

IRISH OPINION

The VOICE OF LABOUR

EDITED BY CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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AUGUST 24, 1918.

ONE PENNY

Socialist Pleads for Faith.

SPÁRÓ UÍ CONAILL
CU ULADÓ DO SZRÍOB.

Housing and Usury.

Dublin Builders and the Cowan Ramp.

At the moment of writing the Building Trades of Dublin are engaged in the biggest trade dispute since 1913. Sheer necessity has dictated the demands of the workers, who cannot be fed by talk about the beaten submarine or by unproven assertions that cost of living is less to-day than in December. The daily experience of the Dublin housewife belies the latter allegation, and proves to her that the Irish profiteer and the English Food Controllers are real and present enemies, whose rapacity and folly are not to be mastered by victories in Flanders or on the sea.

The stoppage of work has been enforced with deliberation by the Employers' Federation, despite the pleas of the Press, and the direct appeal of the Lord Mayor. The employers have refused arbitration on the workers demand. They have adopted an attitude of blank hostility, and if our information be sound, not without first being assured—unofficially, no doubt—that in their action they will be supported by certain departments of the Government whose contracts will be affected by the cessation of labour.

That suggestion is ominous; all the more so in that it is confirmed by news of sundry journeys and conferences unmentioned in the Press.

A factor in hardening the hearts of the brick and mortar Pharaohs is the knowledge that under D.O.R.A. meetings for the education of public opinion may be prohibited, and if they are held—as indeed they must be in the event of a strike—the police will have an opportunity of repeating the

pre-war battues. That cunning calculation may not be verified, but some of the bosses are counting on it.

The measure of success that the former struggle gave the employers, when they fought the unions in detail and enforced upon them humiliating conditions, is to be improved upon in anticipation of the biggest building scheme ever contemplated. The deliberate challenge is thrown out, in order that, by sheer weight of Dublin finance, aided by the "resources of civilisation" in control of the English Government, the solidarity of Dublin Labour may be destroyed, the unions wrecked, and the Cowan scheme carried out under a system of industrial conscription, with, or without its military complement.

Never before have such rich opportunities of jobbery and jerrybuilding been held before the greedy eyes of Dublin Capitalism. Cowan recommends an expenditure approaching nine million pounds on Dublin Housing. This vast fund is not to be democratically controlled by any representative body. A nominated board like the L.G.B. or the Congested Districts Board, promising hosts of jobs for the Bureaucrats, is to handle the contracts and buy the land. What that involves in fraud and favouritism we know from past experience. One enemy and one alone blocks the way to the juiciest piece of corruption ever planned. Organised labour stands in the way—the "multitude of needy persons" according to the canting Cowan.

Therefore, in consultation with Government officials, the employers of Dublin

have launched their challenge and the fight is on. 1913 cannot be repeated. All Ireland is now on Labour's side, and if the employers do not—and we hope they shall—recede from their position, it will be a fight to a finish, ultimately involving much more than wages. The issue of working class control of industry is certain to be raised.

Aerodromes and the Lock-Out.

We are informed that the big building contractors have arranged that during the dispute no new hands will be taken on at the aerodromes where they have contracts. At certain of these places it has been announced that the working staff will be reduced by half. These steps will have the effect of burdening the Union funds with claims for unemployment benefit. The big contractors will, however, endeavour to keep work going at the aerodromes. They will thus be enabled by Government money to carry over the dispute, and perhaps also to swallow up the business of the smaller employers.

Your American Friends.

Our good comrade, Jack Carney, 101-Stack Building, Duluth, Minn., is acting as agent for "The Voice" in the States, and is advertising "The Voice" in his lively weekly, "The Truth." If you have a friend in U.S. remember that you cannot send "The Voice" by ordinary post. Send us subscriptions as set out on our second page, and we'll see that a copy is sent every week—as long as the censor permits.

IRISH OPINION.



THE VOICE OF LABOUR

Edited by CATHAL O'SHANNON.

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LABOUR LOOKS AT ULSTER.

In the course of the debate at Congress on "The Voice," Councillor Logue, of Derry, complained gently that too little space is given in our columns to the activities and struggles of Labour in the North. The fault, as Councillor Logue freely acknowledged, does not lie with those who are connected with "The Voice" but rather with the northern trade unionists themselves. We should gladly give as much of our space as we could spare to a chronicle and review of the good work which is being done in Ulster and help to find a solution of the problems of peculiar difficulty which face Labour in the North. But to do that we must again ask our Ulster comrades to sit down and tell us what they are doing. We know that in some directions excellent progress is being made, but we want to know the details and to tell all Ireland about it. If northern workers will help us to do this we promise them "The Voice" will not show them the cold shoulder, for we want "The Voice" to speak for the workers of Ulster, even for those of them who differ fundamentally from us and those who hold aloof from the Labour movement, as much as for those who hold the whole full democratic faith our journal inherits from "The Irish Worker" and "The Workers' Republic." No man in Ulster will ask more.

