

• IRISH OPINION •

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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MAY 11, 1918.

ONE PENNY

May Day
Meetings.

Fanore School
Strike.

Munition
Frauds.

Burking Dublin's Children.

SOUTH DUBLIN
UNION GHOULS

From time to time public attention has been directed to cases arising in the South Dublin Union of the bodies of deceased patients being disposed of without any intimation being conveyed to the relatives of the deceased. With characteristic futility the Guardians have resolved and instructed their officials, but the evil continues, with the result that unfortunate families who are constrained by their poverty to submit their loved ones to the none too tender mercies of the Poor Law, require to keep vigil over their dead, lest they be snatched away by the Dublin Resurrectionists.

One of the saddest cases has occurred recently. A child died in the infirmary, while the mother, owing to illness, was also an inmate, and the infant's body was removed by the officials without any intimation being given to the father or to the mother—even then in the House.

When the father called to see his sick child, what was his consternation, anger and sorrow, when he was callously informed that his child was not only dead but buried! *Dead and not buried* was the truth. Dead and snatched from the bier by some greedy official and hurried off to the dissecting-room, for payment. Clay for Gold!

The heartbroken father had recourse to the officials of the Transport Union, who brought the case to the notice of Thomas Foran, P.L.G., who rang up the South Dublin Union. He was told that there was no record of the parents' address in the Union books—a manifest falsehood, or a confession of gross neglect of ordinary routine duties by the numerous and well-paid officials of the Union. Inquiry was promised.

Later in the day the father was sent for and directed to go to the mortuary and view the body of his child. He was able to identify the body which, he was in-

formed by the casual liars in the Union's employment, had been "exhumed." It was actually suggested that the child's corpse had been solemnly committed to the earth in Christian burial—or that semblance of the Christian rite allowed to pauper corpses, that warrants had been obtained and all the necessary steps taken to bring back the body from the grave in the few hours that had elapsed since Mr. Foran—a Guardian—had telephoned. Subsequent inquiry revealed the fact that when Mr. Foran phoned the Union, there had been a fluttering in the dovecotes. Messengers were sent post-haste to the dissecting-room to recover the body, entire if possible, or perhaps desecrated and rendered, from the anatomist's knife.

Imagine the grief of the father, the pain of the anguished, invalid mother, had they been presented with a mangled anatomical "specimen" as the mortal remains of the child born in love and reared in care?

But working people are not human. Mere drudges whose life is work, they are only intended to operate the mechanism of the world's wealth-making. Their families, under Dublin capitalism, are of less value than the litter of the sow, the ewe's lamb or the cow's calf. Between father or mother and child, the tender sympathy and affection that makes home-life in Rathgar, is entirely out of place. Such appears to be the philosophy of the Guardians and the staff of South Dublin Union.

Owing to the prompt interference of Mr. Foran our frail tabernacle has been rescued from the ghouls, and the Local Government Board is to hold an inquiry. The repeated recurrence of these incidents demands that this time the offenders should be dealt with unsparingly.

There is no room for speculators in human flesh in the service of the Dublin public.

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VOICE OF LABOUR

Edited by GATHAL O'SHANNON.

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MAY DAYS.

The merry month of May has come again in another year of woe and war in which the budding life of young Europe is strangled before its manhood. What mad masters are these rulers of the peoples of Europe, and now of America as well!

The young men of Europe were wont to welcome May because it is the spring that heralds summer, and is the symbol of birth and life in nature as in human-kind. The pagan peoples from whom the nations of Europe are sprung were wont to celebrate the coming of May Day for the same reason. The pagan ancestors of the Irish, for instance, had their great festival of Bealtaine which Christian missionaries learned to respect so much that they adapted it with other pagan festivals to the usage of the Church. Some thirty years ago the workers of Europe decided that the First of May should be consecrated to the service of their class and observed throughout the world as International Labour Day, a day of rest from toil, of respite from labour. True to their word, the Continental workers in dark days and bright, year after year, closed their mills and factories and workshops and left their employers to shift for themselves on at least one day of the year. Foremost amongst the workers to whom May Day became sacred were those gallant men and women of Russia whose sacrifices in past years helped so much in the emancipation of their children these last two days. Labour Day has played no unimportant part in the making of the Russian Revolution. It was but fitting that on May Day last year All-Russia should honour it as it did the heroic souls whose blood and bones had been strewn on Russia's road to liberty.

This year, alas! there were no May Day processions, no May Day meetings, no May Day strikes outside of Russia and Austria. No; the workers in other continental countries were too busy making or using the instruments of their mutual destruction to lose a day in idleness. It was only the representative of the Soviet Government in Berlin who dared to hoist the Red Flag on May Day, 1918.

In England the workers held May Day on the first Sunday of the month, as is their custom. In Scotland the Clyde

workers for the first time in history observed the celebration on the First of May, the day consecrated to Labour by the International. The Glasgow workers took their holidays, and in tens of thousands demonstrated their allegiance to Labour, the International and to Peace. They did well. They did well too when they welcomed with hearty spirit of fraternity their Irish brothers who went to tell them of the crime upon this people. And they will do better.

