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Suppressed 1915.

WORKERS' REPUBLIC. Suppressed Easter, 1916, Edited by CATHALO'SHANNON.

NEW SERIES. No. 95.

Enlarged to 7

SEPTEMBER 13, 1919.

ISIX PAGES.

ONE PENNY:

The First Hundred Thousand.

Transport Union's Marvellous Growth in Every Industry and in Every Sphere.

We publish this week the results of the we publish this week the results of the census of membership taken by the I.T. & G.W.U for 30th June, 1919. The figures will afford much food for thought to members of the Union and all outside its ranks who take an interest in the problem of Labour organisation, whether from the viewpoint of friend or fee.

If unity is strength, then this combines

If unity is strength, then this combination of 110,000 workers, organised as vorkers, without distinction as to occupation represents strength of a degree and of a kind hitherto unknown in the annals of Irish Labour.

The O.B.U. is in the making, and with this combination, since swollen by many thousands, we can fairly claim that the foundation at least has been laid.

It remains for the spirit and intelligence of all concerned to make the super-

structure worthy of the foundation, and to see that the internal organisation is in keeping with the splendour of its outward

A few points of note are:—
That the membership of the food section exceeds the number of those engaged in industries by more than two to one, the number engaged in transport by more than three to one, the number engaged in public services of various kinds by eleven to one.

That the I.T. & G.W.U. is easily the premier Union for farm labourers, who completely outnumber the membership of every other occupation. If we add

of every other occupation. If we add to their total of 40,000 a certain number of casual labourers and road-workers. the total will not be far short of 50,000, which figure has in fact been exceeded

since the census was taken.
That mere size is not everything.
Some of the smaller sections, such as drovers, occupy key positions, and their value to the Union is much in excess of the weight of their numbers.

That the value to the older estab. lished Unions, mostly catering for town workers, of the increased organisation of labourers in rural areas, can hardly be overestimated. If organisation proceeds at this pace the supplies of free labour will be seriously endangered.

That the Union is like a tree whose roots are so widespread and grip every variety of soil that it cannot be uprooted by force or outward attack.

That the O.B.U. is ceasing to be an academic theory and is fast becoming a

The growth of the Union in mere numbers alone would require a readjustment of outlook on the part of all its members. But the growth is also a reaching out towards the real Industrial Union and members, new and old, if they are to master the machine they are creating must study the theory on which it has been built.

A large part of the membership is drawn from local trade unions in the towns, and from defunct Land and Lab. our organisations in the country. These members have in many instances carried over into the One Big Union the narrow vision of the craft union and the parochial outlook of the County Associa-

They have seen in the I.T & G.W.U. a more efficient instrument for raising wages, but they have not realised gonuine solidarity nor in their own branches and sections have they adapted their methods to fit in with the development of the Union.

Internal Rectification Needed.

One example from Dublin may be mentioned. In the leather industry there are separate sections for

Boot and Shoemakers and Repairers, Saddlers and Harness Makers. Driving Belt Makers, Portmanteau Makers.

Tanners and Curriers. In so far as the first four sections tend to over-lap on one another there should be a close correspondence, and perhaps in good time a complete identity in or-

Some of these sections belong to No. 1 Branch and others to No. 3 Branch. In the process of development such an trade, or how much scattered up and land-workers have been the first land-

CENSUS UNION MEMBERSHIP.

As at JUNE 30th, 1919.