We are glad therefore that it was a Derry delegate who raised this point. He has given us an opportunity of re-stating our position so far as the relations between the workers in Ulster and the workers in the rest of Ireland are concerned. To put it briefly, we are convinced that the interests of the workers in Ulster are identical with the interests of the workers in Munster, Leinster and Connacht, just as they are with the interests of the workers in England, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria and Russia. The economic interests of all workers are identical, and the Irish Labour movement recognises no geographical lines of division in Ireland and none in Europe.

We are all wage-earners, we are all slaves under capitalism, we are all held in bondage to the profiteer, and our enemies as workers are the same in all lands, and in all provinces of all lands, the exploiting employers. Differences between us there are indeed, but the great central link between us remains and it is the link of a common economic exploitation, a common industrial oppression. Let us differ as we will or must on all other issues; there can be no difference and there must be none in our battle as a working class against our common enemy, the employing class. To anyone who is by our side in this battle, be his birthplace where it may, be his colour black or white or yellow, be his emblem orange or green or tricolour. "The Voice" will be raised in his aid and Irish Labour will welcome him as a brother and comrade in the great war of the workers' emancipation.

In this as in all else it takes two to make a bargain and it takes both to come to an understanding of the facts and principles. In this instance the two are he who believes that the people, the whole people, of this island are entitled to full and free self-determination of their political as well as their economic destinies, and he who believes that our political destinies are bound up with the British Empire. We are of those who believe with the first, and we claim with reason that Irish Labour as a whole is of the same belief. But we do not deny their point of view to those who believe with the second and we cannot deny them their place either in Ireland or in the Labour movement in Ireland. Both of us are agreed on the great central economic principle that Labour, or rather the workers, should rule here as elsewhere both politically and economically.

The truth is that while the workers organised in trade unions in Munster, Leinster and Connacht have awakened to the fact that they must organise politically as well as economically the bulk of the workers organised in trade unions in Ulster have no such consciousness. Politically they are dead, or at least asleep, but we have hopes that they are not damned. We know and applaud the organisation of the Belfast workers into trade unions, and owing our birth to Ulster we rejoice at the great network of trade unions that is spreading all over the northern province and our joy is shared by every thinking trade unionist south of Portadown. But this is not enough, it is far from enough. How many of these tens of thousands of members of trade unions in Ulster have thrown in their lot, industrially, with the organised Labour movement throughout the rest of Ireland? How many of them are affiliated to the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, that is to Labour in Ireland, for that is what it means? Above all, how many of them are conscious of their identity as workers with the workers everywhere else and are expressing that identity in act and deed as their fellow-workers in Munster, Leinster and Connacht are doing? Now the Congress and Party is Labour in Ireland and the trade unions affiliated to

it are the parts of its industrial machinery. Both industrially and politically it has made great strides, has done great work and has won great respect and greater fear. It is only at the beginning of its career and it is young, enthusiastic, able and ambitious. To-day it is sweeping all before it and that is the great fact that is recognised by the workers everywhere outside Ulster. It is their hope, their pride and their promise. They are not merely members of unions, they are real trade unionists with a real Labour consciousness, a definite aim and purpose and a high ideal. We are afraid we cannot say so much of the majority of the members of the unions in Ulster. We can, indeed, say it, and say it proudly, of a minority, but only of a minority. The majority are lacking in that Labour consciousness which is the foundation of the Labour party and movement in all countries, they are blind to the facts. We wish they were not so, but unfortunately they are.

Have the men and women of the North "a word to say"? If they have let them say it, even in their "own dour way," the dourer the better, and Irish Labour will listen and heed and welcome them with open arms. Why should they not when all are brothers and sisters and comrades in the same fight, the disinherited and dispossessed of this common country of ours? Again we ask, have the men and women of the North a word to say? Are they willing to become consciously and definitely Labour and not merely Unionist or Home Rule or Sinn Fein? Any of these they may be if they can reconcile their conscience to it, but definitely and uncompromisingly Labour they must be if they will save and free themselves. Are they willing to build up a Labour Party free, independent, and separate from all other parties, with its own high aims and purpose, its own policy and its own programme? Elsewhere in Ireland the workers are doing this and doing it well, as their great Congress at Waterford has shown. Are the workers in Ulster going to do it? On their answer now depends their salvation or their damnation.