At home in Ireland too the First of May was not without its due observance. Dublin workers indeed thought it unnecessary to carry out their original intention of a general stoppage after the general strike of April 23. But Dublin did not fail to have its celebration. Nor were all Irish workers making wealth for the capitalist on May 1, for the workers on the Lough Swilly Railway, Co. Donegal, unable to take part in the general strike, downed tools on May Day, and their good example was followed by the Castlecomer miners. In Limerick, Waterford, Tralee and other centres the centenary of Marx was observed as Labour Day for the first time, and tens of thousands of workers, with bands and banners and gaiety of heart sent greetings to their comrades in other lands and renewed their pledges to Labour and to Ireland. Next year they will down tools on the First of May.

Full Steam Ahead.

Monday's papers announced that Lord French, late Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in France, and more recently in command of the Home Forces and the expeditionary army in Ireland, has succeeded Lord Wimborne as Lord Lieutenant. The Lord Lieutenantcy has thus ceased to be a civil office and has become a Military Governorship or Dictatorship. The significance of Lord French's appointment is not obscured even in the English press, and indeed one journal gleefully announces that it means "full steam ahead" with the policy of conscription.

It did not require this explicit assurance to convince us that it was intended that conscription would be attempted by force. We had ample evidence of the intention in every town and village in Ireland.

We do not complain of these things any more than we complain of the action of the R.I.C. in throwing Austin Stack off his bicycle last Thursday and holding up the news of his arrest until Saturday. We have no more complaint to make than we could have when General Maxwell had his prisoners shot this time two years ago. All these are the inevitable accompaniments of militarism and war. As such they are not to be complained about; they are merely to be abolished. This country is in a state of war; it is under martial law. That is the simple fact under a Military Dictator to-day as it was under a civilian Lord Lieutenant last week. We repeat, this country is under martial law. It is only a question of the degree to which martial law is applied. In Clare it

is applied to a greater degree than in Dublin; in Dublin to a greater degree than in other parts; but it is martial law everywhere. And the worst can be committed under a Governor like Lord Wimborne as well as under a Dictator like Lord French. Wimborne did not prevent Maxwell in 1916. A Wimborne could do no better now. Martial law means military rule, it means a state of active war, it means hell in Ireland and it means conscription. These are the facts, and for our part we are not going to weep over them. Until this little war is succeeded by peace these things will be of every-day occurrence.

Then what is to be done? There is but one thing for the workers to do, the organised workers especially. It is to insist that on every committee set up in the country, whether in town or city or parish, the workers are represented, that they are represented by men of their choice, not of some other party's choice, men of the type indicated by us before, and that all the workers, the national and local leaders, and the rank and file, get ready, and get the means to get ready, to carry out their pledges and the obligations they imposed upon themselves at the All-Ireland Labour Congress in the Mansion House. In other and shorter words, the order and obligation is the classic phrase of the sub-editor of the paper announcing Lord French's appointment: Full Steam Ahead.

"Up, Clare, Every Whole Time!"

Our attention has recently been drawn to another aspect of the struggle no less important than those looming large in the press. It is too important to be passed over in a casual reference, but the whole story must be told some day, and that soon. At Fanore, near Lisdoonvarna, the people are backing up a teacher who was dismissed from his school because, if you please, he refused to marry, not the girl of his choice, but the girl of his manager's choice! To-day his manager is the people and the National Teachers' Association. Here, indeed, is a solution of the educational question with a vengeance. Some sixty-seven children are on the rolls, the school is free from all the humbug of Dr. Starkie's very wooden board, and people, teacher, and teachers' association are in joint control, and exercise all the duties and rights of popular education in a manner that has no parallel in primary education outside the famous Burston school, of which "Casey" chants the praises. More, much more, will be heard of Fanore in Irish education before these sons and daughters of Clare find their way into history as did the labourers of Ralahine. Clare always has reared a fine, gallant and spirited people. But why, may we ask, does Dr. O'Dea refuse these children the rights of their Church?

After 100 years an English Government has conquered its dread of French principles. No doubt it will employ them as "a Shortt way with dissenters."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Deputations and Deputations.

There is no end to the misrepresentations of the Labour position on conscription and other issues in the press, both Irish and English. Early last week the Press Association and certain newspapers represented the Irish Labour delegation of last week as interviewing Mr. Lloyd George and other members of his Cabinet. As the Chairman of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party has pointed out no such interview was authorised by Irish Labour, no such interview took place, no such interview was sought, and indeed the delegation made it clear to some of its English friends that it could not agree to interview certain members of the War Cabinet and the Government, to whom, it was suggested, visits should be paid. In these matters no press is to be trusted except the Irish Labour Press, and the incident illustrates the necessity for an efficient and well-organised Labour information bureau in Ireland.

The truth is that the Irish Labour delegation left London on Sunday night on completing the business of its mission. On Monday the two national executives of the British movement, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress and the National Executive of the Labour Party, held a joint meeting which, we understand, was also attended by the American Labour delegates. It was from that meeting the deputation mentioned in the daily press went to the Cabinet. It was accompanied by Mr. J. H. Thomas, who was able to give the Cabinet the benefit of his interesting experiences in Ireland in the previous couple of days. The deputation presented to the Cabinet a statement, drawn up, not by the Irish movement, but by the British movement. This is all as it should be, but it is not quite as represented to the people by the "Freeman," "Independent" and the Press Association. Irish Labour must have its own press agency.

The Conventionists.

