

• IRISH OPINION •

# The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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ONE PENNY

Anti-Labour Magistrates. Mansion House Conference. English Economic Dictation

## The Anglo-Saxon Menace AND THE Celtic Entente.

By HON. R. ERSKINE OF MARR, Editor, Guth na Bliadhna and Scotiish Review.

The "Voice of Labour" is always good reading, and I trust that it may prosper in proportion to its many merits. A particularly gratifying feature is its friendly attitude towards the Scots democracy. The two nations have everything to gain by the establishment of a warm friendship and correspondence between them, and it seems to me that to draw closer the many ties that unite them is a species of "practical politics" to which those that desire the triumph of the democratic cause and ideal should at once set their hand. The recent Scottish Trades Union Congress at Ayr not only "resolved" in favour of a general European peace, but also demanded unanimously the immediate extension of

### Autonomy for Scotland,

together with separate national representation at the Peace Conference. In fine we now stand as Ireland has long stood, and that weighty and important fact ought to be improved to the utmost common advantage of the two nations, bound together as they are by many ties of blood, sentiment, political aim and cultural intent. The Scottish democracy is out for the abolition of Capitalism, the overthrow of Imperialism, and the establishment of the International. Thus our aims are the same as those of organised Labour in Ireland, and common prudence and policy conspire to demand the immediate establishment of an entente between the advanced democratic forces of both countries, with a view to drastic political and cultural action at home and abroad.

### The Sphere of Politics

knows its "pushes" as well as that of war. Under cover of the latter, a "push" or propaganda is now being actively organised in England, to which I would much like to draw your readers' attention, as it represents a real danger to Irish, Scots and Welsh democratic interests. There has recently arrived in England from the United States a little party of learned gentlemen, charged with a mission. The mission in question is the work of the pro-English party in the United States, and though its object is the cultivation of the "Anglo-Saxon" sentiment it is headed by a certain professor of the name of MacLaughlin, of the Department of History in the University of Chicago. In an interview accorded the representative of an English Sunday newspaper,

this pushing Anglo-Saxon with a Celtic name has obligingly let the cat out of the bag in no uncertain or hesitating fashion. He has come, he tells the world,

### To Promote Anglo-Saxonism,

and is going about his work with the blessing of Arthur Balfour, and divers other high-placed persons. He designs to "speak to the principal universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland on the historical causes of America's entry into the war, and on the general subject of British and American relations." The professor is grieved that in the past the political relations between America and England have not been as cordial as he and other Anglo-Saxons could wish, but before long he hopes to set that matter right for the future. Nevertheless, he says that "the whole century (the nineteenth) revealed the fact that the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race could live side by side peaceably."

'imagine that the professor's "stunt" will be patent as to its inner meaning and intent to all who take the slightest interest in contemporary politics. Still, it is not to be set aside as negligible, inasmuch as it conceals a real danger.

### The Pro-English Party

in the United States is a Capitalist and Imperialistic party, and their idea is to link up, under cover of the war, with the corresponding elements in England, where a powerful party already exists that wants to establish an Anglo-American Capitalist domination of the whole world. That is ganger number one, which must be faced, met and routed. Let us now briefly consider this important matter in its secondary aspects.

It is plain as plain can be, that Anglo-Saxonism is the stalking-horse of the new crusaders, their real aim being the perpetuation of the Capitalist and Imperialistic regime, with a view to world-domination. Hence it is that their mouths are stuffed with such phrases as "the Anglo-Saxon race," "the English-speaking world," "Anglo-Saxon countries," and so forth. They lay particular stress on all these things, and send historical professors and their like to trumpet them forth on every side, knowing well that they must have some

(Continued on page 283.)

IRISH OPINION  
**The VOICE OF LABOUR**

Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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**SMILE, DAMN YOU,  
SMILE!**

Since the British Press Bureau issued its story of the alleged German plot on Saturday morning, Ireland has, so to speak, worn one great broad smile. This humorous temper is a better reply to the Bureau's story than all the denials, annunciations and recitations that could be made by the whole and united press and people of Ireland. For the story is a huge joke which nobody but the most innocent and gullible or panic-stricken props of Empire could believe for a single instant. There is not a bare-legged urchin, playing in the slums of Beaufort, Dublin and Cork, but could tell a more plausible tale than this to which the mighty Government of a mighty Empire pretends to give credence. The youngster who told a tale as unlikely as this to his teacher as an excuse for staying from school, would be well flogged amid the taunts and jeers of his fellows. Alas, it is not in our power to flog Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Shortt, or Lord French, much as we should like to do it. In the circumstances we can only say to them, in the right racy speech of the English: "Tell that to the marines!"

