early hours of the morning. Also workers, do not forget that the Bloomfield Laundry is assisting this man Sorohan.

But what about the Southern Police Court and the summons cases which were heard last Friday, before Mr. Swift. Workers, never imagine that you are going to get justice dealt out to you, particularly when you are out on strike. Sorohan was fined 5s. in each of the two cases against him for assault and threatening language, while only a week previous one of the girl strikers was fined 1s for a charge lodged against her by the scab Josephine Cokburn, 5 Hogan's court, who deliberately, and with intent, swore false in the witness box. Also on Friday, when the eleven summonses were heard against the strikers what was the result? The two unscrupulous, lying scabs, Emily and Josephine Cokburn, swore on their oath a statement which they knew to be untrue. Mr. Swift, the magistrate, before hearing our defence, dismissed all the cases, except the case against Miss Larkin, the Secretary of The Irish Women Workers' Union, whom he bound over in bail for 25s. This is what is called justice—it is a mockery—there is no such thing as justice for those who are fighting for their rights.

But what about the Cokburns, although Mr. Swift thought fit to believe them, the public were not so easily gulled by their lies, and they had a positive proof of it on last Saturday, when they went out to make some purchases. By the way, Mr. Sorohan, where were the clothes belonging to the beds and bedrooms washed when your house was rampant with diptheria?

On Sunday, July 7th, there will be a Edg for the members of the Irish Workers' Choir and any friends who wish to join the party. All those intending to go will meet at Liberty Hall on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and proceed by tram to Rathfarnham, and from there the party will go on to the Pine Forest. A very enjoyable day is anticipated.

The Irish Women Workers' first Annual Excursion will take place on Sunday, 25th August. Grand Carriage Excursion to the Glen of the Downs, Tickets 3s. each, now on sale, and can be had from all the offices of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, also at the head office of The Irish Women Workers' Union, Liberty Hall, Boreford place.

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Of course, it may be argued that we must be tolerant and full of charity towards the heathen, and that such is an excellent maxim cannot be gainsaid. At the same time, the charitable rule hitherto employed towards the heathen is to convert them and not let them prey on us; which is another excellent maxim also there is no gaining. However, excellent maxims often run amok and create strange situations, and that is, perhaps, the real reason for the strange case of Li Soro Han and his labour trouble.

Li, as has been said, is a heathen, and sought to run his laundry on heathen principles. His employees—for he had some of these modern beasts of burden—did not happen to be heathen, and some of them, with a more solid grasp of their own Christian principles than others, intimated to Li Soro that they would no longer work for him unless he changed his ideas, at least to some small extent, on the way he should run his tab, starch and ironing business. Li was aghast! The community, as voiced by its morning and evening papers, was also aghast! "Me vally muchee surprise!" quoth Li Soro, his pigtail standing on end with fright. "Me treatee them vally muchee well." And the special interviewers told off by the Press cleared him on the back and said "hear, hear." Then the editors in sterner mood, and with much sleeking of ink from the mook heretic bottle, wanted to know if it was charitable for the workers to strike against a heathen employer, and would it not be better for the strikers just to talk the matter quietly over with Li Soro and seek to convert him. But the workers knew Li much better than the "copy-masters" did, and said, quite rightly, that they must be charitable to themselves first; and as for converting Li Soro Han, that worthy was much better at perverting, as the actions of the black-legs clearly showed. In short, the strikers sternly refused to become slaves to Li Soro, for slavery, as they contended, was utterly opposed to all Christian teaching, and if he preferred slaves to honest workers, then the sooner he went back to Hong Kong or elsewhere to get them the better.

Peaceful pickets were stationed by the strikers, and in due course out flocked the painful police. The pickets were armed with leaflets; the police, however, were armed with bludgeons. It must be left to some future historian to correctly diagnose which is the more powerful weapon of the two. Why the police and their bludgeons were there no one seems to know. It might be said that private property was threatened, for that alone could furnish an excuse; but unless they felt that some picket might cut off Li Soro's pigtail, there was nothing else in the way of private property that ran any risk. As in all cases where the police go to make trouble and not to look for it, police court proceedings furnished the sequel of their labours. Justice is sometimes said to be slow, but this time it was "Swift." By some extraordinary mischance Li Soro Han himself was brought up and nominally fined for using the English language improperly. Whether it was "pigdon" English he used or a split infinitive deponent sayest not. In any case, he lost ten bob for not speaking correctly; so he might as well attend a night school for a short time—it might, at least, save him further expense. Another person was deprived of some money—this time a lady. It cost her 25s for being someone's sister; such are the accidents of black.

