

Labour's Aim: **The Re-conquest of Ireland The Right to Strike.**

**Kilkenny Demands Human Conditions—  
MacPhersons Housing Scheme Exposed—  
Speech by Cathal O'Shannon.**

In few parts of the country is the Transport Union more vigorous and more successful than in Kilkenny City and county. It is difficult to realise that all this progress has been won within a year.

There was a fitting celebration on July 6 at Now Market, Kilkenny City, over which Dan Branniff, organiser, presided. The following report of the proceedings is taken from the columns of the "Kilkenny People," and is re-published here by special request:

**COWHOUSE AS SICK ROOM.**

Mr. L. Walsh, Dunmore, proposed a resolution demanding that the duly appointed sanitary officers should at once inspect the lodging accommodation at present provided by the farmers of this county, "as it is a well-known fact that the present system is abominable, inasmuch as these employees are at present housed over cattle, horses and pigs." Continuing, Mr. Walsh referred to cases that came under his notice, in one of WHICH HE FOUND A YOUNG AGRICULTURAL LABOURER, SUFFERING FROM PNEUMONIA, LYING AT THE END OF A COWHOUSE WITH NO COVERING EXCEPT TWO WINNOWER SHEETS.

With some farmers, he continued, any treatment was good enough for the working man. He proposed that they call on the Agricultural Wages Board at once to appoint an inspector to see that "those men, at present so shamefully treated, were provided with decent sleeping apartments."

Mr. P. Ryan, D.C., Thomastown, seconded, and Mr. J. Kenny, Castlecomer, supported the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Cathal O'Shannon, Editor of "The Voice of Labour," and one of the Irish delegates to the International Labour Conference recently held at Berne, Switzerland, then addressed the meeting. One of the great events in Irish history, he said, was connected with the city and county of Kilkenny. He referred to the Confederation of Kilkenny, the first National Parliament in Europe that established a democratic government (hear, hear).

Between that Parliament and the Irish labour movement there was a connection which he hoped to show in the course of his address. The real issue, the real root of the trouble in Ireland now, both politically and industrially, was in the history of the Irish people.

**OUR OWN LAND SYSTEM.**

There were thousands of people in Ireland to-day who did not work a hand's turn from one end of the week to the other. "They are better clothed, better housed and better fed than you are, but they do not lose any sweat, and they do not labour at all; they live on what are called dividends, interests, and profits."

Hundreds of years ago, when the Irish people ruled themselves, they had a civilisation of their own, they had a language of their own, they had a literature of their own, they had institutions of their own, but before and above everything else that distinguished them from every other people in Europe, they had a land system of their own.

The Irish system of owning land was different, he said, from the English system, and he traced the history of the confiscations of large tracts of land in the country from the time of the Normans down to the days of the Land League.

The Land League carried on the fight for many years, said the speaker, and I am going to ask you who won the fight for the farmers of Ireland?

The tradesmen and labourers in the towns and the labourers on the farms did most of the fighting, the farmers did most of the grousing and most of the talking (laughter).

What did the farmers do for the labourers? Did they house you any better than you had been housed under landlordism? If they bought out their farms, how much of their farms did they give you?

**THE LESSON LEARNED.**

We have learned a lesson or two within the last ten years or so. We know what we want and we know what we get. You did your fighting, and we fought with you in the old days to bring the land of Ireland back to the people of Ireland, and now we find that it is in the hands of little more than a handful of the people of Ireland.

Now, the next time that you ask your farmer to give you better wages or better conditions or better houses, I advise you to go to your chapel on Sunday morning and get a copy of a little pamphlet called

**"THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL ON THE CONDITIONS OF LABOUR,"**

and ask your P.P. or your curate to explain it for you.

When you are hired to a farmer, how much does the farmer pay for you? When he goes to the fair to buy a horse he pays £60 or £80 for it, and because he pays £60 or £80, he feeds it well, clothes it well, houses it well, and takes good care of it. He sees that it is not overworked or ill-treated and that it gets its grub when needed.

Does the farmer ever look after you, or see if you have a good suit of clothes on your back?

**THE FOAL AND THE CHILD.**

If the old mare has foaled, doesn't the farmer look after the foal and see that it gets a fair chance of growing into a horse, useful to the farmer; but when a little boy or girl is born in your hovel, does the farmer come along to see how it is doing? He does not even ask if it was christened.

No, the horse, or the cow—aye, or the dog itself, is reckoned as more valuable than the labourer. It is just the same with the workers in the town—tradesmen and labourers.

The machinery in the factory is not more valuable, but it is more highly prized by the employer than his workman is. The time for that kind of thing is past.

They had their Land League; well, we are having our Labour League (cheers), and if the Land League made history in Ireland, I can assure the farmers and the employers that more and better history is going to be made by the Labour League (cheers).

After all the sacrifices the labourers have made, the farmers do not even give them the miserable wage that the British Government lays down. Are there any men in this crowd who had to go to their unions to get them to tell the farmers they would be prosecuted if they did not give the wages fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board? (A Voice—"Hundreds of them.")

**THE PARALLEL.**

To-day we are only asking a little thing. If the farm labourer in England and Scotland, which are not agricultural countries at all, but mainly industrial countries, can get two pounds a week, why should not he get it in Ireland?

I am not denying that in days gone by the farmer had a hard struggle to make ends meet, but he has done pretty well during the war, and it is we, workers in the town, who know it. The farmer sold his potatoes and his stock to the British Government during the war, and got a pretty good price for them.

This great new movement of the workers of the town and country is setting before itself one thing and one thing only; that is, the re-conquest of Ireland, and every acre of Irish land, for the whole people of Ireland (cheers).

**RUSSIAN PEOPLE HAVE THEIR LAND.**

There is one country that has wakened up rather suddenly, and that is Russia. The workers were crushed and broken in Russia—more crushed and more broken than you were—and one fine morning they woke up and swept their Government away and took the land for themselves. The British Government calls

**Industrial Peace Only Possible.  
When Workers Own the Means of Life.**

"Come let us reason together," says the "Freeman's Journal," which, in the service of the Irish capitalist, is endeavouring to revive the schemes of arbitration which were on the eve of success before Mr. Murphy and the Dublin United Tramway Company declared war on the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in 1913.

The plan projected then would not have been accepted by the workers, for the employers insisted that all disputes and claims must come before the Arbitration Board before any stoppage of work took place. Short of that the representatives of organised labour were ready to accept any reasonable system of securing peaceful settlement of all claims.

**Jim Larkin's Efforts.**

It is worthy of note, in view of false statements in circulation, that Jim Larkin was a member of the committee which prepared these plans under the chairmanship of Dr. Lorcan Sherlock, then Lord Mayor.

