

The  
**VOICE OF  
LABOUR**

**THE NEXT  
REBELLION  
IN IRELAND.**

(Special to "Voice of Labour.")

Receiving a reproachful intimation from the Editor of "The Voice of Labour" that I had not supplied him with exact details of the approaching rebellion in Ireland I was much perplexed having no politicians among my friends and finding No. 6 Harcourt St. very reticent upon the subject. Eventually I had recourse to a gifted medium of my acquaintance who conducted me to a seance where a bevy of spirits whose prognostications of the future are reputed to be extraordinarily accurate, appeared in the darkness shining weirdly and accompanied by green, white, orange lights and faery music through which broke betimes "The Soldiers' Song." The obliging spirits at once informed me of the date, details and main incidents of the imminent sanguinary event, which they assure me will rival the famous Peking massacre, where the sun has not yet ceased setting over the ghastly scene. To my horror I learned that my informants had divulged the name of the "Daily Mail's" politician of thirty years experience, the very evening before, to several inquiring and spiritistic Sinn Feiners, and the intrepid fellow's number is up, having barely thirty days to go.

A spirit with a strong Cork accent and extremely truculent demanour proceeded to tell me that the rising would break out in his native city in the middle of June under the esteemed leadership of His Lordship, the Bishop of Cork, and would moye Dublin, Limerick, Belfast, other main centres and countryside generally to instant and terrible emulation, but in divers ways. Belfast, for instance, would be startled by the reply of the Irish Socialist Revolutionary Party to the arrogant and provocative gesture of the Southern Athens: a veritable establishment of the Soviet and what is far more important precede the revolutionary act by liberally garnishing every lamp-iron handy with a brace or more of the milk and water moderates who obstruct the march of the revolutionaries towards their historic destiny. Deplorable scenes would mark every stage of the tragic upheaval. William O'Brien, People's commissary for Stringent Suppression of the Counter-revolution, would decimate the bourgeoisie and enemy using a guillotine his roll-top desk and the Liffey for this nefarious purpose.

Limerick's experience in Soviet management would prove invaluable to more than the Munster masses. Many unhappy outrages would mark the spread of the hostilities. The Irish Unionist Alliance would be imprisoned somewhere in the Main Drainage system with their own pamphlets and journals to beguile the weary hours. The "Voice of Labour's" address would be the Kildare St. Club, over the fate of whose membership my spirit insisted upon drawing the veil as well as over that of Major Bryan Cooper, Wm. Jellett, K.C., Lord Farnham, Mr. Drury, and the Editor of the "Irish Times." Beyond remarking that these gallant gentlemen would suffer and endure more for the Empire than hitherto, the presence refused shudderingly to commit itself, preferring to lighten a very dark picture with a recital of the marvellous escape of Professor Alfred Rahilly. The latter would indiscreetly attempt to explain some obscure theological objection of his own to the start of the entire proceedings. Carried away by the momentary success of Dr. Hartly and Dr. Fogarty's forces in their respective areas an over-excited rabble would hale the unfortunate professor before the local Revolutionary Tribunal to answer for his contumacy. A defence sparkling with erudition and capped with a happy quotation from Suarez would cool the brains and melt the hearts of his desperate judges. Even then matters had likely gone hard with him had not a timely reminder from the Bishop that the British were advancing upon the city by land, sea and air diverted the attention of the maddened populace. A rousing and ornate address dispatched by wireless from Dail Eireann to the delighted Bolsheviks would mark the end of August, replies in most eulogistic terms being received from Lenin and Trotsky. Lenin,

**Irish Workers Sleep in Scotch  
Byres.**

**WILL SHOCK PEOPLE OF TASTE!  
IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS.**  
BY PETER O'DONNELL.

In the course of a very few weeks from now, unless something very unusual happens to change the ordinary course of local events, the Irish migratory labourers will be seen making their way in groups from the railway station to the cross-Channel boats at Derry, Belfast and Dublin.

Perhaps the dress and unusual formation of these groups attract some little notice from the ordinary passer by; mayhap more than a passing interest stirs in the breast of those who may happen to have read Paddy Magill's earlier works, but an examination of the economic conditions that drive some thousands of workers—men, women and children—from these shores yearly, and of the manner in which the cross-Channel employers to whom these people flock, venture to treat workers who, they believe, have very little choice of jobs makes painfully interesting reading.

The migratory labourers come almost entirely from those parts of Ireland which we usually describe as the Congested Districts, especially from Arranmore Island, off Donegal and Achill Island and other districts in the West. Small farms of bad land are the rule in these districts, and when the farmers had put in their crops and tidied things up generally off they went to Scotland or England to the harvest.