This cry has no end—as yet. It seems to me that the ending lies with the community. As long as the female portion of the community remains careless as to the conditions under which its blouse is ironed, and so long as the male portion of it does not care a damn where its shirt is washed, then Li Soro Han will live and flourish and his workers will be careless. Once the community ceases to be careless and awakes to their own responsibilities, then my story has an end, and Li Soro Han, the villain of the piece, will be cast out to his native oblivion.

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Peaceful pickets were stationed by the strikers, and in due course out flocked the painful police. The pickets were armed with leaflets; the police, however, were armed with bludgeons. It must be left to some future historian to correctly diagnose which is the more powerful weapon of the two. Why the police and their bludgeons were there no one seems to know. It might be said that private property was threatened, for that alone could furnish an excuse; but unless they felt that some picket might cut off Li Soro's pigtail, there was nothing else in the way of private property that ran any risk. As in all cases where the police go to make trouble and not to look for it, police court proceedings furnished the sequel of their labours. Justice is sometimes said to be slow, but this time it was "Swift." By some extraordinary mischance Li Soro Han himself was brought up and nominally fined for using the English language improperly. Whether it was "pigdon" English he used or a split infinitive deponent sayest not. In any case, he lost ten bob for not speaking correctly; so he might as well attend a night school for a short time—it might, at least, save him further expense. Another person was deprived of some money—this time a lady. It cost her 25s for being someone's sister; such are the accidents of black.

The Irish Women Workers' first Annual Excursion will take place on Sunday, 25th August. Grand Carriage Excursion to the Glen of the Downs, Tickets 3s. each, now on sale, and can be had from all the offices of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, also at the head office of The Irish Women Workers' Union, Liberty Hall, Boreford place.

IRISH WORKERS' CHOIR. Choir practice will be as usual on Monday and Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Irish Language Class on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. Irish Dancing Thursday and Friday evenings.

Irish Workers' Union, Liberty Hall, 18 Boreford Place, Dublin. Entrance Fee 6s. Contributions 2d. per week. Intending members can see the Secretary any evening after 8 p.m. All communications for this column to be addressed to—

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This cry has no end—as yet. It seems to me that the ending lies with the community. As long as the female portion of the community remains careless as to the conditions under which its blouse is ironed, and so long as the male portion of it does not care a damn where its shirt is washed, then Li Soro Han will live and flourish and his workers will be careless. Once the community ceases to be careless and awakes to their own responsibilities, then my story has an end, and Li Soro Han, the villain of the piece, will be cast out to his native oblivion.

She: "So Mr. Snap has just celebrated his golden wedding." He: "Golden wedding? Why he's only just got married." She: "Yes, but the girl had twenty thousand pounds."

SPECIAL TELEGRAM.

Belfast, Friday, 6 p.m. Our correspondent has phoned us that 250 prominent Protestant labour men and nearly 2,500 Catholics have had to leave work in the shipyards in Belfast owing to the violent attitude of the Orangemen.

Close on 200 workers have been beaten to One thousand men are demanding victimization, pay from their trades unions.

A number of the men who were beaten have had claims for compensation lodged against Workman, Clark & Co.

A deputation has been appointed, and will wait on the directors of the Queen's Island to-morrow (Saturday) morning.

</

SIMPSON & WALLACE, The Workingman's MEAT PROVIDERS, Give the Best Value in Beef, Mutton and Lamb.

NOTICE—57, 139 and 113 Great Britain St; 5 Wexford St; 4 Commercial Buildings, Phibsboro'; 28 N. S. and 28 Bolton St.; and 15 Francis St.

You Can't Afford to Look Old! Dr. KING'S Hair Restorer

Keeps your Hair from getting Grey. Shilling Bottles. Made in Ireland.

LEONARD'S MEDICAL HALLS

18 North Earl Street and 138 Henry Street, Dublin.

When You Get on a Good Thing Stick to it.