None knew better than Jim the awful price which the working class must pay to maintain its rights, and no one was readier than he to secure better conditions without strikes.

There are no cases on record in which he declared ruthless war without an attempt at negotiation.

As in the Tramways Strike, when Murphy rejected all arbitration, so in all other cases, it was the employers who refused to meet and bargain.

**Employers' Social Sabotage.**

In an interview, Thomas Johnson, treasurer, Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, has expressed the views on which Larkin acted in 1913 and which are still the views of Irish Labour.

I agree, said Johnson, that within well defined limits something is to be said for a Conciliation Board. Sometimes disputes occur over small differences which could be avoided, and if there were a panel of six men or women, three trades unionists and three employers, available, two of whom could be called upon to act as the Lord Mayor has so often acted with success, stoppages might sometimes be averted.

But I want it to be laid down as fundamental that no mere revision of rates or adjustment of working conditions, such as a Conciliation Board, would undertake, which assumes the permanence of the respective positions of employers and employed could be satisfactory.

**The workers' claim is for an ever-increasing proportion of the produce of their labour. This implies an ever-decreasing proportion for profit, interest, and rent.**

A recognition by the workers of Conciliation Boards as a permanent institution to deal with all possible causes of dispute would be an acceptance of the present social order, which involves the subordination of human rights to property rights.

Further, I protest against the assumption through this discussion that strikes are necessary evil. On the contrary I contend that the strike is an assertion of man's desire for freedom.

Strikes are an expression, often unconscious, of the determination of the workers not to acquiesce in the claim that capital is the owner of humanity.

Again a strike is not on a parity with a lock-out. A strike is a refusal of men to use their intellect and strength for the service and profit of an employer.

A lock-out, on the contrary, is a refusal by property owners to allow their property to be utilised in the service of the community. It is social sabotage. To withhold a machine from use is equivalent to the destruction of that machine from a wealth-producing aspect."

**The Sole Condition of Industrial Peace.**

By all means let us have machinery for the adjustment of any dispute capable of settlement by such means, but let us remember that Arbitration Boards and Industrial Councils are the part of the plans devised by the Reconstructors to wage the class-war.

There can be no peace between the employing class and the working class, so long as the social position and the income of employers arises from the enslavement of the workers.

Patched up peaces there can be while the combatants recruit their strength, but only when the workers take and hold the means of wealth production can there be lasting peace in the industrial world.

**Farmers,  
Excess Profits'**

**EXCESSIVE PRICES PAID FOR LAND.**

**SURE PROOF OF FARMERS' PROFITTEERING.**

**FARM WORKERS ARE WINNING.**

The farm workers revolt against wages that mean inhuman conditions of life for the men and their families continue, and the workers continue to win.

For the most part the Farmers' Union organisations are directed by the Ascendancy element. De Vere of Kildare is a case in point. He was lately an official of the Ministry of National Service. In that capacity he offered a supply of blackleg labour to the Co. Down farmers last year.

**FARMERS' FREEMASON LEADERS.**

Lieutenant-Colonel Loftus Bryan, the promoter of the All-Ireland Farmers' Union, boasts that although a leader of the Farmers he is a landlord still, a Protestant and a Freemason.

In two cases we regret to find that Catholic clergy are openly standing out against the demand of the workers for a living wage. The action of one of the Reverend gentlemen is so gross that before giving publicity to the matter, we are referring it to the Bishop concerned.

The other clergyman denounces the I.T. and G.W.U. as a Freemason gang! He is President of the local Farmers' Union, a "strong" farmer himself, and the county secretary of the Farmers' Union, of which he is President, is a Freemason!

Which reminds us that in 1913, when the seab organisation calling itself the Meath Labour Union attempted to invade Co. Dublin in competition with the I.T. and G.W.U. one of its speakers, a Farmer and J.P., alleged that Jim Larkin was a Continental Freemason.

We have shown in these pages that Freemasonry is the anti-labour organisation of International Capital. It is a great victory for Freemasonry that it has captured the Irish Catholic Farmers and their unions.

**CAN THE FARMERS PAY?**

The old stunt against trade unionism in Ireland is being worked in some quarters in connection with the farm disputes.

We are told that the excessive demands of the workers will make farming unprofitable. That some people are not afraid of labour troubles is proved by this paragraph from "Freeman's Journal" of 12th inst.

**Kildare Farm Sale.**—A farm at Woodlands, near Castledermott, containing about 110 Irish acres, annuity £80, was sold by Messrs. G. W. Warren and Co., Gorey, to Mr. Samuel H. Cope for £4,500.

Land Commissions, Parliamentary Committees and all the paraphernalia of Government decided that £80 was a fair charge upon the farm, and that sum includes repayment of loans and other charges in connection with land purchase.

The profit making possibilities of an £80 farm are so great that Mr. Samuel H. Cope is prepared to invest in it a capital which he expects to yield him an income of £270 a year.

When John E. Redmond sold his land at 25 years' purchase all Ireland was scandalised at the extortion. Mr. Cope in the midst of a labour war and world-wide social unrest, calmly pays 56½ years' purchase.

A 13-acre farm at Deerpark, the Poor Law valuation of which is £3 15s., has changed hands at £925 and fees.

These high prices paid for land are the best proof of the profits earned in farming.

**SYMPATHETIC LOCK-OUT IN KILDARE.**

The sympathetic strike was the cause of much denunciation of the workers and the I.T. and G.W.U.

The people who used to talk about the immorality of the sympathetic strike are strangely silent now that the Co. Kildare Farmers' Union, after refusing to deal with the Transport Union, has called a sympathetic lock-out all over the county.





## THE WORKERS AND THE DOMINION LEAGUE.

We have hitherto refrained from commenting either upon the Dominion League launched by Sir Horace Plunkett or upon the "Irish Statesman," which reflects in large measure the views of the supporters of the League.

That silence on our part was deliberate. We did not wish to rush into comment until we had more information on the social views and objects of the people who are now propagating the idea of some kind or other of Dominion status as a settlement of the relations between the British Government and the people of Ireland. We might, indeed, have taken many of the names of the Dominionists and have declared them as having designs against the right of the workers to rule in Ireland. But we are charitable enough to believe that in political history there are such things as sincere conversions. We hardly hoped for such conversions in the ranks of the Dominionists, but at least we were prepared to give them a chance to show they had been genuinely converted.

Sooner or later, we felt, and sooner rather than later, the fly in the amber will reveal itself if it is there.

We had not long to wait. We believe we have found the fly in the correspondence columns of the "Irish Statesman" for July 12. It is in a letter over the signature of a titled gentleman named French, whose nobility we believe is derived from the baronage of Ireland and dates, significantly enough, from the year 1798.