Often a group of five or six men tramped for days on end from one farm to another, looking in vain for work, and I have no doubt it was quite by accident some of these tramps came across the Tatle merchants who were willing to exploit them.

**CHILD LABOUR**

was then in the game in Scotland, and the newcomers thinking of their little boys and girls hired out for the quarter or half year in Ireland soon began to take the youngsters across to Scotland too. When School Attendance Acts made child labour impossible on the old scale in Britain a new demand for Irish children was created. Compulsory school attendance is not fashionable in the congested districts in Ireland. The District Councils are controlled by shopkeepers and publicans, whose interest it is to have the little children hired out or otherwise exploited so that the Bradbury's may be forthcoming at Hallow Eve to meet the bills for Indian meal, flour, etc., "got on tick" during the summer. So the little children at eleven or twelve go off with the grown-ups, and it seems nobody of sufficient influence is sufficiently concerned to have any attempt made to end the scandal.

**THE HOUSING CONDITIONS**

of the migratory labourers when the crowded train and packed steamer are left behind are truly awful. I have very vivid recollections of a byre in which some Donegal and Achill workers were domiciled last year. During the summer the byre wasn't required, so the Donegal and West of Ireland peasants were allowed the privilege of taking the

however, appealed to An Dail to deal less vigorously with condensed milk hoarders, as certain excesses had got upon the nerves of the British Labour Party, and had even wrung salt tears from Trotsky. For himself he thought no measures could be severe enough against proved cases of flour hoarding. Count Plunkett sternly replied justice should be done though Trotsky wept. The "Freeman" called particular attention to the tactlessness of this reply two years after the suppression of the outbreak. But ex-President Wilson made it a text for a mellifluous oration to a gathering of Baptists somewhere in the wilds of Arizona precisely at the same date. A plague of tricoloured rats seen by all special correspondents, a devastated country, the usual number of corpses, executions, etcetera, told heavily upon the side of

cow's beds for the summer. Those first to arrive cleared off the last week's accumulation of cow-dung and pitched it on top of the monster manure heap in front of the byre door.

**THE LIQUID MANURE OZZED  
OVER TOWARDS THE DOOR, AND  
THE WORKERS HAD PUT IN  
STEPPING STONES TO WALK ON.**

The door was like what one often sees at garage entrances: two half doors—vertical section—meeting on wheels, but the meeting was so doubtful that pigeons flew in and out on the top of the door when the doors were shut!

For bedding there was a supply of straw, which was shaken on the cement floor: old rugs did the rest. The breeze sweeping through the byre at night blew dust and straws in every direction. One of my bed mates, after some deep cursing, pulled off his shirt and tied it round his head to save his eyes. I took advantage of the nearness of a girl's blouse to safeguard mine. Lying on the straw awake in the early morning I should have had a good view of the fields in front of the door were it not that the manure heap blocked up the skyline.

At 4 a.m. the gaffer roused the workers: the girls got busy very soon preparing the breakfast. In this byre there were two compartments, so that the girls had a certain amount of privacy. One of these girls told me that in another byre across a few fields there was only one compartment, so that

**WHEN THE GIRLS CAME IN  
AFTER WORKING THROUGH THE  
WET SHAWNS THEY HAD NO  
PRIVACY TO CHANGE THEIR  
CLOTHES, AND HAD TO DRY  
THEM WHILE STANDING BEFORE  
THE FIRE.**

So our byre was more or less a swell affair by comparison!

At 4.30 work commenced in the field. In the hurry to get out, the task of attending two poor girls who were ill with influenza devolved on me. My God! 'twas terrible! Lying on the straw in a Scotch byre, those girls who would have had all the anxious attention of an anxious Irish mother or sister or both at home in Ireland! And how patient they were!

In the field at work peculiar hardship dogs the workers. Some big mass of brawn and bone is given 3d. or 6d. per day extra to make the pace hot. Off he goes, and the others toil and sweat to keep up with him, the gaffer dogging the unfit. "I'd pull the shaws with my teeth before I'd be left behind," I heard a woman worker say. By rushing it for three or four days the slave-driving gaffer succeeds in getting the week's orders filled, so work is knocked off for the other two days. I should like to know how much the gaffer benefits from thus saving a couple of days wages per worker to the employer.

This is a very brief survey of the working conditions. And yet the people who toil under them are those joke loving, lighted-hearted Irish peasants. They are wonderful. One can only wonder what human conditions of life would beget from such a people.