Get in and Stick to Irish-Made Boots.

JOHN MALONE, Irish Boot Manufacturer,

67 NORTH KING STREET, DUBLIN

Call to W. FURNESS, For Good Value in IRISH BEEF AND MUTTON.

None but the best at lowest prices. Talbot St. Meat Co., 36b Talbot Street.

STRONG BOOTS FOR WORKINGMEN.

Army Bluchers—Sprigged or Nailed, 5/- Whole-back Bluchers—Hand-Pegged, 6/-



NOTE.—These Bluchers are solid leather throughout and will stand plenty of hard wear.

BARCLAY & COOK,

104/105 Talbot St., 5 St. George's St., Dublin.

ENCOURAGE IRISH WORK.

GET PHOTOGRAPHED

FINNERTY'S, 1894

STUDIOS: 46 HENRY ST., and 77 AUGIER ST., DUBLIN.

BEST WORK—LOWEST PRICES. This Coupon entitles you to 20 per cent. off List Price. See our Bill at all Banquets and Public Feasts.

FANAGAN'S Funeral Establishment

54 AUGIER STREET, DUBLIN. Established more than Half-a-Century. Coffins, Hearnes, Coaches, and every Funeral Requisite. Trades Union and Irish-Ireland House. Punctuality and Economy Guaranteed. Telephone No. 12.

PAT KAVANAGH, PROVISIONS,

Beef, Mutton and Pork. GOOD QUALITY. FAIR PRICES. 74 to 78 Coombe; 37 Wexford Street; 71 and 72 New Street; 4 Dean Street, DUBLIN.

Comfortable Lodgings for Respectable Men

3/- WEEKLY. 7 Marlborough Place, City.

BOOTS FOR MEN, Box Calf & Chrome

Boots at 8/11 as sold elsewhere at 8/11. Hand-Pegged Bluchers at 4/10 AS SOLD ELSEWHERE, 6s. THE SMALL PROFIT STORE, 78b Talbot Street.

SALE. SALE.

We are the Cheapest People in the Drapery World all the year round, but during sale times we have no regard for cost prices. Come to Belton's Summer Sale: A hearty invitation to all. We want your business; and if you appreciate value, civility and attention, we must get it.

No time like the present! Come To-day! BELTON & CO., Drapers, 35 & 36 GREAT BRUNWICK ST. and 48 and 49 THOMAS ST.

TO THE IRISH WORKER. Buy your Shirts, Collars, Braces, Caps, &c. (all made by Dublin Workers) at

LOUGHLIN'S Irish Outfitting 19 Parliament St., Dublin. HEADQUARTERS.

PRICES LOW—QUALITY HIGH.



The employers' and the workers' interests are identical (Daily Paper). (We don't think!)

Gaelic Football Finals.

(At Jones's road To-morrow.)

We need do no more than direct the attention of our readers, especially the numerous athletic portion of them, to the important Gaelic Football Finals to be played at Jones's road to-morrow, under the auspices of the Dublin Football League. So much has been said and written regarding the two matches to be played that anything further would be superfluous. As is well known, the first match down to be played is the Senior contest between Geraldines and Kiohams. It will be remembered that the teams met in the Championship some weeks ago, when Kiohams just got home by a small margin. The Geraldines intend to avenge the defeat to-morrow, as they have been hard at practice for some weeks. The Kiohams, on the other hand, say they will beat the "Gers" by a bigger score than they did in the Championship. Whether they will or not remains to be seen. It may be of interest to readers to give the exact position of the Teams in the League:—

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Kiohams	10	9	1	—	19
Geraldines	10	9	1	—	19
Geraldines	9	8	1	—	17

It may be of interest to point out that Geraldines have played a match less than the other two, as they have yet to meet the Keatings. It will be remembered that the latter played a drawn game with Kiohams some months ago. Whether Kiohams or Geraldines win to-morrow, it will be a close thing as far as score is concerned.

The Junior Final is also creating tremendous interest. The Emeralds have won all before them this season, winning the Junior A Division outright without a single defeat, and beating St. Patricks, winners of the B Division, a couple of Sundays ago by a big score. Their opponents in to-morrow's game, the Round Towers (Clondalkin), are winners of the Junior County Division and their form this season leads their followers to expect great things of them. The following is the order of the games:— Senior League Deciding Tie—Kiohams v. Geraldines, 12 o'clock. Junior League Final—Emeralds v. Round Towers (Clondalkin), 1.15 o'clock.