We have no particular desire to pursue this matter further, and indeed we should prefer to use our columns for other purposes, but we feel that it is our duty to point out to friends at home and abroad that the visits of certain trade unionists to the Cabinet have not been made with the authority of either the National Executive or the special Congress of April 20, nor of the movement in Ireland, nor even of their own unions. We refer to the visits of three of the northern trades unionists who sat on the late Convention and of the Belfast Trade Unionists at present, we believe, seeking interviews with Cabinet Ministers in London. Need we point out again that the so-called Labour representatives on the Convention were neither delegates nor representatives of their unions or of Irish Labour and that their action in taking part in the Convention was contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the organised Labour movement? On the whole we believe that Messrs. McCarron, Whitley and McCoy

correctly reported the situation in Ireland to their friends in the Cabinet. But they did so, not by the instruction of Irish Labour or of their own unions, but at the direct instance of Sir Horace Plunkett. They acted altogether upon their own responsibility, as they had a perfect right to do, and their action and testimony are personal and not representative.

The Conscriptors.

We have still less hesitation in exposing the misrepresentative character of the Belfast visitors who went in the name of Trade Unionism to London last week. We do not know at whose instance they undertook the journey, but from experience we can guess since these men are typical of the "visitors" whom the Ulster Unionist Party was wont to send to England for electioneering purposes a few years ago. We shall be much surprised if Mr. George Clark, capitalist, imperialist and profiteer in armaments, of the firm of Workman & Clark, and his Orange capitalist friends, are not the prime movers in this instance, as they were in organising the anti-Home Rule workers who broke up the No-Conscription meeting at Belfast City Hall, and in preparing the drastic "comb-out" of trade unionists, Socialists, Home Rulers and Nationalists in the Belfast shipyards some years back. We do know that the anti-Home Rule and No-Popery brigade got financial compensation for their evening off last month, and we are wondering if the expenses of the present visiting party do not come from the same source. The members of the party are trade unionists only in the sense that they are members of trade unions, but they will have to travel further than London before becoming trade unionists or Labour men in any real sense. Outside their unions they have no connection with organised Labour in Belfast or anywhere else. They lie who state that these men are representing "the conscriptionist and anti-Home Rule views of their several bodies." They are, indeed, against Home Rule and as keen for conscription—for other people. But they do not represent the views of the unions to which they belong on the question of conscription, though a majority of the members of those unions may be opposed to Home Rule. They certainly were not sent by their unions or by the Belfast branches of their unions, but have gone on their own responsibility, not as trade unionists or as workers, but as Ulster Unionists pure and simple, simpler perhaps than pure. We challenge Messrs. E. Grant, Thompson Donald, J. F. Gordon, A. Torkington, E. McDonnell, John Hannan, Charles Fergie, Hugh Ferguson, Robert McLelland and John Geddes to declare in any Belfast newspaper that (1) they were sent to England on their present mission by their unions or by any branch of their unions; (2) they represent the views of the Irish membership, or a majority of the Irish membership, of their unions on conscription; (3) their expenses are paid by their unions; (4) they favour conscrip-

tion as conscription apart from other issues; and (5) are telling the truth about the origin and character of their present mission. We know that the members of their unions in Belfast and outside it, in Great Britain as well as Ireland, will be glad to hear the answer to this challenge. We cannot promise them they will get it. But at least the members of the A.S.E., the N.A.U.L., Painters' Society, Shipwrights' Association, Power Loom Tenters, Boilermakers, Carpenters and Joiners, and the Upholsterers have the right to ask for it. For the whole Irish membership of these unions is not confined to the Orange lodges or even to Belfast.

The Aims of Irish Labour.

It has been said on occasion that Irish Labour has no well-defined policy or programme to satisfy either its friends or its critics. In certain respects this is true, and by none is it in these respects more clearly realised than by the leaders and thinkers in the Irish Labour movement. But Labour in Ireland, be it remembered, is in a transition stage, and not only Labour but the whole national being is in transition. Irish Labour is passing out of its swaddling clothes and its infancy. It has not yet reached its manhood, but it is to-day a very sturdy youth. It is beginning to know clearly what it wants and how to get it. When it reaches a more mature stature it will not fail to find a full and complete policy and programme. In the meanwhile it has certain foundations laid and is building well and truly. These foundations, it is intended, shall be reviewed at such length as space permits in "The Voice of Labour." But even when Labour leaders propose, governments often dispose, and so it is with the excellent intentions of Irish Labour. The recent actions of the Government and the inexorable logic of events have compelled, and still compel, us to give more attention to the urgent calls of the moment and less to the more stable and constructive work of the future.

Promises and Pledges.

While we emphasise the "stern necessity" (thou art a fisher of phrases, indeed!) that compels Labour and its organ to put off to a more peaceful day its elaboration of its programme, we can throw a sop to our critics and promise them that we have made arrangements for the early publication in our pages of certain articles which we hope will embody the considered judgment of Irish Labour on policy and eventually may form the literary basis of a fairly full programme for the Irish Labour Party. We hope to begin with a series on an agricultural policy for Irish Labour, from the pen of a distinguished writer whose name is held in high esteem wherever the greatest of all economic problems, the land, is a live issue. While awaiting that we recommend our readers, especially trade union officials and organisers, to get to grips with the questions raised by Mr. George Russell (A.E.), in his dynamic meditation, "The National Being," a new popular edition of which Messrs. Maunsell and Co. have just issued at 1/6.

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Austrian Workers.

The May-day declaration of the Austrian workers declares for the reconstitution of the International, and says: "We are tired of the war. On the First of May, the holiday of the working-class of the world, we will demonstrate in favour of a general peace."

Bray Labour Day.