	_				
Transport and Fue	I,		Tradesmen		1
Docks	***	8750	Casual labourers		. 7
Railways'	• • •	1308	Fuctory workers (unclassified)	·
Canals		462		,	
Seamen		30	Total,	•••	28
Carters, vanmen and porters	• • •	4413	•		
Tramways	•••	163	Food.		
Motor drivers		322	Agriculture (all classes)		40
Tractor drivers -	***	27	Gardening	Med 	2.0
Road workers	***	3169	Sandamon	***	
Turf		215	Creameries	***	. 2
Coal (including miners)	***	2427	Dairias	fe + 4	
Oil	10 0 d	134	Harrie		
Others	***	778	Drovers		
m . ı	•		For and moultant trade		
Total,	594.5	17198	Baoon factories	• • • • •	
			Butchers (beef and pork)	•••	
)			Bakeries (including bread		
Industries.	Þ	0050	drivers)		1
Building	***	3259	Corn undeflour mille and ctore	s	- 3
Brickyards	***	676	Graceries and wines	•••	Ĩ
Quarrymen	Ġ,	59	Margarine making		
Stonecutters	***	166	Jan making	•••	
Timber mills	4.4	2800	Hotels and restaurante	•••	2
Forestry and woods	•••	349	Breweries, distilleries and m	alt_	_
fronworks and foundries	***	1112	houses		. 2
Iron ore miners	•••	29	Mineral water works		1
Shipbuilding and engineering		2173	Sole montes	• • •	
Bottlemaking Textile mills	116	٠, ٨,٠	TODOOO WOUNDE		
Woollen mills	***	(/1.44	Chocolate and sweets		
Tuto footors	•••	802	Fishing	•,.	
Flax workers	***	46	Cold storage		
Dressmaking	•••	170	•		
Clothing factories		250	Total,	• • •	58
Lacomolrina	. * * *	25	• · ·		
Hogiarr monlea	•,• •	435	Miscellaneous.		
Glovemaking	•••.	36	CIOINS	•••	
Carpetmaking	•••	70	School teachers		•
Boot and shoemaking	•••	638	Shop assistants	• • •	1
Harnessmaking	***			• • •	
Skins, hides and wool	***				
Tanning	• • •			***	
Curled hair and feathers		93	Postmen Public hadian	• • •	-
Laundries	***	942	Public bodies	• • •	1
Starchmaking	•••	• 10	Cemetery workers	***	
Blue factory -		ñ	Undertakers and coffinmakers Theatres	• • •	
Candlemaking ·	•••	ğ	Distance houses	•••	
Papermaking	•••	178	Picture houses	••••	
Printing and stationery	•••		Piano, tuners Window cleaners	•••	,
Pipemaking	•••	100	Grooms	• • •	
Chemicals		344	Barbers	* * *	1
Manure works		1039	Others	•••	,
Chemicals and manures	•••	312	Ot R15	•••	
Lime works	•••	165	Total,		
Gas and electricity	114	$9\overline{43}$	Total,	•••	<u> 5</u> ;
Grand Total		14	110,7	752	•

110,752.

omalies are bound to occur, but they must not be made permanent or allowed to permeate the Union with the spirit of craft-unionism.

Organising by Industry.

A marked tendency is the establishment of industral councils. For example, each creamery in the South of Ireland is represented on the Creamery Workers' Council, which controls the labour in the co-operative creameries in Counties Lmerick, Cork, and Tipperary. Road-minders, the most numerous class of workers employed by county councils, are acting similarly. A roadmen's council for Co. Limerick was set up the other week. Co. Roscommon has been moving in the same direction.

Joint action in formulating claims is increasingly adopted. The flour and gristmilling trade has been organised nationally by the Union. Owing to the small numbers employed in the lesser mills scattered over all Ireland, delegate conferences were impossible, but through the Union machinery the actual position of the workers was ascertained, demands formulated nationally, discussed locally, and finally agreed to after conferences with the empoyers.

The Individual and the Crowd.

No matter how few practitioners of a

down the country, the Union provides the means of linking them together, and levelling up conditions.

No longer is it necessary for a man to submit to sweating and oppression simply because he works in a small town, remote from his fellow-craftsmen in the

Town and Country at One.

Of old, the town-worker was always threatened by the competition of the unorganised workers of the country, who, under pressure of want, came flooding into the towns, willing to work at any price, and to endure the most fearful conditions in workshop or home if they could but live.

The situation is changed now, thanks to the I.T. and G.W.U. Before the Rebellion, the call to Irish labour to assume the role designed for it by the course of historical evolution had not been heard outside the towns. As our figures prove, rural Ireland is solidly organised, and by the training and discipline of the class struggle blds fair to provide the most reliable battalions of labour's army.

Where Ireland Leads.

This fact has an international, no less than a national significance. The Irish

workers of any nation to unionise and to confirm their entry into the labour movement by nation-wide victories in their wages movements. Ireland's lead in this movement will be a signal encouragement to those in Europe and America who are seeking to bring the land-work-7030 ers into line with their comrades of the

towns.