All last week the press preparations made it clear that a story was being invented. From day to day with others we pieced the semi-official hints together, and not for a single moment did we doubt that a narrative of alleged events would be issued without any evidence, documentary or other, to lend colour to it. By Friday we had constructed a very respectable narrative that satisfied ourselves, and like the Press Bureau's it lacked nothing but the evidence. But unlike the Press Bureau's, our narrative drew largely upon the public utterances of the interned prisoners, and all the little incidents here and there that have made Ireland interesting these last twelve months. Anybody in Ireland who was even a little interested in the papers during the past year could have done the same. But when the official narrative saw the light on Saturday, it astounded us, not so much by what it said (though

that was weird enough) as by what it left unaid. As a creator of a narrative of plots we had beaten the British Government hollow. Where, we wonder, was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle all last week, and why was he not called in, like Mr. Walter Long, in an advisory capacity by the military and semi-military chiefs?

Yet for all the humour that is in it the story of the plot deserves some little serious notice. It is the justification put forth for the arrest and deportation of the leaders of a Party that is most certainly a menace to British rule in Ireland. Nobody, we believe, will deny that the best way to defeat your enemy is to get rid of him by hook or by crook, and when it is a case of small nations the Imperial way is by crook. It is the Russian way, the Austrian way, the British way. The "discovery" of plots is an Empire's trump card, and it has been played so often and so successfully that, though greasy with age and use, it is still called upon to do its bit when empires are at stake. But Austrians and Russians play it better than the British. When Polish, Czech or South Slav leaders are accused of plots, evidence, faked or genuine, is always forthcoming, even if it takes months to manufacture it. The British Government alone disdains the use of evidence. Hang them, says one of its delectable organs, and you can try them afterwards. Now there is one reason and one reason only, why there will be no trial and no production of evidence. It is that no evidence exists. We do not doubt that in certain circumstances many of the deported men would take part in and help to organise an insurrection for the exercise of Irish self-determination. We should think little of them indeed if they did not. But we know we shall have to wait until the crack of doom before taunts or jeers will drag from the British Government evidence upon which a jury of British schoolboys in the old days would agree to rag a cad. And Lloyd George is a cad if ever that amiable animal had a real existence.

Still more grave is the charge the deported men and the majority of the people of Ireland make against the British Government in Ireland. We give it in full. It is a charge of "planting" a British agent on the coast of Clare in April last as a preparatory act for war against this people. It is a charge of putting at that agent's service a Ford collapsible boat. It is a charge of employing as agent a man who was incapable of doing his job without giving himself away in Clare, if not outside it. It is a charge of incompetency in leading him up with British notes and silver instead of German gold. It is a charge of faking up the narrative of the plot after and not before the arrests of Saturday week. It is a charge of prohibiting the publication of the known truth about the mystery man in the collapsible boat (see Mr. T. V. Honan's letter in the "Independent" of May 25). It is a charge of the most open and undisguised "cooking" of speeches and mishandling of material that is at everybody's disposal. Finally—and this is the gravamen of the charge—it is a charge of the utter incompetence of the British Government to rule this people or

to concoct a plausible story in excuse for attempting to govern them.

From the Premier, who believed his precious life was plotted against last year, and believed it on the "evidence" of an agent-provocateur who was not produced, we expected much but we did not expect a cock and bull story like Saturday's. They do these things better in America, Austria, France, and Germany, and so Ireland can afford to go on smiling without a tear in her eye.

**Trades Councils.**

We said last week that in the founding of new Trades Councils the Unions should break away from the traditional view of the Trades Council as a mere meeting of delegates who come together once a week or once a month to blow off steam, ventilate trade grievances and get reported in the press. In their way these are not very undesirable activities and we plead guilty to indulging in them ourselves when we feel like it. But in many councils they form the greater part of the business of a body that has for higher and more useful services to give the Labour movement. We hope the new councils will, from their very inception, seek to discover those higher duties for themselves and fashion for their districts an instrument that will be an effective weapon in the armoury of Labour. As a beginning we suggest that the first essential to a Trades Council is a capable, full-time, paid secretary, who is well-informed, knows his business and the workings of the movement thoroughly, is not afraid of hard work and plenty of it, and is as young, eager and enthusiastic as can be found. This is a big proposition to make to councils still in their infancy, and we quite realise all the financial and other difficulties that lie in the way of its realisation. But the difficulty is less than the necessity, and therefore we advise the new councils to adopt bold and big aims from the start. The older councils, to be sure, have no full-time secretaries, but that is so much the worse for the older councils. Indeed, there is not an intelligent and thinking member of the councils in, say, Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Derry, who will not agree that the councils in those centres badly want full-time secretaries, and Dublin is, we believe, moving to fill this gap. Without a paid secretary Trades Councils can be nothing but mere delegate meetings, and at this stage in the growth of the movement Labour must set about building upon a permanent and broad foundation. To secure paid secretaries the unions must be prepared to provide the funds, and hence fairly heavy affiliation fees will be necessary. These fees can be procured if the unions will affiliate the whole, instead of a fraction, of their membership, and in the councils as in the unions we promise that the capable and efficient full-time secretary will be worth much more, both in cash and working results, than his salary. We call the attention of the unions in Kilkenny, Athlone and Mullingar to the necessity of their beginning well with the appointment of full-time secretaries to their Trades Councils.