National Insurance Act

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (APPROVED SOCIETY) Mass Meetings Will be held on: SUNDAY, JULY 7th, At Broadford Place, 1 o'clock. Fountain, James's st., 3 o'clock.

JIM LARKIN will explain the benefits of the Act. Y'U must insure; then insure in a Trades Union which will be enabled to give you better benefits than any other societies. Remember the above Union is an Approved Society.

A Series of Meetings

To Explain National Insurance Act WILL BE HELD IN LIBERTY HALL. July 8th—Monday, 8 o'clock, for all Liner Men; 9 o'clock for all Mineral Water Workers. July 9th—Tuesday, 8 o'clock, for all Coal men; 9 o'clock for all Cross-Channel men. July 10th—Wednesday, 8 o'clock, for Printing Trade Assistants; 9 o'clock for all Casual Dockers. July 11th—Thursday, 8 o'clock, all Foundry men; 9 o'clock for all Carters. July 12th—Friday, 8 o'clock, all men working Manoe Works.

WORKERS! ATTEND THE

St. James's Brass and Reed Band Excursion to Galway, On SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 1912. Return Fare, 3/9; Children, 1/11. Tickets on morning of Excursion, 4/- each. Train leaves Broadford at 9 a.m.; return from Galway at 7 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at the Band Hall, 7 Bridgefoot street; P. Byrne, 1148 Thomas street; J. J. Healy, 93 Parnell street; R. Moore, 78 Innisfallen Parade; or P. Hughes, 30 Little Dean's mark street.

Parents anxious to save their children from the cruel operation of Vaccination should read the "Vaccination Inquirer." One Penny Monthly. Order it from your Nearest, or send three half-penny stamps to the "Irish Anti-Vaccination League, 42 Woodland row, Dublin. Leaflets and information on how to avoid vaccination, sent free to parents on receipt of a stamp. Write at once and save your own child. Do not be late!

Established 1851. For Reliable Provisions! LEIGH'S, of Bishop St., STILL LEAD.

At this period Mr. M. Cormick said the Mayor was laughing at him, and it wasn't fair. His Worship replied that he did not know what his facial expression had to do with the case.

Mr. M. Cormick said he was on the same side as his Worship. His Worship replied that he was getting the same courtesy from the Mayor.

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Replying to Mr. M. Cormick, witness stated that the penny a ton stopped by Garvey was supposed to be for looking after the work. It was agreed with Mr. Cole that Garvey should get a penny a ton for that.

Mr. Howley—That was never communicated to any of the men I represent. Asked about the £1 gratuity, the witness said he knew it came out of the penny a ton allowed by Mr. Cole.

Mr. M. Cormick—You thought so? No, I knew it; there is the bill of lading there. Yes, but paper won't refuse ink.

Witness—I can produce my books here to prove it. Mr. M. Cormick—On your oath now, what amount has been paid over to Garvey? £17 12s. But you know there was a balance? No.

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CORK DAIRY, 117 St. Britain St.

Branches—1 York street, 11 Queen street, 19 High st., 213 St. Britain st., 82 Charlemont st., where you can get Best Value in Butter, Eggs and Milk, at Lowest Prices.

Proprietor: MICHAEL GARLAND

T. P. ROCHE,

The Workers' Hairdresser,

34 NORTH STRAND, DUBLIN.

An Up-to-Date Establishment. Trade Union Labour only employed. Cleanliness, Comfort. Antiseptic used. Success to the Workers' Cause.

WEDDING RINGS.

Engagement and Keeper Rings

IN GREAT VARIETY.

Ladies' Silver Watches, 12s. 6d.; Gents' Silver Watches, 12s. 6d.; Gents' Silver Watches in Hunting Cases, 22s. 6d. Warranted 3 Years. English Lever Watches, 8 holes jewelled, compensation balance, Hall-Marked Silver Cases, 22 2s. 0d. Warranted 7 Years.

Best House for all kinds of Watch Repairs

Double Bill ALARM CLOCKS, 2/6.