Bray's first May Day demonstration on Sunday was favoured with excellent weather, which contributed to the success of a gathering, the arrangements of which reflect the greatest credit on the officials of one of Ireland's youngest trades councils. It is only a matter of months since a few pioneers called the council into existence, yet it possesses well equipped headquarters in Bray and is seeking permanent additional premises in Kingstown.

The demonstration took the form of a procession, in which the trade unions, the I.N.F., and the fine brass and pipe bands of the town took part, from the station to the esplanade, where a meeting was held at the bandstand. Speeches appropriate to the occasion were delivered by T. Foran, T. Parren, B. H. Magill and J. MacDonnell. Mr. Ben Lindop, Chairman of B. K. and District Trades Council, presided. The speakers were afterwards entertained to tea, served by the Women Workers' Union in the Trades Hall. P. T. Daly, T.C., who was to have spoken, was called to a similar gathering at Waterford.

Waterford.

A huge concourse assembled in Waterford on Sunday to celebrate Labour Day. The principal speakers were Wm. O'Brien and P. T. Daly, Chairman and Secretary of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, and T. Keane.

Limerick.

Some 7,000 men and women workers from 42 different unions took part in the procession in Limerick and 15,000 attended the meeting in the Market Field. Five bands attended and each section carried banners and union emblems. The Transport Workers, 1,500 strong, marched behind the Red Flag. On the three platforms the chief speakers were: J. Cronin, F. Stevenson, B. J. Dineen, S. Dineen, P. Walsh, B.C., J. Nolan, M. J. O'Connor, O. O'Shannon, W. J. Larkin, E. Ryan, R. P. O'Connor, etc.

Limerick Resolution.

"Resolved—That we, the workers of Limerick and district, in mass meeting assembled, extend fraternal greetings to the workers of all countries, paying particular tribute to our Russian comrades who have waged such a magnificent struggle for their social and political emancipation; that we emphasise our claim for independent status for Ireland as a nation in the International movement, and the right of self-determination as a nation, as to what action our people shall take on questions of political or economic issues; that we pledge ourselves to do our utmost—

(1) To resist by every possible means

Conscription in any form from any Government.

(2) To induce every unorganised worker to become a Trades Unionist.

(3) To support the Irish Labour Party and its aims and objects, including a living wage, and an 8-hours' day.

(4) To see that all workers secure votes and use them to return genuine Labour representatives.

(5) To secure sufficient fit and sanitary houses with plots attached for all workers.

(6) To further the efforts made to start a co-operative store in Limerick.

(7) To support the Irish workers' paper, 'The Voice of Labour.'

(8) To secure the recognition for the claim of Irish National School teachers for a living wage and Labour representation on all Irish Educational Boards.

(9) To insure that all Trades Unionists will transact their business with bona fide Trade Unionists—Believing that 'tis Labour's arm alone can Labour free, we pledge ourselves in the name of the oppressed of every land in every age to use all means that may be deemed effective to achieve these objects."

McClintock's Soap.

The makers of this well-known brand of soap continue to keep their workers out and several of their employees have been prosecuted by the police in connection with the dispute. There are other soaps on the market, but until the dispute is settled, go dirty, rather than use McClintock's.

Co-operative Strikes.

Fr. Finlay criticised the English distributive co-operative movement on account of the strikes that have occurred in it. He suggested that the Irish movement is free from that reproach. "There has recently been a very bitter dispute at Drombanna Creamery, which we are glad to learn is now to be submitted to arbitration by an official of the I.A.W.S. and a representative of the Irish Trade Union Congress.

Scotland for Peace.

By 108 votes to 35, the Scottish Trade Union Congress decided in favour of peace by negotiation. The 35 bitter-endians included no less than 20 delegates of the Seamen and Firemen's Union, gathered from Hull, Newport, Mon., Cardiff, and other English ports to swamp Scottish opinion.

"Irish" Methods.

Councillor Wm. Regan, the Labour candidate for Rutherglen, near Glasgow, has been ordered to remove 50 miles from Rutherglen. As Regan is a Scotch-Irishman, the military authorities assume he will take kindly to this application of their Irish methods.

SOCIALIST desires Home with sympathisers, as Domestic Help, as member of family.—E. Todd, Miner's Hall House, Wardley, Palau-on-Tyne, England.

BELFAST LABOUR AND THE BLOOD TAX.

The adoption by Belfast Trades Council, on Thursday, 2nd inst., of the Bradford Trades Council's emphatic denunciation of conscription of Ireland as the "greatest atrocity since Germany invaded Belgium," marks Belfast labour's solidarity, not only with the rest of Ireland, but also with the militant elements in English Labour, and entirely deprives the so-called delegates of Ulster labour of any vestige of authority. The Trades Council of Belfast is the only common council of the working class organisations in the city. If the workers of Belfast were so devotedly Unionist as the local press would have us believe that political tendency would be reflected in the voting. It was, for the Bradford resolution was carried by 17 votes to 10. The dominance of the employers is coming to an end in the North-East, as elsewhere.

Mr. H. T. Whitley, the chairman, is a strong advocate of conscription and has hitherto enjoyed the respect of all sections. It may be suggested, however, that his sneer at the adjournment of the National Conference to consult the Bishops, is not worthy of himself. None knows better than Harry that Irish Labour is prepared to take its own line, as in 1913, with or without the approval of the Hierarchy.

Shipyard Pogroms.