# NOTES OF THE WEEK.

## North and South.

An event of much promise for the near future was the conference in Dublin last Sunday between delegations representing the I.L.P. in Belfast and the North and the S.P.I. in Dublin and the South. The delegates discussed at length the prospects, necessity and advisability of a united Socialist Party and movement in Ireland, and as is but right, the discussion was frank and full. Many more points of agreement than of disagreement were found, and for both delegations we can speak when we say that if the whole relationship between northern and southern workers were discussed in the same spirit of frankness and of fraternity as the relations between the I.L.P. and the S.P.I. were discussed the united Labour movement would be irresistible in Ireland. We hope for much from Sunday's conference, and our hope is shared by all who took part in it. At the least a strong bond of fraternal relationship has been established and we are much mistaken if Sunday's meeting will not have a most important bearing on the immediate future of the working class in Ireland.

We were pleased to note among the Belfast delegates one who, if not exactly a class-mate of our own, came from the same school as ourselves. We had not expected so much from the Maiden City.

## Picking Holes in Professors.

With the statement proposing to make Ireland's claim a test case of the right of self-determination of peoples before a court of neutral powers and the United States, submitted to the Mansion House Conference by, amongst others, Professors Magennis, O'Sullivan and Hyde, Mrs. J. R. Green and Messrs. Lysaght, James MacNeill and Kenny, we have some little quarrel. Our quarrel is first of all with the omission of Russia from the Powers which, it is proposed, should deliver judgment on the national claims of the Irish people. We can easily understand the tactical reasons that have excluded Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey, although personally we cannot admit their validity in strict equity. But Russia's is the one Government, without any exception on this or the other side of the Atlantic, that is honestly, unequivocally and sincerely in practice as in profession in favour of the application of the principle of self-determination to Europe in general and to Ireland in particular. The exclusion of Russia is therefore inexplicable, and the promoters of the idea should make haste to correct their error. Europe and Ireland owe Russia too much to suffer Russian eclipse in Ireland, and indeed Ireland is nearer Russia and Russia Ireland than any of the powers to which Ireland's claim is suggested to be submitted.

Another criticism we would make is of a different order. It is that there is nothing that we can see to compel or persuade the Power that is presently, if temporarily, in military occupation of Ireland to accept the verdict of the neutral or of any other jury. That Power has declined

to abide by the verdict of the jury set up by itself, the Plunkett Convention, and it is just as likely to set aside the verdict of the Imperial jury proposed by General Smuts. What prospect is there then that Great Britain will accept or recognise, much less apply in practice the finding of a court of neutrals, the U.S.A. and Russia?

## An International Jury.

With the main objects and principles of the statement we are in general agreement, and on the whole we hope it will receive in Ireland the careful thought and attention it deserves. We are not in any sense damning it with faint praise, for it needs no praise from us and our damnation is not gently expressed as a rule, to put it mildly. We agree that the time is ripe, and rotten ripe, for appealing to civilised opinion for the application of the professedly generally accepted principle of self-determination. A basis also of our opposition to conscription is that if the people of Ireland were to abandon their claim to self-determination upon conscription they abandon their whole claim to a national life. The two are inseparable and no Irish case against conscription from without can be made without making the national claim for self-determination of the Irish people's own self-chosen forms of law and obedience. Nor need failure before a neutral tribunal at this stage preclude the presentation of Ireland's case before the greater and broader tribunal of the Peace Conference. Indeed in itself the submission of a case to a neutral tribunal would be an invaluable preparatory measure for the greater tribunal. But surely England, to be consistent, must resist any attempt to make such an appeal, even to the lesser court. That, indeed, is all the more reason why the appeal should be made. We thoroughly agree "that no country which supports or connives at the delay or defeat of it can hereafter figure in history as an advocate of International morality, still less as an apostle of human liberty." But it is notoriously true that England figures neither as the one nor the other, that none of the Great Powers have any more claim to either title than England, and that Russia alone has proven her title to both.