ALFRED ROCK, Watchmaker and Jeweller, &c.

141 Capal street, & 30 Mary street,

DUBLIN.

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THE WORKERS' BAKERY.

CORNMARKET.

For Best Value in Provisions

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PETER MOLLOY,

19 Westworth Place, and 2 Theresaville Street, Ringwood, Dublin.

Go to—

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Maynooth Union and the Labour Movement.

We present to our readers this week a brief resume of the paper on "Strikes" read by Dr. O'Donnell at the Annual Meeting of the above Union. To the labouring world of Ireland, despite all the theoretical objections or cavilling upon points of theory which the occasion gave rise to, this discussion came as a welcome revelation that the new spirit is also at work among the clergy. We recognize, of course, that this is the voice of the younger priests speaking to us; it is the voice of the new generation of ecclesiastics answering the call of the new spirit that moves among men. As such we welcome it, and we ask our readers to read our brief report, and read again the fuller report in the ordinary Press, before reading our comment. We wish we had space for a full and exhaustive reprint of the speeches at this memorable Union in this memorable year. As you read think of the many bright indications of progress we have already seen in this year—viz., Diplo-mat's of the Joint Trades Congress in favour of an Irish Labour Party, Labour Victory in North Dock Ward, Dublin, Union of Irish Socialist forces upon an Irish basis, and now the report of this annual meeting at Maynooth, showing that there, too, the forces of Labour are making their influence felt for the good of Ireland.

The world does, indeed, move, and Ireland also is gathering its strength for the glorious future. We give the place of honour to the paper of Dr. O'Donnell. STRIKES. The Rev. M. J. O'Donnell, D.D., who was enthusiastically applauded, read a paper on "Strikes." He said—In the records of industrial unrest in the United Kingdom the last twelve months stand without parallel. Through the whole period we have had a practically uninter-rupted series of strikes among miners, seamen, dockers, railwaymen, and various other classes of the industrial population culminating in the great railway strike of August, when the industries were for a time practically paralysed, and in the coal crisis of last March that brought millions of faces to face with privations that even a successful foreign invasion would hardly have entailed. Nor has this phenomenon been confined to these islands. In one guise or another, as labour revolt or political revolution, discontent has made its presence felt in countries so widely separated, guided by such different traditions and controlled by such various forms of Government as China and Portugal, Austria and Mexico, Italy and the United States. And, though here at home the efforts of the peace-maker, combined with a growing sense of responsibility in both capital and workers have brought us so far from the worst, we have no guarantee that the future is more than temporary, and that society may not in the very near future be exposed to more serious attacks and confronted with graver dangers than any with which even the experience of the past twelve months has made us familiar.

Confining ourselves to this United Kingdom, and more especially to Great Britain, where the industrial development, with all its advantages and drawbacks, has been so much more pronounced than in Ireland, we shall have little difficulty in selecting the main causes that have led to the recent outbreaks. It is the fashion in some quarters to attribute the trouble almost entirely to the evil influence of the paid agitator. With that view of the case we have no sympathy. It is on a par with the plea of the eminent political philosopher, familiar enough to us all, who assures us, in his own superior way, that were it not for the baseless influence of the political agitator, we should have here in Ireland a happy, prosperous, and contented people. Both classes of critics seem to forget that it is not the agitator that makes the grievance, but the grievance that makes the agitator, and that, though the influence of the popular orator may occasionally lead men further than their better judgment warrants, it is the existence of widespread misery and injustice that calls for the presence of the agitator and makes him the spokesman of a suffering community. Here and there a few irresponsible persons may light-heartedly vote for a strike in a moment of reckless enthusiasm, but no one with an average knowledge of human motives will ask us to believe that men of fair education and practical insight—the skilled, permanent men of the Railway Unions, for instance—men with settled homes and permanent associations, and with wives and families absolutely dependent on their weekly wage, will take their lives in their hands, as they do in the case of a strike, without substantial grievances of their own, mainly in response to the passionate appeals of a demagogue.