The national significance of the landworkers' rally to the Red Flag is that
the last subject class, the rural proletariat, has awakened to the failure of its
40016 sacrifices in past generations. Out of a
century of political progress, in which
111 Catholic lawyers, doctors, and profes2122 sional men obtained citizenship and
552 lucrative positions, in which the farmers
first became dual owners, and then, on
420 the credit of the Irish nation, became
633 owners of the soil, the labourers as a

the credit of the Irish nation, became 633 owners of the soil, the labourers as a slass brought nothing.

They see now that the essential free dom to be won is industrial freedom, and 3216 that national independence on apapitalist basis may be as delusive a benefit as 10 Catholic Emancipation proved to be 22 giving with one hand and taking with 2460 the other, more than was given.

The Pioneers.

The Pioneers.

2044 Looking back on the years of struggle, 1044 the debt of Ireland to the pioneers be-21 comes clear. To Larkin, the founder; to 208 Connolly, the architect; to the faithful 690 dockers of Dublin, Belfast, Wexford, and 258 Sligo, who bore the brunt of the battle from 1909 to 1916, the Union in its fuller development owes its growth and very existence.

Our homage, then, to the pioneers! 255 May the new men and women who have fallen into line with them prove worthy of their suffering and sacrifice.

On OTHER PAGES

430 EVACUATE!

711

SHIPPING OWNERS' SOCIAL SABOTAGE.

THE LUST RATION.

ARMED BURGLARY.

Jottings from Ulster.

The Home-made Article.

Belfast, with all its proud boasts of material prosperity, its power in the industrial world, its belief in the homemanufactured article (providing it's cheap), is represented in its Corporation by men who, as was shown during the week, were not much concerned about the home workers, but had given a con-tract to an English firm for 50 tramears. A deputation consisting of D. R. Campbell, Trades Council; Wm. Boyd, Coachbuilders; and Mr. Malin, Electricians, brought the matter so ably before the houry-headed denizons of the City Hall, pointing out we had the plant and the capable workmen, that the hearts of the City. Fathers were touched, or perhaps it's because elections loom near. However, in future, less cars are to be imported from England; the plant at home is to be enlarged; more local men are to be employed, and Belfast men and women ride in the Belfast built car. If as a deputation our three friends were succossful in securing this, how much more successful would they be in looking to the interest of the workers as recognised members of the City Council, and we

(Continued on Page 6.)



Saturday Thirteenth SEPT. 1919.

LL-IRELAND LABOUR WEEKLY. ::

EVACUATE.

last Saturday.

thing as the bloodthirsty murder of young Murphy at Glan, Co. Clare, some weeks ago,

Monday springs from the same source.

All these acts are due solely and simply to the military occupation of this country by the armed forces of the day acts of militarism. British Grown.

Mr. Macpherson may make excuses. Lord French may make excuses. Mr. Lloyd George may make excuses. Commanding Officers and crown lawyers may make excuses. Press and pulpit and platform may make excuses.

But all excuses are vain. They are just so much wind, so many puerile apologies, so much camouflage,

and irrefutable things:

The first is that outrage, brutality, and open, cold-blooded murder are inevitable country are in forcible, armed, and unwelcomed occupation of another country.

There is one cause and only one cause The second is that Ireland is now and for the brutal and savage action of a has been for a long time under such fornumber of British soldiers at Inchicore cible, unwelcomed and armed military occupation, and wanton outrage, unpro-That action has its root in the same voked brutality, and cold-blooded murder on the part of the soldiery are inevitable and to be expected.

The remedy is not to seek out and The unrestrained riot at Fermoy last punish the murderers: they are but part of the machine.

> The remedy is not to deplore and condemn these acts: they are but the every-

The remedy is not to preach and prattle against the repetition of such acts: they are the regular and continuous accompaniment of the forces which commit

The remedy is not to take an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, nor yet is it to suffer these things meekly and to turn the other cheek for other blows.

The remedy, the one and only remedy, Against them all we assert two definite is: the ... complete evacuation of this country by these troops and by all troops engaged in the same service,

The remedy, the one and only, the one wherever the military forces of one sure and certain, the only just remedy is: EVACUATION BY THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

SHIPPING OWNERS'

The Dublin Shipping Federation are evidently out for blood. Because a small but, as far as the Union is concerned, important section of the casual dockers engaged in the overseas trade have gone on strike, the present shipping ring has decided to lock out all the employees in the port of Dublin unless those on strike immediately return to work.