We have written thus at some length because we have lately been in Ulster and have seen signs of hope there. We have seen less than two hundred workers in a little seaside town bend a great firm and a great Government department to their will in a few short days. We have heard of thousands of farm workers in Ulster unsheathing a northern iron of will to their masters and making that prevail. We have heard of hundreds of new branches of unions dotting the hills and plains of Ulster, and of proposed attacks on power and privilege at the next elections. All these are good to hear, but they are not enough. We miss that keenness, that enthusiasm, that absolute abandon to the whole exuberance of Labour conscious, awake and militant which marked the Waterford Congress in letters blood-red a fortnight ago.

We are wondering if Ulster can realise her hopes and rise to her high destiny. We wonder, and again we hope.

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

Intervention in Russia.

It's a great war. It is going to make the world safe for democracy. It is going to liberate all the subject and oppressed small nationalities of Europe. It is going to crush militarism, autocracy and tyranny of all sorts and descriptions, and it is going to mean that the workers of all countries are to have the ruling of their countries and the determination of their future economic status. Ay, it's a great war for the crushing of militarism and it's going to crush the foul thing with a firm hand and an iron heel, whoop it up for the great war of democracy, liberty, and civilisation!

How secure the world is to be made for democracy is to be seen in the combined attack of the capitalist powers of the world in the new-won liberties and the new-born democracy of Russia. All the great Powers of the world, England, France, Germany, the United States and Japan, have sunk their common differences and united to invade and conquer the Bolshevik Republic. For the Bolshevik Republic is the first Republic of the workers and that is its great crime in the eyes of capitalists and imperialists. Were the Soviet Republic allowed to exist its influence would in time have spread to the countries still struggling under the yoke of capitalism and that would spell the doom of the old regime. Therefore Bolshevism must be crushed once and for all in order that the world may be saved from socialism and made secure for capitalism. Oh it's a great war, surely.

It is impossible to say as yet what are the chances of the military and moral success of the armies which the allies have sent into Russia. The invasion seems to be taking place from all sides and is helped by the counter-revolutionary forces within Russia. Nor is it possible to guess what strength of resistance the Bolsheviks can put up on so many fronts, for all the news we have comes from anti-Bolshevik sources. A sorry tale it all is for the boasted democracies of Europe and America that after all their loud protestations of love of liberty and democracy their armies should to-day be taking the field against the greatest democratic experiment in government in all history. It is hypocrisy over all. Yet is Bolshevism not yet crushed, nor the Socialist Republic conquered. It may be perhaps beyond human power for the Soviet to throw back the present invasion; we do not know. But of this all may be certain, Bolshevism will reign and flourish when the world empires are no more and Macaulay's New Zealander stands in Westminster.

Allied Labour and Intervention.

What is Labour in the Allied countries going to do anent the overthrow by capitalism of the Soviet Republic? We do not ask what allied Labour is going to say, but what is it going to do? Labour and Labour alone has it in its power to prevent the extinction of the

Russian Republic from without. It has spoken eloquently, sung beautifully and demonstrated sturdily in favour of democracy and the brotherhood of man. In pre-war days it boasted of its sympathy and friendship for the gallant Russian revolutionaries who fought for Russian freedom. To-day these revolutionaries have won their freedom and given the world the noblest system of government ever dreamt of outside Utopia. They have achieved in Russia all that Labour spoke and sang and demonstrated for. Of all that Allied Labour has been witness, and it is now witness of the attempted destruction of the great democratic achievement of the Soviets by the armed forces of the governments under which allied Labour speaks and sings and demonstrates. But what is allied Labour going to do? What says Labour in Great Britain, in the United States, in France of the old revolutionary tradition?

Labour's Great Sin.

We note with little or no surprise that the British Government has again refused passports to Messrs. Henderson and Bowerman to travel to Switzerland and meet Dr. Troelstra on international labour business. Every time allied Labour is smacked on the cheek by the Governments it turns the other cheek, Christian-like, for another and a sharper blow. It positively loves its chains and hugs its masters. It prostituted itself to the war cabinets and when it has served them it meekly appeals, like the unfortunate woman of the streets, to the master who befouled it. And now, as in all prostitutions, the master has no longer need of its services and casts it off with loathing and contempt, giving blows where formerly he gave kisses. But allied Labour seems to bear it all with patience and with resignation. The iron has entered its soul. No where except in France can we discern a flicker of hope that Labour is about to make a real effort to save itself or to save civilisation. The blood-lust has been flooded again, this time from America, and Europe is bathing in the orgy. The pity of it all when a word from the leaders of Labour in Great Britain and France would compel the meeting of the International and give the workers, who suffer all and pay for all in blood and tears, an opportunity of bringing peace to a world sunk in the barbarism of war.