## A Challenge to the Mansion House.

England will most certainly oppose, and if possible prevent, the making of the claim, even to the lesser tribunal, but to Ireland that need present no insuperable difficulty. Yet, despite all we have said, we repeat that we hope this statement will receive the thought and consideration to which it is entitled. As we suggested last week, we suggest again now that the people of Ireland submit their national claim freely and without any restriction or limitation, that the whole people of Ireland, by free and equal plebiscite, uninfluenced by any exterior force or power, decide to accept or reject the finding of the neutral tribunal, and in that decision that they have the guidance and the counsel, not only of the thinkers and

leaders still at home in Ireland, but as well of those in exile in Great Britain. If any group or party or combination of parties can accomplish this they will have done a doughtier deed than if they had defeated the Central Powers in war. The Mansion House Conference, to which the statement was first submitted, might well consider the statement and its proposal if the Mansion House Conference had a spark of statesmanship in its joint body. If it fails to do justice to the proposal it will have failed to justify itself in the eyes of those who give thought to questions and problems of public policy and political life. Or shall the Conference write itself down as a miserable and comic failure in an affair that meant no risking of skins, no sacrifice of domestic and personal comfort, no division of opinion on fundamentals and no taxing of either physical or moral courage? We invite the Lord Mayor and the Conference to reply.

## The Women's Part.

If the opportunity to make good in Ireland where rank failure has resulted abroad, given by Conscription to the manhood of Ireland has been seized, an opportunity no less great has been given to Ireland's womanhood. It is an old story now that had either had the will the workers of Europe, or the women of Europe, could at any time these last four years have put an end to the war and brought about peace by their own action. Neither was big enough to make the effort, and both failed hopelessly and ingloriously. It was the same with conscription. The workers and the women of Europe helped to shackle themselves when they might have hindered and prevented. Now when conscription faces us in Ireland Irish Labour has saved the good name of the movement and is rising to the occasion with magnificent courage and a great consciousness of responsibility and sense of power. The women have taken their part and are getting ready to do more. It is here they have an unparalleled opportunity of giving a lead to their sisters in other countries. They also can save the good name of their movement now and set a headline for the women of Europe. It must be a bold headline, written in burning letters of suffering and sacrifice, no mere timid, trivial display by way of protest, but a bold act of defiance that will re-echo round the world. As Susan Mitchell sings:

"Rise from your knees, O daughters, rise,  
Your Mother still is young and fair;  
Let the world look into your eyes  
And see her beauty shining there.  
Grant of that beauty but one ray,  
Heroes shall rise on every hill;  
To-day shall be as yesterday,  
The red blood burns in Ireland still."

## GAEDHEALTACHT IN DUBLIN.

You need not go to Connemara: Come to Stephen's Green on Tuesday evenings and hear your own language. NO CHARGES. An Ghaedhilig in uachdar agus an Bearla in iochdar (ifriun).

# LABOUR IN IRELAND.

## ANTI-LABOUR MAGISTRATES.

"The Midland Tribune" of last week reports one of the two common instances of jaundiced justice in the local courts in the action by the Charleville estate management for the ejection of five labourers at present on strike. Browne, the estate manager, relied on written agreements by which the labourers occupied the cottages, rent free, as caretakers. The defending solicitor urged that as rent had been deducted from wages, since the Wages' Board awards came into operation, his clients were tenants, not caretakers.

The magistrates swept this plea aside and upheld the written agreements, having rallied, indeed, for that purpose. The sitting of the court on the 18th ult., was the second hearing, and the chairman had not been present at the first. A K.C., who is a magistrate, entered the court after evidence had been heard and took his seat on the bench, despite the defending solicitor's protests. Later this learned counsel forsook the bench for the solicitors' table, but continued to interfere in the proceedings and gave his vote in the decision. His conduct is all the more notable because the Charleville estate agent acts as agent for his property also.

The decision given is, we believe, quite contrary to law, and we would wish to see it contested on appeal. As it stands it is a telling proof that the legal system in this country is a machine for oppressing the working class, from which justice and equity cannot be expected. The proprietor of the Charleville estate, whom the Tullamore magistrates aided in her efforts to break the strike, is a female, one commonly known as Lady Emily Howard Bury.

This social parasite agrees with Oscar Wilde, that property has so many duties as to be burdensome, but she escapes her responsibilities by employing an agent. Through him she has now thrown five low proletarians, with their wives and families, on the roadside. She may be to-day indifferent to the suffering she has caused, but we shall be unworthy of our race if we do not yet give this blue-blooded idler cause to repent of her inhuman brutality.

### Drombanna.

We regret to learn that the Creamery Society has refused arbitration in the dispute with their employees. The society is making the wild charge that the strike has been instigated by Cleves, in order to destroy a co-operative enterprise. The refusal of arbitration proves there is no co-operation in Drombanna to destroy. The chairman of the society, we are informed, is resigning on account of the foolish obstinacy of his colleagues. We understand that milk from this creamery is now being sent to MacDonnell's Castle-mac Margarine factory, Waterford. Perhaps Messrs. MacDonnell will confirm or deny this. A Dublin firm is sending coal Drombanna. It worth their while?