This letter is a contribution to the most interesting discussion the Press of these countries has been discussing for some months, the relations and connections between Ireland, England and America, and it is a valuable contribution. Much of what it says is common knowledge to our readers, but that, of course, is no reason why we should not repeat it.

"No Irishman," we are told, "will expect justice or fair play from any spontaneous wholesale awakening of the English conscience. It is, therefore, waste of time arguing with English people on the justice or injustice of the Irish cause. If it suits the powers that govern England they will suddenly discover that the Irish demand is just, and that the Orangeman is a reactionary standing in the path of progress. English sympathy is in the main anti-Irish, but self-interest and nothing else governs English policy in the long run."

Translated into still plainer English, that generous admission means two things. It means that when it suits England to desert the Orangemen England will desert them. And it means that when it suits the landed gentry who got their lands and their titles for service against the Irish people and have been maintained in Ireland by Orange workers, will lead the desertion. Republicans and Socialists have told the Orangemen again and again that both these things would happen. Well, the Orange workers believe them now when these things are happening under their very eyes, and a scion of the house of French is living evidence of them?

Our letter-writer goes on to say that England's greatness depends on her wealth. Her wealth results from her trade and her position as the money market of the world. In its turn her trade depends on the solvency of her customers, her supremacy in shipping and her geographical position in relation to Europe. But, we read, "The supremacy of Europe, as a Continent, in wealth and commerce is essential to the maintenance of England's predominant position, but as a result of the war this supremacy of Europe is most seriously threatened." James Connolly and Roger Casement once expressed views not unlike that, but Connolly and Casement were shot for carrying out the logical consequence of those views. Our Dominion Leaguer is just as logical but not quite so disinterested. He goes on to show us that Russia is bankrupt, Germany is exhausted, the new European states are ruined by war and depend for credit from England and America. Italy and France are on the verge of ruin.

Well, what then? Then—the very fly for which we waited for three weeks. "It is not sufficient to consider the economic collapse of Europe. There is also the appalling moral collapse, as exemplified in Russia. What is known as capitalist society is trembling in the balance, and if it falls may drag down with it civilisation in Europe as we have known it." "Civilisation as we have known it," think of that and tremble you little doffer in a Belfast mill, you happy mother in a Belfast slum; you dock labourer in Dublin; you farmer's slave in Antrim or Derry. Civilisation as you have known it may fall or be dragged down into oblivion. Think of it and weep.

We may yet be spared this great calamity.

"In all this welter of threatened moral and economic ruin who is to act as

banker, policeman and peacemaker?" Not, mind you, builder or instructor, but banker, policeman and peacemaker. Who but the League of Nations? Yes, "but only if each of the larger units, the Big Four, in fact, are working in complete harmony with each. Is it possible that England and America can work together while the Irish question remains unsettled? We think not, and England's course would seem plain in her own interests."

Therefore, says the Dominion Leaguer, settle Ireland at all costs, pacify Ireland; the Irish demand is just, and the Orangeman is a reactionary. Let us throw over the Orangemen who fought and bled for us at Derry, Enniskillen, Aughrim, the Boyne, and even Dolly's Brae. So Baron French and those like him, who owe everything they have to the exploited workers whom they always gulled are raving on the Union and Orangeism and turning for salvation to what saved the Empire in Canada and Australia, Dominion status of a sort.

Here is the proof out of the mouth of one of the deserters:—"While England's external relations should give anxious thought to those Englishmen who realise the facts, her internal affairs require an atmosphere free from passion, and if she is not to be ruined, very careful leadership. Grave dissatisfaction exists on every side, but the most ominous sign is the growing disbelief in the efficacy of the Parliamentary system. No well-informed man now regards the powers that govern England with respect and confidence, and the only fear inspired in the governed is the fear that the country will be ruined. There are other problems, too, besides that of the actual systems of government. The adjustments necessary to meet the lowered value of money will need to be drastic, and with the most careful handling there must still be large sections of the community suddenly reduced to poverty. The relations of labour and capital, the fact that the very unequal distribution of wealth renders it possible for those who have money to remove it to countries where taxes are less or prospects are better, are all considerations which should surely make Englishmen realise that to nurse further trouble in Ireland, with the inevitable reaction in America and the Colonies, where people refuse to be done with the blessed words "law and order," is sheer madness.

"At present the average Englishman refuses to realise these facts. He would say 'I have won the greatest war in history. I absolutely command the seas. If these Dagoes in Europe choose to starve or Bolshevise I am not going to worry too much about it. As for America let her wallop her own niggers, but I am not going to submit to dictation about my internal affairs, and Ireland is my private affair. America can go to blazes.'"

We emphasize one sentence and it is enough: "The relations of labour and capital." There you have the whole story. The workers are coming into their own. Russia and Hungary have shown the way. Germany and Austria are following. France and Italy are getting ready. Even England is awakening. Ireland is already awake, alert, expectant.

Hence the hurry of the Irish Unionist Alliance. Hence the attacks on Irish Labour from within and without. Hence the Irish Farmers' Union and the junction of the Mid-Ulster and Ulster Farmers' Unions with the Farmers' Unions in Wexford, Kildare, Meath and Tipperary. Hence, too, we make bold to say, the conversion of the Frenches and their like to some sort of self-government and hence their place in the Irish Dominion League.

But—make no mistake, you Barons, Lords, Capitalists, Farmers, the labouring people will rule and govern and live or nobody will govern and rule here. The day of the Lord is at hand and the workers are His instrument.

### THE LAND IN RUSSIA.

A new, authorised translation of the Soviet Constitution of Russia has just been issued by the People's Russian Information Bureau, 162 Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4, price 3d.

The point of special interest to many will be the declaration that all land is national property and is handed over to the land workers on the basis of an equitable division, carrying with it the right of use only.

In Ireland that would mean the abolition of demesnes and the restriction of grazing, land for the labourer as well as the overbig farmer and the landlord.

C. C. (Charleville).—The hours should be fixed by the local branch and also overtime rates. The branch secretary will gladly give all information. Any disputed point should be referred to the district office, 8 Camden Quay, Cork.

North Wall.—Visitors arriving at North Wall can have breakfast from 7.30 a.m. at Liberty Cafe, 31 Eden Quay.