Scotland for Ever.

We turn in something like hope to the workers in Scotland, at least to those of them who have at various times translated their faith into action. We know that when Ireland acted many a working class heart in Scotland throbbed in sympathy with what must have seemed to them a little army fighting a forlorn hope in a lost cause. We know that nowhere did the general strike of Irish Labour strike a more responsive chord than in Scotland, and we know that Scotland has sent comrades to Ireland to plead for common action, for common ends between

Labour in Scotland and Labour in Ireland. We would welcome a closer agreement on action between the workers organised in Ireland and in Scotland. We believe that if the Scots workers have the courage and the wisdom to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance Labour in Ireland will not shrink from any sacrifice the alliance may demand. On both sides we see signs that such an alliance is desired and that it is cementing. We trust the signs read true and that we are about to witness a real democratic alliance of the militant workers in two countries which, if they think and act together, can shake capitalism in Western Europe to its very foundations. Sinne Gaedhil na h-Alban agus Gaedhil na h-Eireann agus ni nair linn é.

Echoes of Congress.

One of the most satisfactory sectional meetings of Congress week was the Conference of the delegates of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, and its most gratifying feature was the presence of the Railwaymen's fraternal delegation and the declaration of their bond of communion with the Transport and General Workers and all they stand for.

A fortnight ago we said that William O'Brien attended Congress as a delegate of the Tailors. This, of course, was an error and was due to our hurried making up of the paper while battle raged in Waterford. O'Brien represented the Dublin Trades Council and he still represents the Tailors on the Council.

Several of the smaller unions are adopting the recommendation of Standing Orders Committee to join up with some of the bigger machines. The One Big Union is right ahead.

UP, RUSSIA!

The Dublin Press of last week has, with its usual indecency, been ringing the changes on the news from Russia. One day it told us "Lenin and Trotsky desert their dupes." The next, Lenin and Trotsky were at Moscow dictating proclamations. No apologies were offered for the previous day's lie. The dupes of the Press will ask no questions.

Fortunately the social policy of the Russian people has been explained to us in pamphlets which ought to be widely distributed in Ireland. We can do no more than mention them. First there is "The Bolshevik Revolution," by Maxim Litvinoff, price 1s. (by post 1s. 3d.). The second is "Lessons of the Russian Revolution," by N. Lenin, price 3d. or post free 3½d. Both are published by the B. S. P., 21a Maiden Lane, London, W.C.2. There is good business awaiting the bookseller who stocks them.

LABOUR IN IRELAND.

UNBEATEN BALLINA.

For the four months this branch is in existence we know of no other branch that has made such headway or holds such a record. Before the establishment of the Transport Union, countless hours were worked in this town at a starvation wage.

Shortly after an advance was made in the direction of limiting the hours, and a fifty-hour week was demanded, and pulled off without any bother.

The tailors, who formed a section, made a demand for an increase of wages and a twenty-five per cent. increase was obtained. This induced the dressmakers, whose treatment was intolerable, as far as long hours and low wages were concerned, and they, forming another section, put forward a demand for a fifty-hour week with half holiday and an all-round increase on the present rate of wages. The employers in this case disputed the question of an increase and the girls indulged in a strike which lasted three days, with the result that at the finish their demands were conceded.

The only workers now not in the Union are the shop assistants, who, from rumours afloat, are contemplating joining up. Quite an active part is being taken by the Union with regard to agricultural labourers, whose employers have failed up to the present to pay the wages laid down by the Board. The Wages Board Inspector is very busy in the district for the past two weeks rounding up the Fly Boys who are avoiding the minimum wage.

The Branch has now a membership of nearly seven hundred and going strong.
J. DAVITT.

Carlow.

We are being reproached by the Transport secretary for short supplies of the "Voice." The fault is not ours, but the extras have been sent. The branch now numbers 650 members, but by the time this appears it will have 700. Employers have been good boys, and have gladly made concessions without much pressure. Their excess profits are more beneficially expended in Carlow through distribution to the workers than would be the case if handed away in taxes to the Government.