The revival of the pogrom of Catholics, Socialists and Scotchmen in Belfast shipyards is one evidence of the malign influence of the Kaiser's former ally, Mr. George Clarke, whose friendliness to the workers and to trade unionism was exposed by his intimation to the clerks employed by Messrs. Workman, Clark & Co., that they must not join a trade union. This notice is a contravention of the Munitions Act, but laws are not meant to be obeyed by members of the Ulster Unionist Council. As Mr. Winston Churchill has had some experience of Clarke's capacity for incitement, it will be interesting to note whether he will insist on the law being obeyed on the Lagan as on the Liffey.

Belfast Co-operative Society.

At the last quarterly meeting of Belfast Co-operative Society it was reported that the sales for the quarter amounted to £164,884. The surplus accruing after payment of all expenses permitted the purchasing members to receive back 1s. for every £1 spent. The B.C.S. policy is to sell goods at the lowest price consistent with safety.

In the handsome drapery premises in York Street, the trade carried through amounted to £2,855 per week. Farming has resulted in a loss, as indeed might be expected. B.C.S. should leave farming to the co-operative farmers. The society, however, is to be congratulated on the success of its working. When Fr. Finlay told the Abbey audience the other Sunday evening that one Belfast was enough for Ireland, he forgot the B.C.S. We want more of it and want it badly in Dublin, where we have a well equipped, soundly managed co-operative society, lacking little but adequate support from Dublin trade unionists.

Transport Union Notes.

Wages Board Moves at Last.

Prosecution at Lucan.

A case of general interest to agricultural workers was heard at Lucan Petty Sessions on Monday; 29th. ult., when Thomas Geraghty, farmer, Barberstown, was charged with failing, between 10th November, 1917, and 26th April, 1918, to pay his employees, James and Patrick Farnan, the scale of wages fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board. The Farnans, father and two sons, were working for Geraghty under a joint agreement as from May 1st, 1917, to April 30th, 1918, for a total wage of £2 4s. weekly, of which the father was credited with 15s. (perquisites in addition), the elder son, 17s., and the younger 12s. The solicitor for the defendant admitted that this contract was over-ridden by the Wages Board Regulations, of which his client was ignorant. The bench, taking into consideration that defendant had paid the full amount since 10th March, imposed a fine of 5s. and costs and ordered the payment of £3 6s. 8d. to each of the boys. It was pointed out that defendant was liable to £1 fine for each day of non-compliance with regulations, after the making of an order by the court.

Railroad Unity.

We are glad to learn from "The New Way" that the Railway Workers Emergency Committee, summoned from all grades and including traffic, permanent way, head office and shops staffs, to deal with the conscription crisis, is to be maintained permanently for ordinary industrial purposes. The Railway Executive Committee is now at liberty to dissolve. We can run the roads without them.

Fruits of April 23rd.

The hotel and club employees of the city have been so impressed by the power of labour, seen in the general abstention on Labour's protest day, that they have rallied together and formed a branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. The affairs of the branch will be conducted solely by the members employed in the business of catering, and it is hoped shortly that this new departure will have its local sections all over the country. Hotel, club and restaurant waiters everywhere should get in touch with local secretary of the I.T.W.U. Permanent headquarters for the new branch will be opened in Dublin.

Alleged Strike.

The Dublin General Steamship Company has locked out the carters and banksmen in its employment because the former refuse to have their horses shod by black-leg labour.

War Prosperity (?) in Ulster.

Board of Trade returns show that 70 per cent. of the employees in the linen trade are on short time. Short time, short wages.

Crease the Fat Sow.

The same returns inform us that in England at all ports, dock and riverside employment is good, while all Irish ports show much unemployment.

The I.L.P.

Belfast Independent Labour Party has been informed by Commissioner Smith that any attempt to hold Socialist meetings will be suppressed by violence, if necessary. A meeting will be held in the Labour Hall, Victoria Street, on Sunday next, to protest against this infringement of civil liberty—of which so much has been heard in Belfast in times past.

The Fakirs.

The Management Committee of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners have wired to Lloyd George, denying that Fergie or any member of the Conscriptionist Deputation represents the Belfast Joiners' Society. The Painters have passed a resolution repudiating the person alleged to be their delegate. Several members of the deputation are notorious scabs.

More Murphyism.

When the special Labour Congress called upon the workers of Ireland to down tools for twenty-four hours as a demonstration of their united determination to oppose conscription, they had no more doughty champion in the press than Mr. William Martin Murphy's "Independent." In its editorial columns the "Independent" hoped that all Irish workers would loyally obey the order of the general strike. They did—with results that may not have been altogether gratifying to Mr. Murphy. Mr. Murphy has rewarded those of them who are in his employment for

their loyalty to the Labour leaders, to whose call he counselled the most strict obedience. With that generosity that has always characterised him he has fined them their day's wages and bonus for the week in which the general strike took place. This is just what was to be expected from the man whose newspaper called loudly for the blood of James Connolly two years ago. But Mr. Murphy and his ilk have not yet run their course, although they are covering the ground pretty rapidly. Nor have they seen the last general strike of Irish workers, nor will all our general strikes be called for a purpose in which Mr. Murphy is in hearty agreement. No conscription serves Mr. Murphy's purpose as Home Rule serves Mr. George Clark's. The only difference is that the Belfast Unionist capitalist is prepared to pay for services rendered, and the Dublin dominion Home Ruler is not. The day will come when Belfast and Dublin workers will render no such service to either the one or the other, the day will come when they will take a holiday to serve their own class interests.