## WATERFORD WAKES UP.

### PAT COATES' MISSION.

Following on the progress reported last week, upwards of 200 members joined the I.T. and G.W.U. in Waterford City in the week ending 18th ult. Throughout the surrounding district meetings have been held and canvassing carried on with success. At Mooncoin, on 19th ult., a branch was formed with an initial strength of eighty-two. Michael Holden was appointed secretary and is arranging a meeting at Kilmacow for the first Sunday in June, at 3 p.m. It is intended to adjourn the meeting to the Sinn Fein Hall for the enrollment of members and formation of a branch. Great support has already been obtained.

The first result of union activity is that the farmers are beginning to pay the wages on the Wages Board schedule. One has already paid £5 arrears, unlawfully and immorally withheld. The claim of the I.T. and G.W.U. that the boss pays the union dues is thus made good.

The builders' labourers in Waterford are now organised to the last man.

There is trouble brewing at the docks on account of the attitude of the Dock Labourers' Union towards the men who hold the Transport Workers' Card, but the advice of the Trades Council has been given, and it is to be hoped that it will be taken.

### Waterford National Factory.

On the application of the I.T.W.U., the 12½ per cent. bonus will be paid to the labourers here as from the date of the award. Orders were given the manager in December last to pay this bonus, but he ignored his instructions. There has been a change of management now. Will Mr. Gorman take note?

### Arklow Twisting.

Our notes on the Arklow Liars last week had quick results. The old familiar gag of giving notice to close down the works was tried, but the notice posted on Friday came down in a few hours and representatives from each department were summoned to meet the manager at 9.30. A promise was made to pay the 12½ per cent. bonus as from the first pay day in May. (Note the Union's application was made in February and the award dates from last year.) Certain men on output bonus will receive only 7½ per cent., and those under 21 will get nothing.

Really, Mr. Gorman, if you can't read the circulars sent you from the Ministries, hire somebody to do it for you. The men are determined to press for payment of the full Churchill award with all subsequent amendments to all workers as from the date due.

The lie signed by Mr. Jowett, "that the workpeople in Arklow are represented by their trade unions, which we fully recognise," remains a lie. Mr. Gorman indeed reaffirms his decision not to recognise the Transport Union under any conditions.

# A PROTEST.

6 Mount Pleasant Square,  
Ranelagh, Dublin, 19/5/18.

To Editor "Irish Opinion."

Sir,—In this week's "Irish Opinion" reference is made to the Primate of Ireland as Rev. John Crozier, and to the Archbishop of Dublin as Rev. Mr. Bernard. While we have no hesitation in joining issue with them or any other of our bishops and speaking straight to them when they attempt to overstep their spiritual authority and to impose their will on us in temporal matters, nevertheless in doing so we do not forget that they are prelates of the Irish Church or fail to pay them their due respect as such. We demand that members of other denominations shall also treat them with proper courtesy. You would not, I am sure, have dared to refer to any Roman Catholic bishop in similar terms.

As you have allowed the ill-bred paragraph to which I refer to appear in your paper, I must ask you in fairness to find space for my letter.—Mise,

S. O h-EIRIAMHOIN.

(G. Irvine.)

[The Editor regrets that any offence should have been given. The paragraph in question was contributed by a Protestant, whose desire to enter into ecclesiastical controversy with Mr. Irvine cannot be granted.]

## ENGLISH LABOUR VIEWS.

The Norwich branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives members (4,500) send congratulations to the Irish workers on their attitude of resistance to conscription and their wishes for complete success.

Newport (Mon.) Trades and Labour Council is of the opinion that the application of conscription to Ireland will prove a political blunder and will not tend to win the war. It also demands the immediate grant of Home Rule to Ireland.

Dundee branch Packing Case Makers have also intimated their support.

The Labour Representatives' resolution has been adopted by Brighton Trades Council (10,000) and Hackney Trades Council (5,000).

### Keeping Coin at Home.

During the past six months the Irish National Assurance Society has increased its premium income by an average of £7,000 per annum. The ratio of expense has been lower than that of any other office. There are now representatives of the Society in every county, but there are yet many openings for Irish Irelanders to participate in the good work of keeping Irish capital at home. A resolution protesting against the continued imprisonment of Mr. Eamonn O Duibher was adopted at the annual meeting last Tuesday.

# Transport Union Notes.

**Roserea.**

The bacon factory employees have obtained an increase of 4/- per week and overtime at the rate of 8d. per hour. It might have been better.

**Tralee.**

Wm. Hill, Ltd., a drapery firm here, challenged the Irish Drapers' Assistants as far back as January by intimating that "no outside interference would be tolerated." A member was victimised and the union tried patiently to avoid trouble, but their patience was treated as weakness. On May 20th three young ladies were locked out without wages; and a strike ensued. L. J. Duffy is on the ground, and the public in and around Tralee will help him to bring Hill, Ltd., to reason.