The rebellion would end upon September 31st. and be treated as usual. Twenty years after the first panegyric upon the first victim would be delivered by Mr. Lloyd George, first president of British Federal Soviet Republic, whom Lenin by some extraordinary method had persuaded the ill-advised and unhappy events of June, 1919, possessed some elements of nobility. Mr. George indeed suggested Lenin had not quite grasped the extraordinary devotion of the Irish people to an ideal, Commissary Macpherson interjecting, "Ah! Only we Celts can understand the Celts!" Having reached this stage of revelation my spirits hummed the "Red Flag" and departed, leaving the faintest suggestion of brimstone behind them. It is as well the public should know what they are in for.

EUSAPIA II.

**I.C.W.U.**

**Signal Victory in Printing, Stationery,  
and Allied Trades.**

The Printing, Stationery and Allied Trades Branch of the I.C.W.U. are to be congratulated on its success in the struggle with the magnates of the printing industry in Dublin.

In November last a demand for increased wages was made on Messrs. Hely's, Ltd., Dame St., by the Union. The firm refused to recognise the Union—the idea of clerks being trade unionists was repugnant to their feelings of propriety. However, a deputation from the Dublin Printing and Kindred Trades Alliance (of which this branch of the I.C.W.U. is a unit) in conjunction with the officers of the Union soon brought the firm to their senses. The Dublin Stationery, Bookselling and Allied Trades Federation was then formed by the masters to fight the clerks.

A request for a minimum scale of wages was quickly complied with by the Union. The employers in turn offered their terms, which were rejected by the Union members. In the meantime demands for increases of pay were served on Browne and Nolan's, Combridge's, Woods and Dawson's.

By an agreement of April 2nd, 1919, the fixing of a minimum wage for clerks and assistants in the Printing, Stationery, and Allied Trades was referred to arbitration.

The arbitrator, Sir Plunkett Barton, has just issued his award. In the main it is satisfactory—at least it forms a basis for the Union to work on. Male apprentices now start at 10s. per week, rising to 55s. per week after seven years. But why so long an apprenticeship? Surely, in a trade where prices are so often fixed by the publisher or manufacturer, and are marked on the goods, there is no need for seven years training. Then, is there to be no allowance made in the case of counting-house clerks, for the theoretical knowledge acquired at much time and expense in the training colleges? Apparently Sir P. Barton assumes boys start business at 14 or 15 years of age.

**RESULT IN BRIEF.**

**Junior Assistants and Clerks.**

**Males.**

Commence at 10s. per week, rising to 55s. per week at end of 7 years.

**Females.**

Commence at 12s. 6d. per week, rising to 35s. per week after 4 years.

**Senior Assistants and Clerks.**  
Arbitrator suggests further arbitration for senior positions—charge hands, cashiers, senior ledger clerks, estimate clerks, and positions that require special skill and training.

Award is retrospective from various dates.

The old distinction in pay between men and women is again made. Female assistants and clerks start at 12s. 6d. per week, rising to 35s. after 4 years. It is assumed girls begin business at about 18. Why do women not rise to 55s. per week? Have they a special facility for living on air? Women clerks usually do the same work as men clerks.

We are sure the I.C.W.U. will immediately adopt Sir P. Barton's suggestion for a further arbitration in regard to senior positions that require special skill and training.

The number of apprentices is not limited. The traffic in young labour in the printing and stationery trade has been notorious. The I.C.W.U. will want to see to this point.

The award is retrospective in Hely's and Combridge's from first pay day in January, 1919; in Browne and Nolan's, Wood's and Dawson's from first pay day in March, and in all other cases from first pay day in April.

Again congratulations to the I.C.W.U. The victory shows what solidarity and earnestness can do.

**LIBERTY HALL PLAYERS.**

The above players will visit the following towns: Drogheda, 6th June; Swords, 8th June; Rathfarnham, 16th and 17th June.

**AUTO MEN AND LIMERICK STRIKE.**

Members of the Irish Automobile Drivers' and Automobile Mechanics' Union are urged to hand in subscriptions, to branch secretaries, and the latter to forward all monies for the Limerick Strike Fund to Headquarters, 22 Dawson St., Dublin, as Union fund for this object is about to be closed.

IRISH OPINION



The VOICE OF LABOUR

Saturday SEVENTH JUNE, 1919.

:: ALL-IRELAND LABOUR WEEKLY. ::

# The Workers' Republic.

The great only appear great because we are on our knees;  
LET US RISE.