Chief Secretary.

Ted Shortt will only lift £25 1s. 9d. as his weekly wage. Small as it is, it is a big bribe to be paid out of the pockets of the Irish taxpayers for Shortt's desertion of the principle he voted for on April 16th.

England's Agonising Economies.

The hard struggle of the upper classes in England to economise and "war-save" is reflected in the increase of the profits of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company from £23,000 to £40,600.

IRISH
TRANSPORT
and
GENERAL
WORKERS'
UNION.

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RAON NA SAOIRSE.

Nac' tinteac' e' an t-ae'ra' raogail' az' buairte' linn' i' n'he'ann! Taimid' go' le'ir' an' don' imeac'et' a'nd'ain'. A'irig'ce'ar' p'p'io'ra'd' az'ur' p'oi'-me'anna' nac' maib' a' l'et'ce'ro' le' n'-a'ir'u' ma'it' i'om'e' reo'. Cle'it' az'ur' lae'd', sin'n' p'e'm'ite', lu'e't' ra'o't'air', d'ream' an' u.l.l., az'ur' eile', n'it' d'ip'p'io'e't' e'ad'ra'inn' ma'it' g'e'all' an' an' m'io'ir'-ce'it': ce'it' nac' g'aba'd' dom' cu'p' p'io'p' u'ir'ce'. Az'ur' p'e'ac'ar' an' don'ac'et' u'o' ta' p'ud'at' u'air'te' eile' le' cu'p' p'e' n'oe'ra'. Taimid' n'io'p' b'ri'o'm'air'e', n'io'p' tu'ig'p'ion'na'it', n'io'p' d'ae'ra'c't'air' um' cu'p' na' h'e'ir'e'ann' na' u'o' b'io'm'air' le' b'li'anta'. Ta' b'ra'it' ion't'ro'ill'ig'ce' ion'air'n'n', ion' p'e'ar'air'b' az'ur' i'm'air'b', ion' u's' az'ur' cu'io'anna'. Mo't'-u'ig'ce'ar' u'ir'-ne'ar't' cu'oi' az'ur' u'ir'-p'ar' i'nt'inne' i' b'p'od'la' i'nt' na' lae'de' reo'. Ta' na'ir'p'inte'ac't' i' m'bo'p'ra'd' p' i' m'bl'ac' a'p' m'io'u' do'ib'inn' u'air'al'.

Cumhacht Runda.

Cu'ig'ce'ar' na' lu'ig'e' o'ra'inn' az' lu'e't' an'ameola'it' go' m'bio'm' m'io'ir'-me'anna' i' n'g'ac' u'air'e', az'ur' i'ol'-cu'ra'c't' ne'air'io'd' a'ic'i: go' m'bio'm' m'io'ir'-g'no' d'a' u'e'ana'it' a'ic'i' u'e' p'io'p', g'an' p'io'p' az' an' g'na'it'-me'anna'it'; go' b'ra'g't'air' e'ol'ur' u'ir'ce', a'nt'ac', an'oi'p' az'ur' a'ir'p', ma'it' a' b'io'p' co'p'p'air' p'a' le'it' i' no'd'air' u'o' n' g'na'it'-p'e'ar'p'anta'c't'. De'it'ce'ar' p'oi'p' g'ur' p'e'io'ir' linn' go' le'ir' an' m'io'ir'-me'anna' az'ur' an' m'io'ir'-cu'ra'c't' u'o' a' b'e'it' i' b'p'e'ro'm' az'air'n' u'e' g'na'it' ma'it' u'oil' linn' e'. n'it' az'air'n' le' u'e'ana'it' cu'ig'e' p'ir' ac' a'p' m'e'ir'n' az'ur' a'p' p'p'io'ra'd' u'o' p'ao'z'na' go' h'e'ir'e'ac't'ac', az'ur' g'an' a' b'e'it' tu'g't'a' u'o' g'na'it'-h'e'it'e' na' ime'ag'l'ac' i'om'it' g'na'it'-b'ua'it'e'. Ta' an' t'ra'p'ic'ua'c't' i' g'e'oil't' ion'air'n' p'e'ir'n'; ta' p'ig'e'ac't' n'e'ir'e' ion'air'n'. Tu'ig'ce'ar' linn' i' lae'de' ma'it' na' lae'de' reo' go' b'p'u'it' an' p'iu'nn'e' p'an' m'e'ro' p'ir'. A'ir'ig'm'io' ion'air'n' b'p' az'ur' b'ua'd'a' na'p' a'ir'ig'ce'ama'it' i' n'-a'ir'p'it' na' g'na'it'-t'p'od'a', i' lae'de' na' n'-ime'ac't'a' g'e'oil't'air'n't'a'. M'e's'ou'ig'ce'ar' a'p' a'p' le'air'g'ur' a'p' a'p' n'g'io'm'ac't'.

Lucht Saochair i n'Zuibhinn.