**Kilrossenty.**

L. A. Veale and T. McEvoy have formed arural workers' section I.T.W.U. here, where union action is desperately needed. Farmer Hobbs has evicted a labourer because he refused to work for Hobbs when required. We invite the Wages Board to investigate the wages paid by Hobbs.

**Stradbally.**

The Wages Board inspector has been around and has made some of the farmers cough up £9 or £10 back wages. Let the rest be warned.

**South Kildare.**

The Labour Union has successfully negotiated the early stoppage on Saturdays. 4 p.m. is now the last hour in the working week. Several employers did not agree, and when their indoor men left work at 4, had the meanness to deprive them of supper. The majority of the farmers are meeting the Union fairly, however. The increase of wages and payment on Fridays instead of Saturdays are being discussed amicably.

**Transport Banner.**

Messrs. Murray and Kain have just completed the magnificent new banner of No. 1. Branch. The obverse is of green poplin displaying within a Celtic scroll of zoomorphic work a portrait of James Connally. The reverse is blue with a large cartoon illustrative of the "Worker" motto: "The great only appear great because we are on our knees. Let us rise!" The conception and execution of this fine work give it an intrinsic value worthy of its purpose.

**Limerick.**

The Builders' Labourers have secured the same overtime rates as the craftsmen and are now being paid 7d. per hour—an advance of 4/9 per week.

Coal and shipping companies' employees are locked out as they refuse to begin work earlier than the dockers, who start at 7 a.m. The lock-out shows the old anti-union bias of Mr. Morley.

P. J. O'Sullivan, the Co. Council solicitor, is organising secretary of the Limerick Citizens and Ratepayers' Society, a partizan organisation of the local bosses. Surely the two jobs are inconsistent?

Has your Union joined the Irish Labour Press Co-operative Society?

**The Trades' Union Congress.**

Two months hence the Irish Trades' Union Congress will assemble in Waterford. It will be for many reasons the most important regular Congress of the affiliated bodies ever held in Ireland. For the first time the National teachers, the agricultural labourers and other new bodies will take part in Congress. It will meet in the greatest crisis in the history of Labour in Ireland and will have the framing of a policy and programme of development that ought to shape the course of the movement for some time to come. It is therefore imperative that secretaries, committees, and branches of already affiliated societies should renew their affiliation immediately and appoint their delegates. Every branch must be affiliated, and represented. Still more strongly do we urge societies and organisations still unattached to affiliate. The great All-Ireland Congress of April 20 and the General Strike of April 23 have shown what organised Labour in Ireland can do. If the unaffiliated bodies can rise to the call in August as they did in April they can reap in autumn the fruits of the seed sown in spring. All organisations and every branch of all organisations must affiliate and appoint delegates. We hope the National Executive will send the call again round the country.

As important, if not more important, is the business of the Congress. So far as we can see, the time has now come when the whole machinery and policy and programme of the Trades Congress and Labour Party must be brought up to date and into conformity with the great development of the movement. We must have a solid, united body that is still flexible enough to be capable of meeting all the eventualities rapidly changing conditions bring face to face with it. This is a big task, and it must and can be done at Waterford. Unions and branches must get busy discussing ways and means and

drafting the motions necessary for re-shaping and moulding the machinery and the outlook of the Congress and Party. For one thing, we hope that the Unions will give much attention to the amendment of the machine, and for another to providing for the admission of co-operative, women's, and other sections of the movement. The latest date for sending in notices of motion is June 23. Before then we hope "The Voice" will make itself heard in all these matters.

**More Irish Plots.**

Mr. P. Donnelly, the most active advocate of "Plotting" in Ireland, sends us a strong appeal (for which we regret we have little space to spare) urging plot-holders to link up with the Irish Plot-holders' Union—Cumann Lucht Ceapach. We fully endorse his appeal, and hope to see all working-class plot-holders united to "hold" their plots now and always. Information about the Union can be obtained from Mr. Donnelly, 30 Finglas Rd., Glasnevin, or W. Dancy, secretary, C.I.C., 13 Dodder Terrace, Irishtown.

**Significant.**

On the day the Government produced its "proofs," the newspapers chronicled the re-appearance of the Black Pig.

**Not Too Thin.**

Some people say the Cabinet's plot story is thin. It should be remembered the same Government secured the conviction of Mrs. Wheeldon, by the story that she plotted to kill Lloyd George by tickling his sole with a poisoned brass nail.

**Marconigrams.**

"Three enemies, Germany, Austria—and Drink. and the greatest of these is DRINK."—Mr. George, 1915.

"We can break through when we choose."—Mr. George, 1916.

"The enemy cannot break through; our front is impregnable."—Mr. George, 1917.

"The enemy broke through part of our line to a depth of 15 miles."—Mr. George, April, 1918.