## "THE PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING."

The Appeal from the Hungarian Socialists, which we publish in another column, is a call for action to save the Workers' Republics now threatened by the whole united militarism of the capitalist Governments.

Will the cry of the Hungarian workers fall on deaf ear in Western Europe as did the cry of the Russian workers on the eve of Brest-Litovsk?

But it was only in Western Europe the cry of the Russians was in vain. In Central Europe it had a ready and a courageous response immediately. As the Hungarians remind the workers in the Entente countries, one million of workers in Germany, Austria and Hungary hurried to the rescue of their comrades in Russia and declared a general strike. The general strike, it is true, did not avert the peace of violence imposed by force upon Russia at Brest, and it was crushed by the armies of German Imperialism. But it had tremendous effect upon the immediate course of the war and it sounded the death-knell of imperialism and capitalism in Central Europe. More than any other single act it contributed to that interior weakening of the German machine which eventuated in the fall of the Central Empires, the conquest of their enemies by the Entente Powers, and the establishment of Republics in Germany, Austria and Hungary.

On behalf of the Workers' Republics of Russia and Hungary, the Hungarians now call for similar action on the part of the workers in the Entente nations. They ask for deeds, not words. Votes in Parliaments are useless, they say; resolutions presented to the Governments are useless; meetings and demonstrations are useless. These things do not count with the Governments. They are like President Wilson's speeches, all point and no practice. What the Hungarians ask for and the situation demands is action. If there is not action, better nothing.

God knows there are plenty of reasons why action should be taken. Not all of them are supplied by either Russia or Hungary or Germany, many of them are supplied by the Entente itself. The question of conscription, for instance, the employment of armies in industrial disputes; the condition of affairs in Ireland, India and Egypt. In themselves these ought to be enough to stir the workers of the Entente to action on behalf of themselves as well as of the Workers' Republics. The failure of President Wilson; the imposition of a peace that is infinitely worse than any that has ever been heard of in history; the terrible blockade that is killing women and children by tens of thousands; the general offensive on a big scale against the Russian Soviet; the direct and deliberate encouragement of the most brutal imperialism in Poland; the incitement of the newly-erected Czecho-Slovak State and the Roumanians against the most peaceful and most bloodless revolution Europe has ever known, these are enough to arouse the whole working-class in Western Europe if there is any manhood left in its leaders.

Here and there are signs that the workers in some of the Entente countries are beginning to realise their responsibilities.

In Italy the secretary of the Socialist Party, Lazzari, has proposed a Franco-British-Italian Socialist Congress, to take common action upon the peace which the diplomats have devised to strangle all liberty and all humanity. The splendid uncompromising attitude of the Italian Party throughout the war is a sufficient guarantee that Lazzari and

his friends mean business, even if he did not ask for the exclusion of the British Labour Party owing to its weak attitude and vacillation.

The French, too, are beginning to throw off their shackles, as their May Day demonstration proved. They have followed up May Day by a great national movement against the peace terms. The O.G.T. is not confining its protest to a mere declaration against the injustice of the peace terms; it is demanding joint action by the industrial organisations in France, Italy and Great Britain. The French Socialist Party is taking vigorous measures, both inside and outside the Chamber. But better and more hopeful than all these is the revolt of the French Fleet against orders to fight the Russians. The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet hoisted the Red Flag and extracted from their commanders a guarantee that they would neither be asked to fight against their Russian comrades nor punished for mutiny.

But by far the most satisfactory position taken up is that of the workers of Norway. The Norwegian Trades Unions and Socialist Body have withdrawn all transport and all other facilities from the forces which are operating against the Bolsheviks. That's the stuff to give 'em.

What is happening in Great Britain? After all, it is upon the shoulders of British Labour lies the greatest responsibility. Their Government is the principal partner in the Entente; their Government is the great naval power of the anti-Bolshevik combination; their Government is the source of supply of munitions to all the armies operating against Russia, Germany and Hungary; their Government has come out of the war with the greatest territorial acquisition.

The Parliamentary Committee of the British Trade Union Congress has declared itself satisfied with Mr. Bonar Law's reply. They are easily satisfied. Bonar Law's reply is a curt refusal to turn from the path of conquest by military force upon which his Government has embarked. The Parliamentary Committee has therefore declined to call a special Trade Union Congress. Perhaps that is well, for the Congress is not likely to do anything heroic. What will the Triple Alliance do? In reality it is the Triple Alliance which has the making or breaking of the peace in its hands and the saving of the British as well as the European workers from the death-grip of militarism at home which the Churchill and the Lloyd Georges would impose upon them. The Triple Alliance has the power, and both it and the British Government know it has the power. The Triple Alliance has made loud profession of its internationalism, of its opposition to conscription, of its repudiation of its master's peace terms and of a score of other tyrannies. It has come to the testing time now. Will the Triple Alliance act or will it gracefully accept the present position and go on expressing its sympathy with those whom by its inaction it is helping to ground down into dust? The Italians have spoken, the French have spoken, and both of them will act. The British have spoken, but will they act?