For the real causes of the trouble we must look elsewhere. They are found in the history of the Labour movement. In older times, when industries were comparatively few and labour largely agricultural, the employer took a personal interest in the men he engaged, and the application of Christian principles mitigated to a great extent the hardships and privations to which the working classes were exposed. These laudable examples are, however, unfortunately, very rare. In the case of industrial workers in these islands generally the improvements in machinery and the consequent revolution in industrial methods about 150 years ago effected a complete change in their condition. They thronged to the manufacturing centers; their numbers ob- scured the value of their labour, and their dependence on the market was

lived rendered personal intercourse and mutual sympathy between themselves and their employers a practical impossibility. In process of time they became dehumanized. They were treated not as human beings, with the needs and desires of average humanity, but as mere factors in economic life, units in the industrial market. The economic laws of supply and demand were invoked by the capitalist class to cover the abuses of the system and to justify the payment of wages insufficient to secure the workers the bare essentials of human comfort. The series of Health and Factory Acts from 1802 onwards aimed at eradicating the grosser abuses, but left the essential defects of the system untouched, and the workers began to feel that if help was to come at all, it should come from themselves. Growing gradually conscious of a class existence, they bound themselves into trades unions in an effort to improve, by united strength, their economic, social, and political status. For several decades their only idea of political strategy was to support whatever candidate of the established parties promised to redress their wrongs most effectively. But experience taught them that, whatever slight advantages they might gain by such a policy, their full claims would find articulate expression only in a political party of their own. At a conference of Trades Unionists and Socialists, held in London in February, 1900, the Labour Party was formed. It succeeded in gaining two seats at the General Election in the following October, and no less than twenty-nine at the General Election of 1906. The result was received with enthusiasm by the Labour sections all through the country. It was thought that the dream of the workman was at last coming true, and that, with a growing party in Parliament to mould the social legislation of the nation, the grievances of 150 years would soon be redressed, and the workman assured a happy, healthy, human life again. The Labour Party was not so strong as it seemed. Its election success had been largely due to Liberal support. Nor has its strength really increased since then; for the eleven additional representatives elected in 1910 are largely accounted for by the fact that the Miners' Federation had joined the Labour Party in the previous year. The attitude of the Labour members has been much too mild to satisfy the pressing demand of a large section of their supporters. And the results of their influence, when viewed from the workman's standpoint, and tried by his test of weekly wages and the cost of living, have been found to be hopelessly unsatisfactory. Measures of social amelioration have, of course, been passed, but their effect on his daily life has not been very considerable. He finds that, notwithstanding the efforts of his Party in Parliament, some seven millions of his fellow countrymen still live on a weekly wage of less than 27s. 6d. a week; that the average weekly wages of the unskilled labourer is less than £1, quite insufficient to raise himself and his family above the line of chronic poverty; and that, according to the Fourteenth Abstract of Labour Statistics, published by the Board of Trade, while the average money wage in 1910 was one-third per cent less than in 1900, the general level of retail prices of goods had within the same period increased by nearly ten per cent, and the general cost of living on a somewhat similar amount. He is not so blind to the facts of the case as his predecessor of two years ago, for the educational methods of the last century have produced their effect and given him a wider outlook on things, and an increased desire for a fuller and nobler life. And his teachers have progressed as much as he. Graduates from Raskin College and the Central Labour College in Oxford, with a special training in social and economic problems, have attained leading positions in his unions, and explained to him again and again the hardships of his position and the tremendous power he holds in the social life of the nation. Socialism and Revolutionary Syndicalism are whispering more dangerous messages still and pointing glowing pictures of the future that awaits the workman courageous enough to realize his strength. All this has produced its natural effects. He has grievances and knows it. He was enthusiastic some years ago about peaceful Parliamentary methods, but the peaceful methods have brought him no speeded redress. There remains an appeal to more drastic measures, and the most effective of these is the strike. Are strikes just and lawful? The question cannot be answered in a word. We have to take many circumstances into account and examine many conflicting claims. But, though there may be a wide divergence of view on details, there are several general principles with which the vast majority of moralists will not be disposed to quarrel. And, first, from the point of view of strict justice, there are at least three conditions that must be observed if his claims and principles are to be respected.