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**DESPISED AND REJECTED.**

Such a title may to the very devout seem irreverent when applied to the people who figure in A. T. Fitzroy's novel of that title, conscientious objectors whose claims for the sovereignty of the individual conscience are rejected by all authorities as presumptuous, and Uranians, creatures, whose sins are sins of necessity and not of will whose weary existence is ignored except in the treatises of Austrian mental specialists and in the literature of criminology and medical jurisprudence.

Mr. Fitzroy has compassed the treatment of this difficult subject with all the restraints of delicacy. He has added nothing to the knowledge of the subject beyond what we may gain from Edward Carpenter's essays, the obvious source of "Despised and Rejected," but the sympathetic portrayal of actual life records can enable us to understand the trials of these mauvais sujets.

The chapters descriptive of the conscientious objectors and their haunts in London, the queer aggregations of religious and anti-religious; socialists and individualists, musicians and artists who have nothing in common but their opposition to military service and the assertion of their wills against the mass opinion of their fellow-countrymen, are true to life. Much is said of the ill-treatment of the men in barracks and in jails.

"Despised and Rejected" is worthy of a welcome from Irish readers who may excuse the appearance of Con and Pegeen, for while they are not typical of the London Irish, their prototypes exist in life. This book is printed, we observe, by Cahill and Co., Ltd.

"Despised and Rejected." By A. T. Fitzroy. C. W. Daniels, Ltd., London. 5s. net.)

**RUTHERGLEN'S DEPORTEE.**

No doubt some of our readers will recollect the visit of Wm. Regan to Dublin about eighteen months ago when he played some part in the revival of the Socialist Party in Ireland. He has since, as a conscientious objector, been dismissed from the Post Office, been chosen by the local labour party as candidate for Rutherglen Burghs and deported from that district by the military authorities, and forbidden to come within 50 miles of it. No German plot is alleged in his case to justify his expulsion. His friends continue to advance his candidature, and James MacDonough, 53 Blessington street, Dublin, will be glad to receive and acknowledge subscriptions to the Regan Election Fund. Friends in Belfast, please note.

**THE MAY DAY BOOKLET.**

The Trades Councils' May Day booklet is worthy of a wider circulation than it seems to have attained, and we should like to see it on sale in the shops not only in Dublin, but throughout the country. The messages from "A.E." Ramsay MacDonald and Robert Smillie—too often called a Scotsman despite his Bal-

fast birth—given a key note and pointer to the programme set out in the pamphlet.

We might criticise in detail some of the proposals advocated—and we certainly will do so in the future—and find fault with the reasons advanced for other proposals in themselves excellent, but we observe that the compilers of the pamphlet do not claim to have said the last word on any subject. Their aim has been to open up discussion in every trade union branch in Dublin on the manifold problems of our Civic life, and in that we wish them success. Discussion and self-education is urgently wanted in the movement.

**EDUCATION.**

We welcome particularly the Councils' demand for a reorganisation of the educational system on a basis of popular control and responsible management. Given the right machinery much can be done. But education is not only a matter of machinery, of teachers salaries, of managerial authority. Nor is it merely a vocational training to turn out new generations of clerks and carpenters, priests and engineers. If the working class movement is to plan worthily its future educational programme and give full scope to the spiritual ideals that should be first and last in the curriculum, the inspiration of the teacher and the atmosphere of the school, we believe it must absorb the views of Patrick Pearse as expressed in "The Story of a Success," of which a cheap edition has just been published by Maunsell's at 1/6.

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**THE ANGLO-SAXON MENACE.**

(From Front Page):

such "draw" in order to bring people into  
their net and invest their movement with  
the necessary degree of plausibility. But  
though in their hearts the promoters of

**This Anti-Democratic Design**

care little about "Anglo-Saxonism" and  
the cultural union of the people of Eng-  
land and America, yet the truth is that  
this movement, if it is allowed to go on  
unmasked and unchecked, is certain to in-  
volve a very real danger to the cultural  
aspects of the democratic movement in  
Ireland, Wales and Scotland. The coun-  
tries I have named are not Anglo-Saxon  
communities, and having a culture and  
civilisation of their own, it stands to  
reason that any powerfully backed Anglo-  
Saxon "move" or combine of the kind I  
describe is to be regarded by us with the  
utmost suspicion and hostility, as much  
on general cultural grounds as on those  
others which I have indicated. I hope,  
therefore, that when Prof. MacLaughlin  
and his understrappers invade Ireland,  
Scotland and Wales for the purpose of  
booming "Anglo-Saxonism," the party in  
question will be told, without any super-  
fluous beating about the bush, that Irish,  
Welsh and Scots are not Anglo-Saxons,  
and have no sort of use for the kind of  
"culture" which the professor and his  
friends have come on mission to hawk  
about. I have written to friends in Wales  
in order to apprise them of the danger  
of the game that is on foot. I am pulling  
similar levers in my own country, and I  
make no doubt but that the "Voice of  
Labour" in Ireland will be no less  
clamant and insistent as to the necessity  
of bringing the