It is many years since Sir Leo Georgio Chiozza-Money propounded the doctrine that an increase in wages is a benefit to the community. The working class lives so close to the mere subsistence level that when it receives extra money it does not hoard its increases. If Patrick Mahony obtains a rise of 5s. a week, the local grocer, baker, draper, tailor and bootmaker get the benefit of Pat's increased purchasing power. These tradesmen in turn demand more goods from the manufacturers, resulting in an increase of output and a wide diffusion of prosperity.

On the other hand, an increase of profits to the employing class usually leads to an export of capital which benefits Argentina or Burmah, not Ireland. So

for the benefit of Carlow first and Ireland next, we want the workers of Carlow to draw their forces together and prepare for a sustained effort to bring back their "real" wages to the 1914 level, or, in other words, to secure £2 5s. per week for every £1 they had in 1914. If any member of the branch thinks that claim excessive or too modest, it is his duty to come to the branch meeting and say so.

Maynooth.

An increase in branch membership has led to an increased order for the "Voice." Secretary Higgins' motto is, every member a buyer of the "Voice." The tickets for the branch sweep are being pushed. Every member must sell a block.

CHARLEVILLE STRIKE.

The "Southern Democrat" continues its good work and has now raised over £100 in aid of the strikers. The dispute has now lasted eight weeks, but the workers are as determined as ever to carry on the fight to a finish if employers won't join the round table conference suggested by the "Democrat." Denis Houston brought cheer from the Congress and congratulated the workers on their wisdom and courage in starting the co-operative bakery.

Two employers, P. Lyon and P. Feare, have settled with the Union. Meantime remember your branch should send its subscriptions in aid of the strike to Editor, "Southern Democrat," Charleville, Co. Cork.

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS AND LABOUR PARTY.

Officers and National Executive.

The following officers were elected without opposition:—Chairman, Thos. Cassidy, Typographical Association; Vice-Chairman, Thomas Farren, Stonecutters' Union of Ireland; Treasurer, Thomas Johnson, National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks. National Executive:—Miss Rose Timmins, Irish National Teachers' Organisation (164); Thomas MacPartlin, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters (148); Cathal O'Shannon, Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (147); M. J. O'Lehane, Irish Drapers' Assistants' Association (132); J. T. O'Farrell, Railway Clerks' Association (129); Thomas C. Daly, National Union of Railwaymen (118); Joseph Mitchell, Belfast Trades Council (103); M. J. Egan, United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers (99); Secretary, William O'Brien, Dublin Trades Council (114); P. T. Daly, Dublin Fire Brigade Men's Union (109).

THE NORTH.

Mr. Tom McKerrell, of the Ministry of Labour, is in Belfast investigating the recent farm labourers' dispute in Donegal, Derry and Down.

A conference has been arranged for Tuesday, August 20th, in Belfast City Hall between representatives of Farmers' Unions and Men's Unions. Non-union farmers have been invited to attend also. The conference will be presided over by a representative from the Irish Board of Agriculture.

Limavady farm labourers' strike notices expire on Monday, 19th August, but strike notices have been withdrawn in view of forthcoming conference.

QUEENSTOWN TRADES COUNCIL.

The Queenstown Trades Council has now been re-established after suspension for three years. The opening meeting elected Mr. E. Lynch as President, and it is hoped the Council will take a prominent part in the reconstruction of the Labour movement in Ireland.

The Chairman paid a tribute to the Joiners' Society and its energetic secretary (Mr. D. Ronayne) who were responsible for the re-establishment of the Council. The members cordially invite those societies who have not yet done so to affiliate to the Council.

Athlone.

The Athlone Trades and Labour Council is to be congratulated on the success of the Labour meeting run under its auspices on August 15th. A newly-organised body it has all the promise of success in lifting the workers of Athlone out of the state of helplessness which characterised the past.

Under the active leadership of Mr. H. Broderick, of the Tailors' Society, as chairman; of Mr. Martin, General Workers' Union, as secretary, and a hard-working committee representing the various Trades Unions of the town, in a very short time we expect to hear that the town is "black-leg proof."

Warrenpoint Strike.

From Monday until Saturday some 70 joiners were on strike for increased wages and the 12½ per cent. bonus in the auxiliary shipyard at Warrenpoint. On Tuesday the general workers employed in the yard, all members of the I.T. and G.W. Union, threatened a sympathetic strike if a settlement were not arrived at during the week. By Friday before the I.T. and G.W. notice had expired the Admiralty had intervened and the firm agreed to sign a joint reference to the Committee on Production. The general workers are claiming the 12½ per cent., 2½d. an hour increase and higher night rates, and their claims will be heard at the same sitting of the C.O.P. as those of the joiners. Mr. J. MacDermott (Dublin) acted on behalf of the joiners, Mr. O. O'Shannon on behalf of the I.T. and G.W. Union, and Mr. J. Cunningham, Labour Adviser, of the Admiralty.