First, the strike must not be in violation of a just contract. He has entered into and faithfully carried out by the employer. In a great many cases the principle will not carry us very far, because often there is no permanent contract expressed or implied between the employer and the employee. But if there be such a contract, the workman, like every other human being, is bound in justice by its terms. If he is to claim freedom he must show that he was driven, by force, fraud, or the exigencies of his economic position into concluding a bargain unjust to himself—that, in other words, he never gave the full, free consent that is essential for a valid contract—or, supposing the contract was valid originally, that the employer has subsequently imposed unjust restric-

tions in regard to time, labour, or the other conditions of the agreement. Secondly, the purpose aimed at must be just in itself. To force an employer, by means of a strike, to commit an injustice, would, of course, be itself unjust. Nor would workers, in any circumstances, be justified in demanding more than the maximum value of their labour. What that maximum is has, unfortunately, never been settled, though the minimum has. Perhaps if we said that it meant all the profits remaining when the employer has been paid a full interest on the value of the capital involved, and a full remuneration for his individual services in the way of management and otherwise, we should be as near the truth as any others that have speculated on the problem. If the test be true, it would imply a wide margin of difference between the minimum and maximum wage in the huge settled industries that transform capitalists into millionaires, and a very slight one, if indeed any at all, in the smaller branches where the risks of capital are great and the profits meagre and fluctuating. Thirdly, there must be no injustice in the means adopted. Incidental abuses, for which the leaders are in no way responsible, may, of course, arise. They will not affect the justice of the strike as a whole any more than similar abuses in the case of war make the war itself unjust. We are talking of the measures on which the organizers of the movement rely to secure the purpose they have in view or to induce unwilling members to join their ranks. The appearance of outsiders on the scene ready to take up the vacated positions and desert the legitimate efforts of the strikers is always a severe tax on human patience and moderation. The unwelcome intruder stands in a position very like that of the land grabber who, in the stormy days of the Irish land-war, earned such an unenviable reputation. The strikers are certainly justified in denying him everything beyond what the bare claims of strict justice necessitate, in refusing him the amenities of civilized life, and in making him feel in a hundred ways that he is an enemy of the class he represents and a traitor to the cause of labour. But a thorough-going boycott, involving complete social ostracism and loss of the amenities of social and commercial life, must be ruled out of court, as it was in the case of the land war; and so must fraud and force and violence and the infliction of unjust fear in all its forms. In certain circles it is a common saying that "History Repeats Itself," a saying based upon the rather extraordinary resemblance that are occasionally exhibited between the happenings at different historical periods. We do not as a rule attach much importance to these so-called repetitions of history, regarding them rather as a commonplace verification of the truth that human nature is much the same at all historical periods, and therefore likely to repeat its errors and its crimes. The language of a young orator, who said that history never repeats itself is just as capable of proof, for whereas men and women may and do perform similar actions at widely separated periods of history the consequences of such actions are never the same owing to the altered political and social development of the periods in question. Some such thoughts as these are inevitable to the thoughtful mind after reading the report of the papers upon social questions read at the Annual Meeting of the Maynooth Union.

Let us say frankly that we have nothing but thanksgiving and admiration for the spirit and temper of the papers read by Dr. O'Donnell and Rev. E. J. Cullen. For the speeches of the reverend gentlemen who took part in this discussion upon those papers the same might be said. We missed entirely the old note of clerical intolerance towards all that savours of independence of thought upon the part of the worker; all the old aggressive diatribe towards the poor, all the ill-bred contempt for Labour when Labour refuses to bow the knee to "the gentry"; all those painful and galling evidences of the lack of sympathy between the pastor and his flock upon things of this world and its battles—all these were absent, and in their place we saw with most pleasurable arrangement the evident struggles of lofty minds to grapple with and comprehend the principles underlying the manifestations of the revolt of the working class, and a frank declaration that in its essence that revolt is justified alike in its methods and its organizations. It would be easy to over-rate the importance of the criticism to which the papers were subjected, but to our mind it would not be easy to over-rate the importance of the fact that such papers treating this subject in such a friendly and sympathetic spirit were received by the clergymen present in a more than favourable spirit. Reverting to the historical comparisons our minds travel back to the early days of the Irish Land League, the attitude of the clergy of Ireland towards that uprising of the poor, and the great change in their attitude when that movement became a dominant force in the struggle between landlord and tenant. In the early days of the movement the higher clergy had practically nothing but condemnation for the agitation, and vehement denunciation of the agitators, and needless to say the denunciations indulged in by bishops were not often zealously improved upon by the herd of petty parish priests and curates who wished to become parish priests. The Bishop of Sligo, the same prelate who recently came out of his political silence to denounce Jim Larkin, made himself an unpleasant reputation by his reckless denunciation of Michael Davitt. It is a sorry thing to remember to-day, but few will be inclined to find fault with our opinion that the student of history will know the Bishop of Sligo only as it becomes necessary to refer to

his attack upon a man whose pure soul's devotion to lofty ideals is to-day admitted by friends and foes alike.