**Professor MacLaughlin-cum-Fanny  
Balfour**

"stunt" to book. The Celts of these  
islands ought to unite at once. They  
have ample common ground for union for  
offensive and defensive purposes, inas-  
much as they are agreed in demanding  
the abolition of Capitalism and Imperia-  
lism. Further, they are warm friends to  
the International, which they look to  
defeat all projects having for their object  
world-domination on the part of any  
race, and lastly, though by no means  
least, it is Celtic culture and civilisation  
we are out for, and not Anglo-Saxon.

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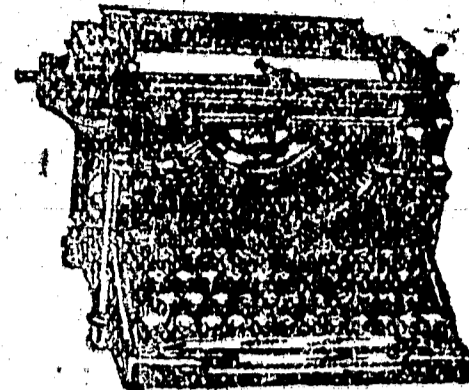
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(Copy.)

Private,

London, W.,

19th April, 1918.

Dear Mr. Johnson,—It is a matter of great regret that we have to write you on a subject that is not only a painful one, but has greatly astonished us. Quite recently we have heard that you have associated yourself keenly with politics, and that you have even acted as chairman at an anti-Conscription meeting held in Belfast. Now, in these very stirring and alarming times, when our nation is fighting for its very existence, we strongly discourage anything in the shape of disloyalty, and if this statement is true we must ask you either to dissociate yourself at once from any such movement, or to sever your connection with the firm.

Your immediate reply will oblige, and we sincerely trust you will be able to offer a satisfactory explanation, especially as we have always appreciated the business relations that have hitherto existed between us.—Yours truly,

DAY, SON AND HEWITT.

(Copy.)

Reply.

Belfast, April 29th, 1918.

Gentlemen,—Your letter dated 19th was received on Wednesday last. It is true, as you have been informed by some loyal friend, that I have been for many years interested keenly in political and social questions and that I have even acted as chairman at an anti-Conscription meeting.

I had not thought it was a crime to do either of these, but rather the right of every citizen.

It has never been my practice to discuss politics with your customers, very few indeed know anything about my political views. Outside of business connections I have exercised such rights of citizenship as are left to me and propose to continue to do so. I have never compromised the firm in any action I have taken, and I resent any attempt to deprive me of my liberty in these matters.

Such steps as I have taken in connection with the opposition to conscription in Ireland were inspired not by what you call disloyalty but by love of Ireland and her freedom. To me tyranny is equally detestable whatever the name of the

tyrant, be he Kaiser, Tsar, Sultan or British statesman. To attempt to enforce military service upon an unwilling, subjugated nation under pressure of military necessity, while at the same time professing to fight for freedom and the rights of subject peoples, is to show how slight is the moral gulf that divides the warring powers.

May I say with all respect that your own attitude towards me is fairly parallel with England's conduct towards Ireland. I am in a measure economically dependent upon you, as Ireland is by virtue of British trade policy and fiscal machinations dependent upon England. Being so dependent you think I should adjust my intellectual and moral standards to fit your conception of justice and loyalty. Anticipating a refusal to accede to your demands you ask me to sever my connection with the firm. At this point the parallel fails. England declines to say that to Ireland, but the attempt to compel me to sink my liberty of action as a citizen under threat of dismissal is in perfect accord with your country's habitual conduct towards weaker nations.

I greatly regret that our relationship, always so pleasant, should end in this manner, but "Liberty must be subserved whatever occurs."—Yours truly,

THOMAS R. JOHNSON.

P.S.—You have marked your note "Private," but it deals with my public conduct, and I must in justice to myself reserve the right to use it to explain the reason why my connection with your firm is to cease.

T. R. J.

[It is interesting to note that Mr. T. Johnson addressed the meeting mentioned on 17th April. Messrs. Day, Sons and Hewitt wrote on 19th April.]

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The rapid growth of above branch has been most satisfactory, the membership at present being 525, a fact in itself sufficient to stimulate enthusiasm for further efforts. Realising the wonderful progress made in such a short space of time, negotiations are already taking place to extend the workings of this branch to Cork, from which city we hope to be able to announce satisfactory reports in the near future. A joint meeting of above workers, men and women, will take place in the Trades' Hall, Capel Street, on Sunday evening next at 4 o'clock. Watch this column for more interesting news. T. G.

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