# The Workers' Republic.

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

### A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY.

The British Government's proclamation of the alleged dangerous organisations in the County of Tipperary is just the kind of thing that may be expected from a military and Imperialist Government dominating another people. Consider the organisations affected and the alleged causes of the ukase for their suppression. The Gaelic League is a purely educational body as innocent of revolutionary intention as the Workers' Educational Association in Great Britain. Sinn Fein is a political organisation as respectable and as peaceable as the Ulster Liberal Association. The Irish Volunteers are a military body as little inclined to indiscriminate blood letting as, say, the Territorials in England. It is true that several policemen have been shot in Tipperary within the last eight months. But neither Mr. Macpherson nor anybody else has brought forward any kind of evidence to show that a single one of these organisations has incited, assisted or carried out the killing of these policemen. The Tipperary stunt is as barren of evidence as was Mr. Shortt's German plot.

### MACPHERSON'S FRAME UP.

We accuse Mr. James Ian Macpherson, Chief Secretary to the British Government in Ireland, of deliberately framing up a false charge against the people of Tipperary. As soon as his statement was issued several of the most critical and most neutral public men of our acquaintance in our hearing came to the conclusion that on the very face of it the document published was a concoction. We have reason for believing they are quite right, and we challenge Macpherson to prove the contrary. We assert that until the day of its alleged discovery by the R.I.C. no such document was in existence. We assert that in no form whatsoever was such document published in any part of Tipperary until Mr. Macpherson gave it to the Press. We dare Mr. Macpherson to deny that the document is the composition of someone in the service of the British Crown. And further, we challenge him to deny that incriminating documents of this kind have been circulated in the interests of the Army of Occupation, and that this journal was prevented by the censorship from warning the public against documents of this nature emanating, we had evidence, to show, from police sources. Now, then, Mr. Macpherson here is a chance for you to distinguish yourself.

### THE TWELFTH OF JULY.

Sir Edward Carson's speech at the Orange demonstration outside Belfast on July 12th ought to satisfy the sweated mill-worker in Belfast, the shop slaves in the north-east, and the farm serf all over the province of Ulster. Beside Sir Edward's stirring call to battle, what are a six-shilling rise in coal, increasing rents, and unsatisfactory housing? Compared with Ballymenock's demand for reconstruction that will unite capital and labour, what are the trade unions into which the workers of Ulster have been flocking in their tens of thousands. The fervid oratory of the Carsons, the Lynns, and the Moles will fill the empty bellies of Ulster's children, won't it? The beating of more and bigger Lambegs than ever were beaten before will reduce the cost of living, won't it? The fives of the Orange Order will raise the wages of Ulster workers to the level of the lawyers who orate on platforms, won't they? But if none of these things happen, surely Sir Edward's new declaration of war and new Provisional Government will bring comfort to the Ulster homes which have lost gallant sons in the continental war. Surely the new civil war will bring not only peace but plenty to the widows and the orphans, the discharged and demobilised soldiers, the out of work and the unemployable. If these things happen, Ulster will be happy, prosperous and contented. If they do not happen something else will happen, and that something will be the bursting into action of all the discontent and unrest which is slowly but surely and openly taking hold of the working masses in North-East Ulster as everywhere else.

### THE DUD PEACE.

Saturday, July 19th, has been declared Peace Day. But there is no peace. More than twenty wars are still in full blast in Europe, and war in its worst and most brutal forms still prevails in Ireland. Over and above all the war of the exploiter against the exploited, the employer against the employee, is entering upon new and more bitter phases. In some places in Ireland the Army of Occupation is to come out in force and in majesty to show its readiness to accomplish what the "Morning Post" calls the re-conquest of Ireland. Ireland will not celebrate Peace

Day, the workers will not celebrate Peace Day. Our day of celebration will come, but it is not yet. On Saturday we shall not be deceived, and neither shall we be despondent. For the Day of the Lord is at hand and its herald is coming out of the East.

### AN BRANAR.

Ta An Branar ag dul a bhfeabhas o mhi go mi. Seo chugainn anois uimhir an Mheithimh agus badh dhoiligh a sharu. An chead alt ann trachtas o lamh "Thorna" ar dheanamh agus ar adhbhar na h-aislinge do reir Eoghain, Ruaidh. Aistriú breagh o "Taube" ar sgeal as teanga na bhFinn; aiste ata roghaear ar longa aeir o Phadraic O Domhnallain; aiste thar barr ar imtinn leanbh o "Ghrugach an Tobair" agus Rudai Reatha or bhfu a leigheadh. Acht bfeair linn a thuilleamh ar chursai agus ar cheisteanna an lae indiu. Sin aon locht amhain ar an m"Brannar" agus ta suil againn go ndeanfaidh an lucht eagair e a bhaint de.

### IRISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

The following are the resolutions in the Political Section of the agenda for the Irish Trade Union Congress meeting in Drogheda from August 4 till August 7:—

#### Rights of Civil Servants.

37.—"That this twenty-fifth Annual Congress of the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress demands that civil rights and liberties should at once be accorded to Civil Servants, and that as a preliminary step thereto, the recent oath of allegiance—imposed on Civil Servants in contravention of their terms of contract—should be annulled forthwith, as such action constitutes a menace to individual liberty and to freedom of action as trades unionists."

—Enniskillen Trades and Labour Council.

38.—"That this Congress strongly condemns the regulations of the Board of National Education, which deprive National Teachers of the ordinary rights of citizenship, and on behalf of the organised workers of Ireland, we pledge our fullest support to the Teachers' Organisation in their determination, as decided upon at their last Congress, to disregard these rules in so far as they prevent teachers seeking election, and afterwards acting as Labour representatives on local councils."

—Irish National Teachers' Organisation.

39.—"That this Congress demands full Civil Rights for Civil Servants, in order that they may be in a position to take their rightful place in the framing of the policy of their country."

#### Association of Post Office Clerks. Revolution in Europe.

40.—The working class in Ireland renews its fraternal greetings to the workers of Russia; congratulates the Workers' Republics of both Russia and Hungary upon their successful resistance to the attack made upon them by International Capitalism; sends best wishes for the success of the workers' revolution in Germany and Austria; and condemning as an attack upon the workers the intervention of the Allied and Associated Powers in Russia and Hungary, calls upon the Labour and Socialist Parties in the Entente countries to take action at once to save these Workers' Republics, and declares its readiness to give such help as is in its power to make this international action effective.

#### National Executive. Military Occupation of Ireland.

41.—"That this Congress formally enters its protest against the continued occupation of this country by the military forces of the British Empire despite the clearly expressed will of the Irish people. We call upon the workers of England, Scotland, and Wales to use all the forces at their command to compel their Government to withdraw the Army of Occupation from Ireland immediately."