But with the growth of the Land League and the increasing proof of the beneficent effects upon the fortunes of the tenants the attitude of the clergy underwent a change. In greater and greater numbers they entered the Land League, and very soon this indiscriminate abuse of the Land League and its methods by the clergy was replaced by an equally indiscriminate praise of the Land League and its methods from the same quarters. We should be sorry to suggest that the change came from other reasons than from conviction, but it is well to consider that possibly many of the clergy were then of the same opinion as the speaker at Maynooth Union who, dealing with our Labour Movement, reminded his audience that "if you don't lead them somebody else will." Whatever the reason, the fact is undoubted that the Land League went through two phases in the attitude of the clergy—first it was universally condemned, then it was universally commended. If the Irish Labour Movement is destined to go through the same phase, no one will more heartily accept it than we shall. Always, however, remembering that the Labour Movement rests upon and draws its inspiration from the struggle in the shop, and that, therefore, the men and women in the shop must be the controlling and directing forces of the Labour Movement. The clergy need not and should not complain if they are rigidly kept in the position of sympathetic outsiders—along with all others that that growing mass of professional and middle-class people who are coming to recognize the justice as well as the glorious possibilities of the ideals fought by Labour. We want their help; we welcome their tentative attempts to understand and direct us; but we must respectfully remind them of the old saying, "Hereditary bondmen, know you not who would be free themselves must strike the blow." Only the slave who feels the gall of his slavery is competent to guide and direct the modern anti-slavery movement. The Labour Movement must remain a movement of the working class, by and for the working class. These quickenings of the sense of social justice, of which the proceedings at the Maynooth Union were but an indication, owe their origin to the fierce striving and rebellious upheavals of the men and women who toil; their strikes, their fights, their teaching, their ideals it was that stirred the consciences and moved the hearts of our pastors. More such stirrings and murmurings are yet to come, but it is only out of such soil can be born the seed that will bear such fruit.

JAMES CONNOLLY (Belfast).

Narrow Escape from Drowning.

GALLANT RESCUE BY TWO TRANSPORT UNION MEN.

On Tuesday evening last while bathing at the North Wall a boy aged about 15 years, living in Stephen street, had a very narrow escape from drowning. It appears that the lad, who is a fairly good swimmer, got into difficulties, and some of his companions being able to render assistance, was in imminent danger of drowning, when two girls seated on the wall, noticing his position, gave the alarm. Two men, members of the Transport Union, engaged in unloading the steamer, Mr. Philip Giblin, Holborn street, and Mr. Michael Foley, Lord Edward street, at once rushed to his assistance without waiting to divest themselves of any portion of their clothing, and jumping across the wall, a feat fraught with danger owing to the slope on the seaward side, soon reached the drowning lad, and with some difficulty succeeded in bringing him ashore in a semi-conscious condition, where after a while he came to. Messrs. Giblin and Foley are to be commended on their plucky action, which, it is hoped, will be brought under the notice of the Royal Humane Society.

Honour to Whom Honour is Due.

The sentence of seven days' imprisonment sought to be imposed on Miss Larkin in default of her giving bail seems to need some comment.

Well would it be for the swift and slow if, when required to account for the talents entrusted to them, they were in the same boat with the noble woman who is endeavoring against fearful odds to ameliorate the lot and infuse some brightness into the lives of her poor down-trodden sisters. That God may aid her efforts is the prayer that arises from many hearts and lips to whom Miss Larkin is personally unknown. Why do not the workers in the Pembroke Laundry realize that combination means strength? Why not fall into line with their comrades struggling, as they are, against injustice and petty tyranny? By doing so they would better their condition, and, by asserting their independence, gain the respect of all right minded men and women, instead of being, as at present, objects of reproach and odium to all.

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