TRADE UNION NEWS.

Ruthlessly Reduced.

Nenagh wants Cathal O'Shannon to lead big push. Shop assistants are joining the I.T. and G.W.U.. Branch President went with Sean Burns to open new branch at **Borrisokane**. Clune's tobacco workers are striking at **Limerick** for 10s. a week advance. Firm has offered an average advance of 2s. 3½d. on present wages, averaging 8s. 7½d. for women and 18s. for men. **Limerick Dockers'** recent stoppage is justified by Sir D. P. Barton's award which raises carters' wages from 30s. to 38s. per week, dockers' from 9s. to 10s. per diem. On tonnage rates his award is 1s. 3d. per ton as against men's claim of 1s. 6d. and bosses' offer of 9d. Tide waiting is to be paid for. The Rooney-Dowling double turn in Meath area has set up Transport branches at **Kells** and **Oldcastle**, Co. Meath, and **Virginia**, County Cavan. **South Kildare** Labour Union, a vigorous organisation, has amalgamated with the Transport Union. Kildare is now solid. Results will follow. **Adare**, Co. Limerick, branch is pushing for recovery of arrears there, and in **Groom**. Wages Board has been notified of offenders. The "Voice" is on sale at Miss O'Regan's, as arranged by Secretary Stokes. Branch is backing the **Foynes**

strikers, whose officials houses have been raised by police.

The Clune's strike at Limerick has now been settled by a compromise which doubles the amount offered previously by the employers. The Typographical Association members in various parts of Ireland are pressing forward demands for increases, and stoppages are probable. The girls in the knitting factories in Derry and the shirt and collar workers are seeking increases. The Enniscorthy co-operative scandal is now ended, the Society having at last allowed arbitration. Father Browne was arbiter.

The failure of State Socialism to give justice to the workers was amply shown in the deliberations of the Association of Irish P.O. Clerks in Dublin last week.

The Kilkenny and Waterford areas of the I.T. and G.W.U. are healthy under the supervision of Organisers Coates, Veale, and Phelan. **Mooncoin** has made satisfactory terms with the local Farmers' Association, which is also taking up the question of arrears due by the members.

SOCIALIST'S PLEA FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH.

Mr. Gerald Gould has essayed to reach out "A Helping Hand" to those who have been estranged from religion and have so far lost touch with it that the language it speaks has become meaningless and strange to their ears. Eschewing controversy, he deals with common human experience and shows that the

formalities of religion, its familiar and often merely parroted phrases do express the spiritual needs and aspirations of mankind. "Much of the hostility . . . felt by many people towards religion would vanish at once if they did but realise that the teachings of religion are not something difficult and abstract and irrelevant to practical life, but a summing up . . . of actual experiences, which neither the religious nor the irreligious can at all escape."

Those sheltered by the august authority of an historic church may not realise the need there is for this helping hand. It is not for them but for those that are without. They may feel that Mr. Gould does not carry us very far, that his conclusion is nebulous and indefinite. To have carried his readers into the region of dogma, would have exceeded his purpose and possibly defeated it. To win the sympathy of the honest doubter is a big first step, and we believe "A Helping Hand" is a book that will do so.

And this "essay in philosophy and religion," a plea for Christianity, is published by the London Socialist weekly, "The Herald"! A strange commentary on the resurrected lies of the Dublin daily press.

A HELPING HAND, by Gerald Gould. 2s. net, by post 2s. 4d. The Herald Book Service, 21 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

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JOIN TO-DAY!

DON'T DELAY!!

Housing and Interest

IRELAND BLEED BY USURY.

Mr. T. Johnson, speaking at the Athlone Labour demonstration, said, inter alia, he would not attempt to deal in detail with the scheme propounded by the Local Government Board's Inspector, Mr. Cowan, but he wished to draw attention to one salient fact. Mr. Cowan suggests that to solve the problem some 16,000 or 17,000 new houses are required, and he estimates the cost at £400 per house. He further says that rents should not be less than would afford an income of something like 8 per cent, or roughly £32 a year for interest alone. Athlone men who earn 22s. to 30s. a week would not care to pay 12s. a week for rent, without any regard to rates. The Inspector had suggested that there should be something in the way of a Government subsidy, so that the charge on the workers' wages should be reduced. The £400 to build the house is to be borrowed, and 5 per cent. interest is to be paid. That is to say, about £20 a year would go to the man who lends the money. What a lesson could be derived from this simple matter of economics, which can be carried into every department of social life. In every problem that arises they would realise that

This Question of Interest Dogs Their Footsteps.