Le'ana'im'p' u'e' n' n'ua'-raon'. B'io'd' a' p'io'p' az'air'n' go' b'p'u'it' i'ol'-t'ra'o't'air' le' u'e'ana'it' az'air'n' a'p' g'ac' caoib'. S'e'ac'ar' an' o'ba'it' i' n'-a'g'air'o' an' p'p'e'ra'la', a'p' a' b'p'u'it'm'ro' u'o'm'inn' p'ao'i' l'at'air', ta' ce'it'ce'anna' m'io'ra' le' p'e'ir'io't'e'ac' az'air'n'. Ta' p'ra'io' an' o'ir'de'ac'air' go' u'o'na'. Ta' lu'e't' ra'o't'air' g'an' a' g'e'ac'air'. Ta'ro' ma'it' u'e'ora'it'e' az'ur' ma'it' u'e'ir'ic'i' p'a' t'ir', nac' m'io'p'. An' b'p'u'it'm'ro' az' u'p'air'io'm' le'it' an' la' n'ua'it' a' u'e'ar' p'ir'n' go' le'ir' co' u'ian' u'e'ra'c't'ac' a'p' p'oi'p' lu'e't' o'ib'p'e' na' h'e'ir'e'ann' az'ur' a't'a'm'io'd' an'oi'p' a'p' p'oi'p' na' n'oa'oin'e' g'ur' ma'it' le' l'. S'e'oi'g'e' az'ur' a' lu'e't' le'anta' b'air'iu' i'p't'e'ac' i' n'-a'p'm' S'ara'na' p' Du' ce'air't' go' m'be'ac' an' p'g'e'al' ma'it' p'ir' az'air'n' nac' p'ag'ar' "Co'nc'e'p't" a' b'io'p' i' n'g'ac' p'g'l'ad'ui' o' ce'ann' ce'ann' na' b'li'ana' p' i'p'io'm'od'a' c'ine'al' u'e' "Co'nc'e'p't" a'nn', az'ur' i'p' t'p'ua'g' u'iom' an' c'ine'al' a' b'io'p' az' t'oc' na' t'al'ina'it', no' az' o'ba'it' go' u'ian' a'p' p'li't'e' e'ile'. Taimid' az' p'e'ar'air' go' t'p'ean' a'p' p'oi'p' p'ao'it'p'o' a'ir'it'e', az'ur' i'p' g'l'o'j'm'air' an' p'uo' e' p'ir'. Ac' cu'ro' az'air'n'—p'g'ol'og'a' az'ur' e'ile—t'aimid' i' n'-a'g'air'o' p'ao'it'p'e' az'ur' cu'it' a'p' g'co'-e'ir'e'anna'c' p'e'ir'n'. Im'e'ac't' g'an' t'e'ac't'. a'p' an' u'p'ro'd'-no'p' ce'ar'ona'! L. p. O. R.

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DERRY NOTES.

TRADES COUNCIL MEETING.

A largely attended meeting of Derry
Trades Council was held on Friday even-
ing, 3rd inst., Councillor Wm. Logue pre-
siding.

The Secretary, Mr. Dealtry Thompson,
having tendered his resignation, Mr. E.
M'Cafferty, A.S.E., was unanimously
elected Secretary pro. tem.

Mr. Thompson resigned because, he
alleged, the Council was taking part in
"politics" by sending delegates to the
Labour Convention on Conscription, a
question involving, by the way, not only
the very existence of Trades Unionism
but also the lives of the workers.

It is not the first time that this cant
about politics has been raised in Derry,
and it is up to the workers to make it
clear that organised Labour, at least in
Ireland, intends to make its voice heard
on all questions of public interest, and
that its ultimate object is to bring about
the social revolution, the raising of
wages, and improvement of working con-
ditions being only milestones on the path
of progress.

Great latitude in making an explana-
tion was given by the Chairman to Alder-
man M'Carron, a member of the Lloyd
George Convention, and also of the recent
"Labour" delegation which interviewed
Mr. Barnes and was repudiated by the
Chairman of the Trades Congress. The
gist of the Alderman's statement was
that in the Convention and on the dele-
gation he did not pretend to represent the
views of anybody but himself, in this
respect differing from his fellow tailors
of Tooley Street.

The question being asked as to what
steps the Council intended taking re-
garding posters displayed in local firms,
asking employees to furnish particulars
of age, etc., for the purpose of investi-
gating claims for exemption from mili-
tary service, it was pointed out that this
was a matter for the shop stewards, and
it was hoped that these officials would
take steps to find out if these posters
were issued by order of the authorities or
by the firms themselves. Such questions
must not be answered.

Query?

Baldwins Ltd., an iron and coal firm in
England, has been allowed to retain as
loans from the Munition Department, the
money it should have paid in Excess Pro-
fit Duty. Result, huge developments of
business and huge profits made. How
many Irish firms have been allowed this
privilege?

Costly Dignity.

To maintain the dignity of his position,
J. D. P. French, Field Marshal, Viscount
of Ypres, O.M., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.,
K.C.M.G., etc., will take £284 11s. 8d.
per week from the Irish taxes. He will
not pay State Insurance, nor is he ex-
pected to join the Transport Union. His
new home is well out of the air raid area.

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to music of his own composition.
The New Banner of the S.P.I.
(by Messrs. Murray, Kelly and
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unfurled. Speeches by

WALTER CARPENTER,

and

WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

Each Person present will receive
a Souvenir Copy of Connolly's
Poems.

ADMISSION, " " SIXPENCE.

SOCIALIST UNITY IN IRELAND.