Here in Ireland we are but a handful as compared with the British workers, but when action was demanded we acted and we won. When we act we shall win again, even if we have to wait for the full fruits of our acts.

Hungary waits. Russia waits. Germany waits. France and Italy are getting ready. Are the British getting ready, or are they only going to refer the question back to a later date and then do nothing?

### Resolutions for Congress.

Sunday, June 8, is the last day for sending forward resolutions for the Irish Trade Union Congress at Drogheda. All resolutions should be addressed to William O'Brien, Trades Hall, Dublin.

### Connolly's Birthday.

To-day, June 5, is the anniversary of the birth of the greatest man the working class in Ireland has ever brought forth. The occasion will be fittingly honoured by the great gathering which will be held to-night in the Mansion House. It will be honoured as we think Connolly himself would like it honoured, with a great feast of revolutionary Labour and Socialist song and music, and not too much oratory, the whole profits to go to the most worthy memorial that could be erected to the memory of the great educator of Irish Labour, a Connolly Memorial Workers' College, which will perpetuate his teaching and show the workers how to follow the road to freedom he marked out for them.

### New Titles for New Times.

The time has come, we think, when the local federations of Trade Unions now functioning as Trades Councils or as Trades and Labour Councils, should step boldly forward and mark their advancing progress by proclaiming themselves Workers' Councils. As they stand at present, the Councils are no longer under any real necessity to camouflage the once conflicting interests of the two classes of Unions, craft and non-craft, under their old double-barrelled titles. In the old days before sectional prejudices had begun to break down, there may have been some excuse for indicating distinctions in the very name of the Councils. But now when it no longer serves any real purpose, there is every reason for scrapping the verbal distinction. To-day all the Councils are local federations of Unions with a common and definite function, and in none of them that we know of is there any constitutional distinction between their craft and non-craft units, although in some old prejudices of one or the other may still reveal themselves on occasion.

### The Example of Congress.

In this connection it is useful to note the exact signification of the title of the National Organisation, the Trade Union Congress signifies the Trade Union or the annual congress of the Trade Unions, but, be it remarked, there is no distinction between Unions so far as Congress is concerned, except such as their varying numerical strength naturally and rightly demands. The term, Trade Union Congress, signifies the Trade Union or industrial function, just as the term Labour Party signifies the political function. As the function of the national organisation is dual, so also is that of the local federation. The Council is (or ought to be) the local industrial-political organ of Irish Labour. It is to be noted too that when people speak of Labour they mean, not an organisation in one body of the craft Unions nor of the non-craft Unions, but the mass of organised workers, the syndicated wage-earners, crafts and general workers combined in one whole, without any professional distinctions. This in its turn helps to rob the term Labour of its narrower interpretation, that of workers who are not craftsmen. Thus in the end the term, Trades and Labour Council, is found to be a misnomer if applied in its original signification, and the same holds good when the somewhat better but still unsatisfactory title becomes, as it does in some cases, Trades Council and Labour Party.

### A Call to the Councils.

This is actually the position in the movement now. Nearly everywhere the movement has outgrown old prejudices and narrow, retrograde interpretations, and elsewhere it is rapidly discarding them. In all the circumstances, then, we suggest that the Councils should abandon the old tyranny of words and blossom forth anew as Workers' Councils. The term is inclusive of both the craft and the non-craft Unions. It is inclusive too of all sections of workers engaged either in manual or mental occupations. It covers, therefore, all who are eligible for membership of the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress. It is as noble and honourable a title as Labour itself is, for what is nobler or more honourable than the name of worker? Its adoption has everything to recommend it, and there is no argument that can be opposed to it, for the reluctance to change of those who think a name is sanctified by age is not an argument. There will be difficulties in the way, there always are when vested interests of one kind or another are concerned. Let them be overcome. The older Councils may find some obstacles to an immediate change, the younger Councils can find none. The younger Councils and those general committees representative of all workers in a town or district should make the change immediately. The older bodies can do, and we see no reason why they should not, do it within a reasonable time.