£20 a year, 8s. a week, is to be paid to the man who lent the money gathered together by the accumulated profits derived from labour. That is a problem which confronts us when the war is over. It is a lesson in elementary economics. The whole problem of poverty, the kernel of that problem, is the fact that the men that have the property are able to derive from labour what is called interest; what used to be called in the old biblical days (and down to the Reformation) usury, which is really a charge levied by capital on the workers' labour.

Messrs. O'Gorman (I.D.A.A.) and T. J. O'Connell (I.N.T.O.), at the same meeting, delivered excellent speeches, which are well reported in the "Westmeath Independent" of 17th inst.

IRISH WOMEN WORKERS' UNION

Sir Plunket Barton has been appointed arbitrator in the case of the application for an increase in wages for the women in Messrs. Hill's Woollen Mills, Lucan. The case will be heard one day this week.

The women in Messrs. Boland's bake-houses have applied for an increase of 10s. per week, and their application will come before Mr. J. Baillie for settlement on Thursday next.

Last week some of the women in Messrs. Williams and Woods made a plucky and successful stand against an effort to transfer to them work usually done by men.

The numbers of women disemployed by the dispute in the Printing Trade continues to increase, and we are grateful for the generous offer of financial support from the Dublin Trades Council.

The Joint Committee of workers in the Printing and allied trades recently organised at Denmark House has got to work without delay, and has entered into negotiations with the Master Printers' Association with a view to a settlement of the dispute.

The 40D Outrage.

The Irish Women's Franchise League summoned a women's meeting at Mills' Hall on 18th inst. to protest against the filthy regulation, 40D, introduced by his Majesty in Council to make promiscuous intercourse safe for soldiers and sailors. All who wish to aid the I.W.F.L. should communicate with the Secretary, at 34 Westmoreland St., Dublin, and should read the "Irish Citizen."

ELECTORAL PREPARATION.

"The Irishman" has reprinted as a leaflet the excellent article "What Sinn Fein Has to Meet and Beat," which appeared in its pages on 10th August. Whatever divergence may appear in the future between Sinn Fein and Labour, in the present they have to face the same unscrupulous and highly organised foes. We leave the controversial parts of the article to be discussed between "The Irishman" and "Banba" of the "Telegraph." The plan of work outlined must at once be taken up by Labour on its own account, workers enrolled and canvassing done, so that elections, local or national, will not find us compelled to remain neutral or to accept a choice between evils.

THE SHELL WORK.

The prosecution of 29 men by the Ministry of Munitions exposes the nature of the Munitions Acts. The mere fact of striking is an offence. Tribunals have no power to take into consideration the question of justification. The management here has been repeatedly at loggerheads with the workers, and it is well to emphasise Mr. M'Elligott's statement about the trade union officials; "he could say that a more fair or more reasonable body of men he never came across."

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CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

The Dublin Industrial Co-operative Society is moving rapidly forward. The workers are awakening to a sense of their responsibility towards their "Stores," and a steady stream of new members joining each day has greatly strengthened the Society. 5 per cent. interest on Share Capital is certainly an inducement to deposit money with the Industrial.

The half-yearly meeting of members will be held on Thursday, 22nd inst., in Banba Hall, 20 Parnell Square, at 8 p.m. A large turn out of members is confidently expected, and we hear that an important announcement will be made.

At a meeting of the Inchicore Branch, N.U.R., held on the 18th inst., the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That we invite the Organiser of the Industrial Co-op. Society to come to this Branch on Sunday, 1st September, to make arrangements for the organisation of the members into the Industrial Co-operative Society." Brother Hennessy presided.

The recently-opened branch of the Women's Guild at 62 Sitric Road is doing active good. Thoughtful women should ask for the Secretary at the branch shop.

The Transport Union officials are receiving many inquiries about the formation of co-operative societies. The Irish section of the Co-operative Union is the organisation charged with the duty of spreading the movement. Its conference takes place at Portadown on 28th September, when we hope arrangements will be made to carry the message of co-operation to the workers who are clamouring for guidance all over Ireland. Meantime, inquiries should be addressed to Mr. W. M. Knox, Secretary, Co-operative Union, 18 Frederick St., Belfast.

Our Supporters.