On the night of the First of May a large audience listened with interest to the preaching of Socialism in Mill Street, Belfast. In passing it might be remarked that the evangelical tone and mannerisms of the speakers are not likely to be the most effective means of bringing the workers of the Falls Road over to Socialism. The less of the cant of the street preacher in that quarter the better for Socialist propaganda. But that is not the main point I want to raise. It is this: the meeting was held under the auspices of what seems to be a new body, the Catholic Socialist Society of Belfast. Now, surely, we have enough separate Socialist bodies in Ireland—the S.P.I. and the I.L.P.—without making a third. I can well understand that there is need for Socialist propaganda amongst Catholics as amongst Protestants, but is Socialism Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or what? If not, why break up the Socialist ranks on religious or rather sectarian lines? Why sectarianise Socialism at all, and why under heaven begin to do so in Belfast, of all places?

It seems to me that by far the best thing Socialists can work for at the moment is the unity of the Socialist ranks in Ireland and the unification of the existing bodies. With unification we can have a strong, united Socialist Party in Ireland. In other directions sectarianism and division are rapidly being scrapped, and this is no time to introduce sectarian lines of division into the Socialist body. Let the Catholic Socialist Society continue its work of propaganda amongst Catholics, but for Socialism's sake let the three bodies, C.S.S., I.L.P. and S.P.I. come together, draw up their terms of unification and begin the summer's work with a fixed and common policy and programme, an Irish Socialist manifesto. Socialists of all parties, unite; you have nothing to lose but your prejudices, you have all Ireland to gain.

GRACCHUS.

J. RAMSAY MACDONALD ON IRISH CONSCRIPTION.

What our people do not see or feel, because England is not a small nationality but an Empire, is that Ireland's opposition to the conscription clause is not that it may be put in force (that is secondary), but that it is there at all, denying the right of Ireland to dispose of her own children. Therefore, when the Home Rule Bill is produced, those who wish for an Anglo-Irish unity and are supporters of Irish self-government, will vote against the Bill.

If the power to conscript in Ireland be withdrawn, or if the new Home Rule Bill be defeated, the Government will go. If the Government is to last much longer, the nation is to be ruined. That is the position in a nutshell.

THE RUSSIAN FORMULA.

The point in the policy of Irish Labour most emphasised these last two years is that covered by the Russian formula of what we may call a people's peace. Time and again the Irish Labour Party and the movement have declared allegiance and adherence to the main principles of the Russian Revolution. In particular, and as affecting Ireland directly, Irish Labour has been consistent and constant in its advocacy of the self-determination of peoples. Upon that it will not go back, and it has now more than ever sunk into the consciousness of the organised workers in Ireland. Irish Labour is at one with Labour in most countries, in proclaiming that in any country, under no matter what imperial dominion, German, Austrian, British or other, it may at present lie, the people themselves and no power but theirs have the right to determine what sovereignty they shall elect to live under. That right, we hold, is also the right of the people of Ireland. To make the position still more clearly fixed we need only add that this self-determination necessarily means the free and unfettered choice of sovereignty by the people exercising that right. They must not be limited in their choice in any manner whatsoever, and there must be no interference from outside, no occupation from without, no restriction and no reservation in the exercise of their rights. It is that that was at the root of Irish Labour's rejection of the Plunkett Convention as an application of self-determination, it is that that is at the root of our objection to the past and present Home Rule Bills, it is this, too, that is at the root of the Irish people's resistance to conscription, although Irish Labour has other and additional reasons equally valid. We are all for self-determination, but it must be real and free. We are all against annexations and indemnities, but this formula must be applied equally to and by all the imperial peoples. We are all against militarism, the militarism of all empires whether German or British.

SUGAR TAX.

Mr. Rowntree informed the House of Commons that the agricultural labourer with 25s. per week, and a family of five, would pay 30s. a year in extra sugar tax. This was equivalent to imposing on the labourer an income tax of 5½d. in the £1.

Mr. Bonar Law pleaded that the sugar tax was necessary. The only alternative would be an extra penny on the income tax.

That's right, Bonar! Tax the man with £65 a year at the rate of 5½d. per £1 to save the man with £130 a year or more, 1d. in the £1! Thus is the class war carried on.

MUNITION FRAUDS.

There appears to be something strangely demoralising in dealings with munitions. Sir Wm. Weir, who has been appointed English Air Minister, was implicated in the Japanese bribery scandals before the present war.

In Italy a series of scandals has been uncovered by the institution of a salvage office which, since October, 1917, has recovered nearly a thousand million lire. Suspicion was aroused by the discovery that an official of the Munitions Department had acquired over one million lire in property. Inquiry showed that another official had helped a Naples firm to obtain an illegal profit of about three million lire.

Baron Goto, the Japanese Home Minister, has been questioned about the new palace being built for him at a cost of 500,000 to 600,000 yen. The magazine, "Japan and the Japanese," accuses him of having dishonestly acquired a fortune of 12,000,000 yen. Goto denies the charges and pleads that if his property, purchased for 10,000 yen, is now worth 350,000 yen, the "appreciation in the price of land, it must be admitted, is an act of the Creator."

Many queer things have been laid to the charge of Providence, but the endowment of Cabinet ministers and munitions contractors is a novel employment for the Heavenly Powers.

Connolly Commemoration.—The passing of the founder and patron of the Cumannacht na hÉirinn will be celebrated in Liberty Hall on May 12th, when the handsome banner designed and executed by Comrade Kain, will be presented by Walter Carpenter to William O'Brien, president of the S.P.I. Connolly songs will be sung, including a new setting of "Labour's Right," composed by J. J. Hughes. The programme will be all-Connolly, and a souvenir will be presented to all attending.

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