### Sylvia Pankhurst in Limerick.

A correspondent who writes from

Limerick need not worry himself either about what the "People" says or the story certain enemies of Labour are circulating to the effect that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's political and social opinions and activities are the same as those of Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and "The Voice" has already said so. Sylvia is in the same camp as James Connolly or Jim Larkin; Christabel is in the same camp, as Havelock Wilson or James Sexton. Could we put it any plainer? This Limerick yarn is only another form of the campaign of calumny against which "The Voice" has repeatedly warned the workers. It is only one of many forms which the campaign is taking in Limerick and in other centres of militant Labour activity, and we should not have far to go to trace its source. Nobody, even in Ireland, has a cleaner or nobler record than Sylvia Pankhurst in England and Adela Pankhurst in Australia. Both of them have been uncompromising in their active opposition to the war, to conscription, to the dragooning of Ireland, to Entente intervention in Russia, to the blockade of Central Europe, and every manifestation of militarism and imperialism. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's paper, "The Workers' Dreadnought," is the best fighting friend Ireland and the Irish workers have abroad, and throughout the war it has taken special measures to tell the whole truth about Ireland. If our correspondent wants to certify this, let him see last week's "Workers' Dreadnought," with its articles on the Limerick Soviet and the women workers.

### More Slanders.

Another Garryowen correspondent is troubled over certain references to the present writer in a recent issue of the "Weekly Observer," of Newcastle West. We are too modest to take much notice of personal remarks that may from time to time be passed upon us, and our hide is too thick to pay much attention to slanders. But we can assure our correspondent that in the charges made against us by the "fearless champion of Ireland and friend of the workers" who hasn't the courage to give his name (like the "Irish politician" in the "Daily Mail," he doubtless fears summary execution!) there is no more truth than in the charge once made against us that we wanted to throw the children of Irish farmers for food to pigs and dogs! And we advise our correspondent not to tell the Executive Committee of the I.T. and G.W. Union that we have assumed "the dictatorship of the Union" (God help it!) as the anonymous scribe of the "Observer" says. The "Big Twelve" might sack us if they heard that, for the worst of it is, it isn't true!

### A Trap for Carlow.

There are more ways of killing a dog than by choking him with butter. In the North of Ireland we know a town in which everything belongs to the owners of the local factory. The town is the absolute property of the employers, and all the houses, all the lighting, all the public services are their private and personal possession. The workers are consequently at the absolute mercy of the bosses, and when a man leaves his job in the factory or gets the sack, he is evicted from his house. It is a pretty and a clean little town, but it is hell all the same. Something of the same kind is going to happen in Carlow if the workers of the town are fools enough to let Messrs. Shackleton and Sons carry out the little housing game they have proposed. The workers have won short hours through combination, and Messrs. Shackleton propose that, in their spare time they should build houses. Messrs. Shackleton will supply most of the money and of course draw the rents. When industrial trouble comes in Shackleton's flour mills the mill-owning landlords will be able to put the screw upon their worker-tenants. Messrs. Shackleton even say the L.G.B. will make them a grant for this purpose. Is this true? If it is, why cannot the Urban Council or the workers themselves get this grant for housing? At all events, the working men and women of Carlow are bigger fools than even their employers take them for if they don't see through Messrs. Shackleton's nice little trap.

### CITIZEN ARMY'S NAME

Used Without Authority.

We have received for publication a letter addressed by Commandant O'Neill, I.C.A., to John MacLean, in reference to a letter from Miss Delia Larkin, which was published in the "Worker" of Glasgow on May 24th. The essence of the letter is in this paragraph: ("A letter dated the 15th May appeared in the 'Worker' of May 24th from Delia Larkin to you, re Peter Larkin's imprisonment, in which Miss Larkin, speaking in the name of the committee in charge of public meeting, claims to have the Citizen Army behind them. Neither Miss Larkin nor her committee at the time of writing that letter had even asked us to help them, nor did they ask us until May 20th, and as we had no meeting till May 26th, she did not get any answer until then.")