#### National Executive. Peace Treaty and League of Nations.

42.—"That this Congress condemns and repudiates the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Peace Treaties drawn up at Paris as being a breach of the principles of democracy and self-determination and opposed to the accepted policy of the Labour Movement expressed nationally and internationally, a perpetuation under a new form of an alliance of one group of States, and an instrument designed for the more thorough exploitation of the working class, the more effective suppression of all liberties, political, social and national, the imposition of a peace of violence and therefore of injustice upon peoples outside the Entente, and the continued oppression of subject peoples under the Entente, particularly Ireland, India, and Egypt; and Congress pledges the Labour Movement in Ireland to help to resist the carrying into effect of the Paris Covenant and Treaties, and to assist the workers and peoples of all countries to realise their aspirations for political and social freedom through an international league of the working-class of all countries."

#### National Executive. I.C.A. PIPERS' BAND.

The drawing of prizes which was to have taken place on July 4th has been postponed till August 26th, winning numbers to be published August 30th in "Voice." Holders of tickets are requested to return blocks, monies, and unsold tickets not later than August 20th. All unreturned tickets will be published.—Prionnsias Ua Robbin, hon. sec.



**LABOUR'S AIM.**  
The Reconquest of Ireland.  
(From Front Page.)

them Bolsheviks and all kinds of names, but the fact remains that they have taken possession of the land, and we, who are known to history long before they were, are still getting a miserable twenty-five or thirty shillings a week.

You, the workers in the towns, haven't got your rents increased during the war, but your rents will be raised. Mr. Macpherson—we all know he is a very truthful man and that he never told an untruth in his life (laughter)—is coming forward with a new housing scheme. The houses will cost £500 or £600 each to build, but he is going to give you the money (laughter).

**THE GIFT OF THE GREEKS.**

The Government is going to pay half the rent, but we have worked the whole thing out, and what does it come to? For the houses they are going to build they will charge a rent of 10s. or 12s. a week. You will be very happy when you pay ten or twelve shillings rent out of thirty shillings—won't you (laughter).

And five or six of those ten shillings are going to go, not to the plumber or mason or carpenter who helped to build the house, but to the people who put their money in the Victory Loan; so that when the farmer goes to the bank with his money, instead of giving a little more to you, the Bank takes it off to Bonar Law for the Victory Loan. The Victory Loan hands some of it back to Mr. Macpherson to build houses for you at ten shillings a week (laughter).

**THEY CALL THIS "POOR IRELAND."**

It takes fifteen millions to run the whole government of Ireland, but the taxes levied off the people of Ireland are about thirty millions. Where do the other fifteen millions go? John Bull and British capitalism gobble it up.

This is exactly the position in which the labour movement in Ireland stands.

The people of Ireland want their political freedom. We, in the labour movement, say "Very good, but we also want the freedom of the Irish workers."

We want to be free from the British Empire, and we want to be free from poverty as well.

We want to be free from the Crown of Great Britain, but we want to be free from rotten housing as well.

We want to be free from Lloyd George, but we also want to be free from debt in the shops.

We want the freedom of the Irish working class.

**THE THREE ARMIES.**

There are many roads to freedom, and there are two or three armies fighting for freedom. As I look at it the position is this—One army goes forward with rifles on its shoulders, another army goes forward using its brains and its eloquence, and the other army goes forward using the strength of its right arm and its body. That is our army. We are all battalions of the army of freedom.

Labour is there and we say that some day freedom will be won, but our battle won't be over. We shall fight on until we have won back all the land and all the wealth of Ireland for the Irish people (cheers).

Twopence no longer looked down upon three-halfpence, and it did not matter whether the worker wore a stiff collar and shirt-front, or whether he wore a shirt at all or not (laughter). They were all workers, and they belonged to the one working class and they were uniting together. In his own Union they had a good combination of them; they had a chain from the man who sowed the seed on the farm to the waiter who served it up in the hotel.

They were all links in that big chain which would once and for all shackle British Imperialism and Irish capitalism, whether it was farmers' capitalism or individual capitalism (cheers).

**THERE WAS A BIG FIGHT COMING.**

The working people wanted to save the harvest of Ireland, they wanted plenty of food in Ireland, they wanted every acre of Irish land to be tilled; they did not want to see the land of Ireland given over to the bullocks; and the bullocks going over to fatten John Bull (laughter and cheers). They wanted Irishmen and women to live on the land in comfort and happiness.

We used to be taunted in the old days about emigration. One of the causes of emigration was bad wages and people left to earn more money. If the farmers wanted to save the harvest, then he asked them in God's name to give the harvester a decent wage and a decent house, and not to have a minimum wage laid down by the British Government. They need not go to Lloyd George or Bonar Law for an eight-hour day and a living wage; they could get it at home in Ireland.

**FARMERS' EXCESS PROFITS.**  
(From Front Page.)

"Many are called," said the wit, "but few get up."

The farmers of Kildare are not willing to sacrifice their crops to indulge the anti-Union spleen of Vere de Vere. Comparatively few have issued lock-out notices.

To them we commend the study of Father Lambert Kane's pamphlets, **The Hunger Blockade in Meath.**

In Meath the strikers are enforcing their will rigidly and unrelentingly. No cattle can be trucked without union permits which are issued only to employers of union labour.

Shopkeepers find their unionised employees will only serve untainted customers. Farmers whose employees are on strike are begging them to intercede for permits to buy bread and groceries.

Illicit traffic in foodstuffs is rigorously prevented. The tale about the airplane bread delivery is generally discredited.

The hold up of cattle driving and shipping has the farmers of Meath in a vice. There is an all-the-year-round business, and the Union is out to force recognition and the full pound of flesh.

The Allies have taught us the power of the Blockade.

**DEPRESSING THE IRISH STANDARD OF LIFE.**

The Irish correspondent of the "Co-operative News" is championing the claims of the Belfast employees of the U.C.B.S. Incidentally he reveals the exploitation of the Irish worker, as consumer, in a worse degree than is experienced by the Clydeside worker.

Here are comparative prices:

	Belfast.	Glasgow.
Coal, per cwt.	3s. 0d.	2s. 2d.
Flour, per stone	2s. 8d.	2s. 6d.
Meat, per lb.	2s. 0d.	1s. 10d.
Butter, per lb.	2s. 8d.	2s. 6d.

These are essential articles, the cost of which is a big factor in the spending of the workers' earnings. The petty luxuries, such as tobacco and cigarettes are dearer in Ireland.

Travelling is cheaper in Glasgow, the local half-penny fare being equal to the Belfast 1½d. fare.

Dublin prices are even higher than those of Belfast. It would seem to be the rule that the lower the wages, the higher the prices charged for the necessities of life.

**G.A.A. MUST ACT.**

We are informed that George McCann, the famous Kildare G.A.A. man, is working at Connolly's, Castletown, and is serving ejection orders on men living in Connolly's cottages.