Remember, when you are contemplating purchases, that those who advertise in "The Voice" are friends of labour. Give them the preference. They usually give satisfaction. The only case to the contrary we know of was a group of "G" men who left Phil Shanahan's in a bad temper. But then, they had failed to find any rifles, and they were not even offered the consolation of a "pocket-pistol."

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SRÁID UÍ CONAILL.

Roinnt bliadán ó foim, nuair a bí Coirpe Caerac Baile Átha Cliath níor láirne b'éirí na tá rias anoir meapadar ainm rriároe o'áerú. Sí an trháro ip leirne asur ip bheasá i mbaile áta Cliath í rriáro com bheas ádeirtear ip tá le págail in don mór-áatáir i Roinn na heorpa (loitead so mór í aimpair na Cársa 1916 ac tá rí as tógáil cinn arí). B'í ainm cuirpúiz Saill páirgite ar an trháro asur meapadar an Comairle Caerac sur mór an náire rin asur o' áapadar nún-an rcan ainm (Sráio Saiebil) so rziuorad amac asur so cup ar neimní asur ainm éirneannáiz móir .i. Doimnall uí Conaill so áabairc so'n trháro uapail. B'é Doimnall Ó Conaill, dar leir an éomairle, an Saedéal ba mó éail so máir le rada an lá. B'éirí naé o'cioc-pamaoir so léifí leo ar an éuairim rin anoir ac ní báineann rin leir an éár. B'íao rúo so bí i b'périd na hoibne an uair rin asur ba oóib ba óual sac a bain leir an áatáir so ríolaó asur so áapará. Éus na caeruzteoirí sac cumáct oliróinead oóib éar znócaib paiblíoe na caerac. asur áapadar rúo nún Sráio uí Conaill so báirdead ar an trháro uapail peo i lár caerac Baile Átha Cliath.

B'í so maie asur éá raib so holc ac níor éairin an zníom le muintir Seadán i neimn. B'í roinnt aca na zcomnuíoe i Sráio uí Conaill asur ba leo cur móir oe na toiztib inntí. Ip le muintir Seadán toizte asur calam na tíne peo beaznac so léir, asur an t-áirgead. Zlacann Seadán cúram air péin an t-áirgead so roinnt ar a muintir péin; sac porc asur ollmáitear so b'ionnao o'ra; sac b'irbeac asur sac b'rábac so éoméao in a lámáib. Mar rin ba le muintir Seadán, no muintear éromuel Sráio uí Conaill nó an cur ip mo o'í asur níor éairin leo ainm Saedil uapail so báirdead uiréi. Seap so muineadar na an olize so cup ar éomairle Caerac Baile Átha Cliath asur corp so cup o'ra ainm na rriároe so áerú ip ruiar so muintir Seadán an olize so cup ar Saedéalaib. Ip olize Seadán, é an olize cuirtear i b'pérom asur ip iar b'péiréamain Seadán a mbíonn an b'péit so áabairc; asur ip annam bíonn fonn o'ra, don b'péit so áabairc so raedá i níoe éomgar so Seadán. Má tá bí an b'péiréam ullam ar an ócaio úo asur éus b'péit in áerú na éomairle Caerac asur báraip o'ra éan don áerú ééamam ar

an ainm. Ip cumneac líom an reanmóir éus pé uair ó áatáoir an b'péiréam ar an éazcór moir so óéarparíoe so óaoirib sur leo toizte inr an trháro asur an éiom-éuapal so óéarparí, pé ar raó so Baile Átha Cliath. Oa noéantaoi ainm na rriároe so áerú ó Saiebil so uí Conaill éuirgear an rzeal so maie asur éuz sac uile óuine an rzeal so maie. B'í mírín beaz so oizmeac Seadán i zcontabairc asur minne b'péiréam Seadán a éion péin leir an oizmeac so éoraint. Éá raab ran reanmóir ó'n áatáoir b'péiréam ac camonplár no ceo o'raoíoeadca. ac tá pé in áerú olizead éarana ó foim Sráio uí Conaill so áabairc ar Sráio uí Conaill.

Flax-Scutching Award.

A Belfast correspondent informs us that at the Flax-Scutching Inquiry in Belfast on Saturday the representatives of the workers and the representatives of the employers agreed upon the following advances: Piece-rates—deseeded flax, 3d. per stone extra; scutchers, 1s. 7d. per stone; streakers, attending two scutchers, 3d. per stone; Time rates—Scutchers, 45s. per week; streakers, 18s. 6d., 50 hours to constitute the week.

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