### NA MIOSACHAIN GAEDHILGE.

Seo chugainn arist ar sean-chara "Guth na Bliadhna" ó Albainn agus faillte roimhe (Glaschu, Alasdair Mac Labhrainn is a mhic, 360 Sr. Earraghaidheal, Samhramh 1919, sgilling glán). Is bréagh, brioghmhar an t-ádhbhar agus an chaintas atá ag "A. M. E." ar an gceangal atá idir na Gaedhil ar an dá thaoibh de Shruith na Mhaoile ó anns na Sean Scotach anuas. B'fheidir nach mbeadh de chéad ag an da phobal theacht le chéile ag Druim-ceata acht mar sin féin badh cheart do na Gaedhil an iarracht do dheanamh. Ailt eile atá san uimhir seo: "Ar Dleas don Ghaidhilig," "Leabhraichean Ura Bardacht," "An Saoghal a ta ri-Teacht," "Dail Eireann

agus an Ghaedhilg" (ó Cú Uladh), "Greugach agus Ceilteach," "Imrich nan Gaidheal do Tir-ochain," etc. Má's maith linn "Guth na Bliadhna" is fear linn "An Branar," nith mach iongnadh os rud é gur Gaedhil Eireann atá in a bhun. Cúis athais is bróid do lucht leighte na Gaedhilge go bhfuil ag eirge go geal leis an miosachán úr, uasal seo (Muinntir an Bhranair, 19 Plás Eli, Ath Cliath, sgilling glán). In-uimhir na Bealtaine tá ailt no sgeálta ó Pharaic O Domhnallain, Séamus O hAodha, Feargus Pinnbheil, Seán O Conchubhair, Nioclás Tóibín agus daoine eile nach iad agus mar sin ní ghadh dúinn a radh gur fu níos mo na sgilling an t-ádhbhar leighte atá ann. Molannid go mór an roinn a dtugtar "Rudaí Reatha" uirre agus a bhfuil tracht innte ar an mBolsheveachas agus ar an Egipt agus go h-aithrid an leirmheas atá ag Máiread Ni Ghrada ar "L'Irlande dans la crise universelle." Má's feidir le muinntir an "Bhranair" leanmhaint ar an mbealach seo acht ailt níos fuide níos "documente" a thabhairt duinn beimid uilig an-bhuidheacht doibh.

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# Release the Twelve Men.

The fight with Capital for the release of the 12 I.W.W.'s in Australia is as unceasing as was their fearless propaganda for the O.B.U. Grant, King, Lynn, Larkin, to mention a few names of this band of uncompromising fighters of Capitalism, are still held in the filthy guard houses of private property. On this side of the world little is heard of the criminal action of the police, which was so vile that a Royal Commission sat to inquire into it. The Capitalist Press, up to now, has not divulged any news of Australia's famous "Frame up," and the class war prisoners. All reports to hand denote the failure of the Royal Commission to incriminate the police, not from want of evidence, be it stated, but from a desire to deny the vile nature of the "frame up."

The rank and file, however, are fully aware of the established innocence of the 12 men to the charges of sedition and seditious conspiracy laid against them. The Royal Commissioner refused to take any new evidence concerning the innocence or guilt of the men, and was only interested in white-washing the character of the police concerned in the case. Although some of the charges against the police were not proven, most of them undoubtedly were, and even the class-biased Commissioner remarked upon the mental agility of the witnesses and detectives.

"HE CHARACTERISED SOULLY (CHIEF CROWN WITNESS) AS AN UNSCRUPULOUS PERSON WHO WOULD NOT HESITATE TO STOOP TO PERJURY TO SERVE HIS OWN ENDS, BUT PRESENTED HIM WITH A HALO WHEN GIVING EVIDENCE FOR THE POLICE."

After denouncing the Crown witnesses as criminals and perjurers, and casting doubt upon the honesty and veracity of the detectives, the Royal Commissioner, Mr. Justice Street, blandly, and blindly too, marks his approval of criminals and liars by pronouncing the innocence of the police to the charges levelled against them.

This most remarkable Commission ended after ten weeks' session, the Commissioner taking that length of time to decide to white-wash the police, and his reputation has been decidedly soiled in the process. That is the end of the politicians attempt to free the 12 men.

The next, and I sincerely hope, successful attempt must be made by the rank and file on the industrial field. It must be made quickly, for the imprisoned men rely upon the strength of the Industrialists for whose cause they are being foully tortured.

WOBBLY.

## An Appeal from Australia.

[The following letter is the first communication to reach the "Voice of Labour" on the subject of the Australian persecutions of the advocates of the One Big Union. The postscript shows that the Australian Post Office is run in the interests of William Morris Hughes.—Ed.]

### INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

Headquarters: 192 Castlereigh, St., Sydney, Aus.

Fellow Workers,—Greeting. As you will see the old movement has started going again, but under a new name, "which means the same." As you are aware there is an Act of Parliament which makes the old name illegal, and we have not enough strength to fight them—the authorities—as yet. We have altered only in phraseology, but same substance. See the paper, "The Proletariat."