**NON-RECOGNISERS SURRENDER.**

County Meath Association of the Irish Farmers' Union have decided to receive representatives of your Union in conference." So says Mr. Secretary Austin in a letter to the I.T. and G.W.U. The meeting is to take place in the Y.M.S. Hall, Navan, on Friday at 12 noon.

**LORD MAYO TRIES BRIBERY.**

Naas, July 13.—This morning, through his stewards, Lord Mayo offered any wages to his strikers, even 40s., if they left the Union. This is not Union smashing; oh, no.

The farmers, whom he is ruining in his attempts to smash the I.T.U., in their interests, of course, only recently refused him (Mayo) permission to hunt over their lands because of his anti-Irish speeches in the House of Lords.

**THE DROGHEDA CONGRESS.**

In another column we print in full the political resolutions on the agenda for the Drogheda Congress. To say the least, they are of first-class importance, although some of them do not go as far as we would wish. They will, we hope, be carried, but only after adequate discussion. Indeed, to some extent, the adequate discussion of these resolutions is more important than the resolutions themselves. Take, for instance, the demand for full civil rights and liberties for civil servants, including teachers. Frankly, we must say that in the first instance the securing of these rights lies with the civil servants themselves. That much seems to be recognised by the teachers since they have decided to exercise their right to seek election to public elective bodies. But we wish they would make a fight for those of their fellows who have been or may be penalised for exercising civil rights. The Enniskillen Trades and Labour Council is, we are sure, prepared to support the civil servants in their opposition to the imposition of the oath of allegiance, but what are the civil servants' organisations themselves doing to fight against the victimisation of men and women who have refused to take the oath? We might go on to ask the Post Office Unions how far their support of Congress is conditional, but all these matters can be threshed out at Drogheda. In some respects, too, we should like to see the National Executive's motions on the European Revolutions, the Military Occupation of Ireland, and the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations strengthened, but we suppose amendments can safely be left to the affiliated organisations.

**THE NEW MORALITY.**

A woman stated in the Shoreditch County Court that she "married a soldier for the duration of the war."

**The Trades Council Scandal.**

**FACTS THEY WON'T FACE.**

**Poor Law Humbug.**

The story of Dublin Trades Council's dishonour has roused great indignation among the rank and file, who are asking in Lloyd George's words "Why did nobody tell me?"

The facts cannot be camouflaged. There is much talk about an attempt to drive Tommy Lawlor out of public life and to deprive his wife and children of food and shelter.

What arrant nonsense! Mr. Lawlor is a member of Dublin Poor Law Guardians and of Richmond Asylum Board, both honorary posts to which no emolument or money payment is attached.

These jobs cannot be made a source of income—except by the practice of corruption.

To ask a man to resign these positions, to put into practice the democratic policy of "recalling" a representative, involves him in no loss, IF HIS COURSE HAS BEEN STRAIGHT.

We publish this week a letter from Frank Closskey, of the Dublin Operative Butchers' Union, which illuminates some of the confusion deliberately raised by those people in the Dublin Labour movement who plead there are no facts when they should frankly confess they don't want facts, and won't face facts.

**About the Lawlor Testimonial.**

It is an undisputed fact that a gang of publicans and Poor Law officials promoted a testimonial to Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G. They printed a circular asking for subscriptions. (We have printed the full text of that circular in the "Voice" in the issues of May 31 and June 28.)

Mr. Lawlor promised to stop the testimonial.

Mr. Lawlor admitted to the Trades Council Executive at its meeting on April 24 that

his wife had received a sum of money

without his knowledge or consent.

At the Trades Council meeting of May 19, the line of defence taken by Mr. Lawlor's supporters was that the money subscribed for Thomas Lawlor was paid to Mrs. Lawlor.

Does anyone who knows anything of ordinary family life in Dublin pretend that a gift to the wife, especially a very substantial gift in cash, is not equally a gift to the husband??

There can be no dispute about the facts. The case for demanding Lawlor's resignation from public boards is based on his own admissions.

How clear the case is, is plain from Thomas McPartlin's letter resigning from membership of the Richmond Asylum Board. The rump of corruptionists recently gave Mr. McPartlin credit for being "no humbug."

**There is No Humbug**

about his letter of resignation. It is scathing and final in its effectiveness, and shows the impossible position of a Labour member when every effort he makes to improve the condition of public board employees is discounted by the suspicion that these employees have bribed the member to betray the working-class ratepayers who elected them.

That there is need for care is evident when we find the higher grades of Poor Law officials, the old-time enemies of labour, flocking into trade unions; and trade unions of these officials choosing a Poor Law Guardian hitherto unknown in the trade union movement as their paid secretary; and the trade union officials lobbying Guardians to keep jobs within the sacred circle, although unemployed members of their own union were among the candidates for vacant posts.

**THOMAS MACPARTLIN RESIGNS.**

**Sequel to Trades Council Vote.**

The following letter was read at Dublin Trades Council meeting on 13th inst.:-

To the Secretary, Dublin Trades Council. Dear Sir,—Having read report of the Council meeting of the 16th, at which the vote to accept the resignation of the Executive was carried by 46 votes to 35, I desire to say that, in my opinion, the real issue was obscured, and the vote only records the personal likes and dislikes and petty jealousies of the delegates. But the outside public will interpret the vote as an approval of the Trades Council of the system of Bribery of Public Representatives of Labour, and will, therefore, prevent any Labour man from advocating the cause of the workers on any Public Board to which the workers sent him. I therefore tender my resignation of the Richmond Asylum Board, to which I have been elected by the Council for a number of years.

**THOMAS MACPARTLIN,**

Delegate of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.

**TRANSPORT UNION NOTES.**

**Flour Mills (Official).**

A demand has been made on the I.F.M. Association for a 12/- increase all round for men and 8/- for women and boys, retrospective from 1st inst., and a fortnight's holiday's annually. This applies to all Flour Mills (not Grist Mills) covered by J. B. Baillie's Awards and also the three Belfast mills.

**Saw Mills (Official).**

The particulars re rates, etc., asked in the recent circular must reach H.O. from Branch Secs. by Sunday, 20th inst., when a meeting of Trades Union representatives on the Industrial Council is being held at Liberty Hall, 12 o'clock.

**Castlecumber.**

Waller, the R.E. on the new railway, has flouted the Mayor and Aldermen of Kilkenny in refusing to abide by their Award (which was loyally accepted by the men) defining what constituted labourers' and what masons' work.

**Departmental Munificence.**

A break between the A.W.B. and the D.A.T.I. is possible! The latter always religiously observed the former's minimum rates—as far as their common forestry workers were concerned, but the rule does not, of course, apply to the Gills and O'Conors and the others in the cushy jobs. The Department has now sprung 2s. on the A.W.B. minimum for their forestry men in Dundrum, Ballygar and Kilrush centres with the sanction of the L.C. and H.M. Treasury.

**Ballinasloe.**

Secretary Donnellan, helped by a hand parade, brought off a whopping recruiting stunt in Kilmacneil where a section of 70 really alive members was set going and attached to the parent Branch, Freshford.

A refresher in the shape of a strike notice may be necessary for the grist and saw millers here who have been cogitating unduly over demands.

**Navan.**

Sir N. Everard has offered his employees at Randalstown a fixed 30s. wage and a percentage of nett profits to workers over 8 months in employment in proportion to wages, but Sir Nugent omits to mention the percentage. Is it 1/2 per cent or 90 per cent.?

**THE TAILORS' SOVIET.**

**Extension of Activities.**

The workers locked out by Messrs. Brady and Higgins, of Richmond street, having shut up the Boss, are now entrenched for themselves, and are prepared to accept any orders entrusted to them.

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**SIGNIFICANCE OF SINN FEIN.** Captain White's examination of the present position. The book that made P. S. O'Hegarty angry. 10/- per dozen; 1s. each; 1/2 post free.

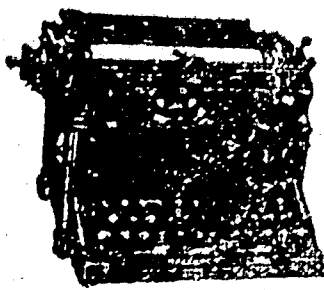
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# Transport Union Notes.

## DUBLIN DOINGS.

The Lord Mayor's decision has been issued in connection with the claim of the Cross-Channel dockers for retrospective payment of the award of the Court of Arbitration under the Conciliation Act. His Lordship's findings in the matter were submitted to a meeting of the men on Sunday, and a settlement has been effected.

## LET GLASGOW FLOURISH!

All the while this trouble was "in the air" anxious eyes in Glasgow were watching developments in the port situation, with a view to rendering all possible assistance to the men here in the event of a labour upheaval. To the Seafarers' Union, therefore, we have much pleasure in recording our highest appreciation for their promises of support should the strike have materialised.

By the way, the Secretary of the Seafarers' Union, Comrade Councillor Shinwell, is at present in "durance vile," owing to his activities on behalf of the working classes.

## THE AGE OF CHIVALRY

was reached when all hands decided to cease work in Messrs. Dickson, coal merchants, in sympathy with a girl clerk who was dismissed because she had the temerity to seek a slight increase in her salary. An all-allied attack of the various union forces, however, made the enemy sue for peace after a short and sharp set-to. Superior strength, of course, was sure to succeed, and the result is not without its moral.

## FIFTEEN-AND-A-HALF HOUR DAY.

Snatching a few moments from their tedious toil (hours are from 6 a.m. till 9.30 p.m.), the Assistant Teachers at the Artane Industrial Schools, who are members of this Union, held a meeting for the purpose of formulating a demand for better conditions. At present their conditions are simply appalling, both in the matter of wages and working hours. To remedy this a revised scale of pay and working week has been drawn up, and the claim has since been forwarded to the Revd. Superior.

The recently linked-up Carpet Planners have perfected plans for a forward movement, and their campaign for more cash will be launched with vigour forthwith.

## "MUSIC HATH CHARMS."

Negotiations proved abortive to bring about a settlement in the case of the employes engaged by the musical establishments in the city and, as a result, tuners, repairers, polishers, and van-men are now on strike. From what we can hear, it would appear that the workers are determined on making the firms "face the music."

## A MANSION HOUSE MESSAGE

to hand states that the proprietors are now willing to meet the Union as to the matters in dispute, and, accordingly, a conference, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, has been arranged to take place on Friday next. Meantime the strike continues.

## COME OFF THAT FENCE.

Still at their desks, and, presumably, still pushing their pens, the organised clerks in the affected depots are still pursuing the policy of "sitting on the fence." What a game!

## MORE LUCRE FOR LAMPLIGHTERS.

Lamplighters in the Port and Docks Board have been conceded the general increase of 6s. 6d. made to the labourers in the service of the Board.

## WATCHMAN! WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

A similar concession has been made in the case of the watchmen.

## ALDERMAN CORRIGAN,

Blanchardstown Mills, has refused arbitration. Isn't that a nice attitude for a City Father to adopt? We wonder what employers, generally, think of the adamant alderman, in view of the recent Press reports supporting the establishment of Arbitration and Conciliation Boards as a means towards satisfactorily solving industrial disputes?

## DOPING.

The Drugmen's demand for a 50s. week formed the subject of a conference at the Employers' Federation this week, and a meeting of the employees will be convened to discuss the result.

## "DISCRETION THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR."

Perhaps it was a "sixth sense" decision, but, be that as it may, the threatened trouble among the smiths' helpers at the Tramway Works, Inchicore, did not come off.

Because of the refusal of the foreman to give effect to the terms of Sir Plunkett Barton's award, the helpers had no other option but to hand in their notices. However, before the expiry of the notices, the foreman, exercising a little foresight, entered into a "solemn covenant" that the question in dispute would be adjusted immediately.

The Furniture Section has furnished the Employers' Association with a claim for improved rates for casual labour in the trade, and an increase in the allowance for country work.

Arising out of the claim of the potato porters, a negotiating committee of employes met representatives of the Union in order to discuss the points in the claim. The conference adjourned till this week, when the final touches will be given to the case. The weekly wage sought is £3 all round.

The Shell Marketing Company have introduced a 47-hour working week, and have also advanced the wages by 8s.

As announced by poster, the Building Trade Section held an important meeting, and a representative committee has been appointed, which will meet fortnightly, to deal with all matters affecting the interests of the men in the building industry.

## TEXTILE WORKERS' AWARD.

The following award has been given by the Court of Arbitration in the case of linen yarn, bleaching, and flax textile workers in Ireland:—Workers (male and female), 18 years of age and over, shall receive an advance of 2s. a week in all cases where the advances on pre-war wages did not amount otherwise to more than 23s. a week in the case of men and 13s. a week in the case of women. In cases in which the advances have exceeded 23s. a week in the case of men and 13s. a week in the case of women, such additional amounts will be paid as will bring the total of the advance to 25s. and 15s. respectively. Workers (male and female) under 18 years of age shall receive an advance of 1s. a week. Branches are requested to report at once any failure to bring this new scale into effect.

## I.T. & G.W.U.—BUILDING SECTION.

Recent events in this industry have convinced our members in this section of the necessity of taking a deeper interest in their own affairs.