The 12 men are still in gaol. Can you do anything over there. Approach the Irish Transport Workers and the other fighting bodies, also Glasgow, and acquaint America, for we find it hard to get anything through. We must make the 12 men's release an international question. I will write a short history of events since the 12 men went to gaol.

After their conviction Sydney local tried to get a general strike going, but the Government was quick and passed an Illegal Associations Act, which put most of the militants into gaol and deported all who were not born here. Tom Barker is in Bandera, 849 Santiago De, Chili, S. America, c/o Alex. Rosenthal.

Some went to Liverpool, as you must be aware.

A few of the boys who were left here then formed a Release and Defence Committee, which worked for the release of the 12 men, but with little results, only a Royal Commission eventuating which probed the 12 men's innocence in the public eye, but did not release them.

We then captured an organisation named the I.L.P., which was running here, exploiting the old I.W.W. name, changed the name, moved into a good new hall, started a paper, and the .W.W. constitution and Preamble as you see it in the paper, "The Proletariat." All the boys are coming in again, and a good fight will soon be on. Big meetings are being held in Sydney Domain, and at street corners. Shorthand writers at every one guarded by police.

How long we shall last remains to be seen; I hope it will be till the men come back from the Bastilles of Capitalism. Conditions here are very bad, unemployment rife, and the soldiers returning are making it worse. The Trades Hall here is running a One Big Union with a revolutionary Preamble, but a political clause, and they are receiving plenty of abuse from the Capitalist Press and trade union officials. It is purely in its propaganda stage, but is likely to materialise into an organisation. What the result will be remains to be seen.

Hoping to hear from you soon.—Yours for Revolution,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

P.S.—I have scribbled this because I only have five minutes to write it. A fellow-worker just let me know he was going your way.—G.W.

### IRISH AUTOMOBILE DRIVERS' AND MECHANICS' UNION.

Heavy Lorry Drivers' Section.

The following agreement between the above Union and the Dublin Carriers' Association was duly completed on the 28th May, 1919:—

- AGREEMENT.
- (1) £3 (Three pounds) per Driver for a working week not exceeding 48 hours, made up as follows:—8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with one hour interval for dinner on five days of the week, Monday to Friday inclusive, and from 8 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. without a break on Saturdays.
- (2) 1/3 per hour overtime from stopping time until 10 p.m. Time and a quarter from 10 p.m. until starting time next morning, and double time for Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Increase to take effect from Monday, the 19th May, 1919. As the working conditions of the MOTOR DRIVERS ENGAGED ON COAL WORK are still under consideration the decision regarding the working hours will not apply to that class of Driver for the present.

LIAM SLATTERY, Acting General Secretary.

29th May, 1919.

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## SEX EQUALITY.

To the Editor "Voice of Labour." Dear Sir,—Your unnamed "contributor" in a letter published in current issue of your paper again raises the question of the women temporary clerks employed by the Department of Agriculture at fifteen shillings a week. Some time ago in notes published by him in your paper a demand was made that these women be dismissed and replaced by men with large families at a higher wage. The "Irish Citizen" challenged this view-point as unsound from a Labour as well as a feminist basis, and challenged also the taste of the attacker, who did not better his weak case by indiscriminate and irrelevant abuse of a personal kind. His answer is to repeat the offence in a still grosser form and to accuse the "Irish Citizen" of scabbing. I gladly take up the challenge, and would ask your contributor to give his reasons for accusing the paper, founded by Francis Sheehy Skeffington, of ever having advocated a policy hostile to the workers either during its late or present editor's time. We have always maintained the right of equal work for equal pay, and have held it to be economically unsound and ethically indefensible to advocate the displacing of one class of worker by another on grounds of sex, the number of dependants, the place of residence, the kind of clothes worn, or any such irrelevancy. Unmarried women, whether they live in Rathgar or elsewhere, have a perfect right to live: women's wages are (especially in Ireland) so uniformly low that fifteen shillings per week is to many not to be despised. Many have the choice between such low wages and complete dependence on their fathers or brothers. The only way to meet the case is to level up wages all round, and not to drive poorly-paid women entirely out of work. May I add that this was the policy always upheld also by the founder of your paper, James Connolly, whose feminism was founded upon justice and logic, and who would never have descended to cheap and vulgar abuse of women, nor would have allowed the columns of his paper to be used for such a purpose.

HANNA SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Editor, "Irish Citizen."

[Our contributor "unnamed" like the writer in the "Irish Citizen" will probably reply to Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington's letter. Meantime we are content to record our disagreement with much of the above communication.—Ed.]

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