A Sectional Committee has now been formed, which will look after the interests of our members engaged in this class of work.

The first meeting held in Liberty Hall produced a very lengthy and interesting discussion.

The perplexing detail of the practical questions that arise "on the job" made clear to the rank and file the need for capable and active shop stewards wherever a group of men is employed.

Only thus can organisation be kept always perfectly complete and every trouble be met by prompt action.

## DEMARCATON.

The committee notify all members that concrete panelling is in all cases to be stripped by carpenters, assisted by labourers.

Plastering work on floors to be done by labourers; no other plastering work to be done. "A flat roof is a floor."

All iron and steel work on ferro-concrete jobs to be done by labourers.

Mind your own business in the building trade, and see that every man on your job has a clear Union card.

## ARE YOUR PANTS UNION MADE?

The Tailors Section of Birr I.T. and G.W.U. is well organised. Only one boss has refused recognition, and as the local men are loyal to their class blacklegs have been imported from a neighbouring county.

Buyers of clothing in Birr should consult the local branch before making purchases.

## CASTLEBAR STRIKE.

Bakers are warned against accepting situations in Castlebar, even if the bosses advertise, as one did recently, for "Union men." The "Independent" has refused an advertisement to this effect.

## NUMBER ONE BRANCH. Coal Section Banner Fund.

We beg to acknowledge the undermentioned subscriptions received by the Committee of the Coal Section,

Dublin General S. S. Co., £2 8s. 6d.; Donnelly's, £1 5s.; Newman's Boatmen, 17s.; Tedcastle McCormack, per J. White, 6s.; Newman's, per Pat Byrne, £1 8s.; Heiton's Boatmen, £1; Wallace's Boatmen, £1; Nichols' Boatmen, 13s.; Wallace Bros' Drivers and Bankmen, £2 14s.; J. J. Carroll's Drivers and Bankmen, £1 2s.; W. W. Robinson's Boatmen, 5s.

## Cavan.

We are now convalescent after a severe attack of "immature strikitis." "Prodigals" are daily returning to the fold. The "Voice of Labour" will be heard on "next election day." Our "Big Brother," Cavan Workers' Council, is "progressing favourably." Clerical Workers and Shop Assistants are organising, and "Sleepy Hollow" looks like being in the occupation of the "O.B.U." before many moons.

## NOXIOUS HOUSE PLAN.

To the Editor of the "Voice." Sir,—I wish to bring under your readers' notice St. James's Walk Grand Canal Housing Site. (1) There are two-room cottages and they are practically useless, loss of space and money. (2) There are three-room cottages. The fact that demands are made on the kitchen floor space to provide for lavatory will not tend to that uplifting of the working man that our Corporators are so loud in proclaiming their interest in advocating.

## TRADE UNIONIST

Visitors to Dublin.—Breakfast, luncheon, and tea at popular prices, Liberty Cafe, 31 Eden Quay.

# Some Union Problems.

VIII.

## The Machinery of Revolution.

The word revolution conjures up to our minds visions of Easter Week on a large scale, with much more looting and general display of energy on the part of the bottom dog. As a matter of fact, the word only means a turn-over, a complete change, as of a wheel revolving which brings to the top what has been under.

This change may be accompanied by bloodshed, or it may be as peaceful in its way and as smilingly wholesome for all, as the turn-over the baker gives us. Everything depends on circumstances.

We want that revolution in our conditions very badly, and we want then to so fix the basis of things that we can't go back to the present, dog fight and call it life.

Most thinkers are agreed that the future belongs to organised labour, and if they're not agreed we can't help them. We mean to have that change. What are you doing to bring it about?

## Action Means Deeds not Words.

No use talking about drastic action and leaving it at that. The fight is not everything, even if successful.

After the revolution, water will still be wet, two and two will still make four, and even if you have flour you'll have to bake it to get bread.

We'll all have to work, and to prevent us continuing the fight among ourselves, our relations towards one another will have to be all defined—by ourselves, of course.

Poetry has its place, a noble place, in life, and hot air has its uses. But poetry and hot air don't build houses or feed the hungry. What's your programme?

## What are you doing now?

In this big Union of ours, there is an immense mass of good work to be done, and most of it is quiet work, not showy, but useful, not exciting but dull, perhaps, and heavy.

The books have to be written up, correspondence seen to, an interview here, a committee meeting there, an early call to picket a shop, a word of commonsense to be spoken where words of high-sounding defiance would please men better and fetch a cheer.

## The Union Power-House.

It is regrettable, but a fact, that nothing but steady plodding work will build up the Union; and unless that Union is built in finance and membership, you can't have your revolution, no matter how hard you blow about it.

To bring about the complete change we want, we must have power, power to meet and overcome the forces opposed to that change, and so it comes to pass that in every branch of the Union you have the machinery of revolution, to be worked and manipulated, by the hand more than by the tongue, by example rather than by precept.

The proper keeping of the branch books will be found to conduce immensely to revolution. The regular conduct of the Branch Committees, the steady perfecting of the internal organisation of the branch will be found to link up the members to their Union with bonds of confidence and goodwill that can't be got by any other means.

This is indeed a revolution. The workers believing in themselves and in one another.

Don't ask them to make an act of faith in you, show them the receipt.

Don't tell them what happened out of your head; produce the minutes.

"System based on the merit of the average man is the key to the future."

J. J. HUGHES.

## UNION THAT TRUSTS DELEGATES.

To the Editor of the "Voice."

Wednesday, July 2, 1919.

Dear Sir—Apart from your invitation in this week's "Voice" to the Trades Council delegates to explain their vote, I feel it necessary to correct some of the misstatements which appear. The statement that I voted in favour of testimonials I take to mean that I voted with the majority. The following are the facts: At the Trades Council meeting of May 19th I voted with the minority. I informed my committee and they expressed their approval of my action.

In response to the appeal sent out by the Executive asking for the considered opinion of the rank and file my committee called a special general meeting at which a resolution was passed to the effect:—

"That while we condemn the system of testimonials we feel sufficient proof has not been shown against T. Lawlor; and we strongly condemn the action of the Executive in appealing over the heads of the delegates and instruct our delegates to vote in favour of the acceptance of the resignation of the Executive."

As regards the statement that the new Executive represents only the old narrow craft unions and still narrower and more completely obsolete local sectional unions, a little reflection will show this to be also incorrect.—Yours sincerely,

FRANK CLUSKEY,  
Operative Butchers' Union.

P.S.—In error my name appears as M. McCloskey in list of new Executive.

IN HOT WEATHER a shampoo cools and refreshes and guards against the treacherous summer colds. MALLON, 30 Eden Quay, Dublin.

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