Now what does that threat mean? To us it simply points out the sinister and significant fact that following the closing of the quays to traffic, the strong possibility at once arises of involving practically every member of the Union

in Dublin in the trouble.

The situation looming shead of us may be even worse than that, and there is no use our trying to minimise matters in any way. As a matter of fact, with the Union now established on real national lines the whole country will be placed in a parlous position. Bear that in mind.

The Nation's Trade Threatened.

The suggested action of the Dublin Shipping Federation, with its ramifica-tions throughout all the Irish ports, if once carried into execution must stamp the authors of the deed as being guilty

of a grave national crime. Let there be no mistake whatever about the impending issue. A vicious inner circle of shipping sharks are now on the ramp for blood—the innocent blood of the innocent working class. In the present circumstances there is not the slightest foundation for their suggested serious step, because, as hitherto the existing sectional strike does not affect the conditions of employment in the regular cross-Channel companies in the least. They know it. Viewed from any standpoint, the attitude of the Federation in the present instance is incompre-

British Shipping Trust Intrudes.

In the past the claims of the men who have ceased work were dealt with through the medium of the Stevedores' Association. Negotiations, as a rule, with that body always proved fairly successful to adjust matters of wages, but a distinctly new departure has been made on t occasion. The case was taken right out of the stevedores' hands, and now, at the behest of one or two big shipping officials (we speak advisedly) the whole city—nay, probably the whole country—is going to be plunged into a terrible industrial upheaval. The shipping Neros will then fiddle while Rome is burning.

Our case has already been made clear to the shipping owners' side. It was emphatically stated by us that a settlement.

phatically stated by us that a settlement of the present strike would in no way prejudice the position of the cross-Channel companies. That is to say, a settlement of the present dispute would not be used as a lever to force up the wages of the other port workers.

In plain language that currentee man

In plain language, that guarantee was given by the Union at the Mansion House Conference last Saturday to the Shipping Federation representatives.

SOCIAL SABOTAGE.

It was made abundantly clear that any further advance to the men employed in the cross-Channel traffic would be subject to whatever national agreement was ultimately reached on the general port workers' claims, which have already been the subject of a preliminary discussion between the various parties interested through the Ministry of Labour. Greater than 1913.

Our position, therefore, is perfectly clear and well defined. We have strained every effort to avert a crisis, but so far the adamantine attitude of those in shipping circles has made it quite impossible for us to save the situation in the interests of the city and the country gener-

Unless wiser counsels prevail between now and the next couple of weeks, when the lock-out notice expires, an even greater labour war than that of 1913 will

The Dublin Shipping Federation must accept responsibility for this campaign of social sabotage just about to be released at last from the stocks.

Shall it be war?

PALTRY DEMANDS.

To the Editor, "Voice of Labour." A Chara, -Since the beginning of the struggle between the rural labourers and their employers, what has struck me is the paltriness of the workers' demands, compared with the violence of their efforts to obtain them.

Since men maintain they should have higher wages than women doing the same work, because of their dependents, they ought at least to ask for, and refuse to work for less than a living wage. weekly dole of 35s. is not a living wage, and so long as the workers are willing to live down to that, and to increase and multiply on it, there is little hope of social improvement.

The "Irish Independent" prints a letter from a priest, showing how 30s. is spread over a week. From it one gathers that the family live on bread and dripping. Imagine sitting down every time off than the others; his dinner is assured to him on six days of the week from his employer, and he family have a burst on Sunday with half-a-pound of meat.

Now, if this is the plight of families on 30s. a week, how much better will they be on 85s.? It is infamous to have people, in the midst of abundance, living on such rubbish as margarine and dripping. As long as the workers are satisfied with this sort of nourishment for their children, the landlords and hig farmers are safe. Yours, etc.,

M. CORRIGAN.

Drogheda,

The Workers' Republic.

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

The outstanding event in the week's news of the world of Labour is the failure of the Triple Alliance on direct ac-Explain it away as they may, apologists for the Alliance cannot escape from the fact. The Triple Alliance leaders have run away from their own policy and their own promises. They have not had the courage to challenge the British Government to battle on ground which gave all the chances to the Alliance. That is what the decision to postpone the question of taking a ballot until after the British Trade Union Congress meets means. It is a sorry ending to all the fine words the leaders of the Alliance have been spouting for several months. It may be true, as is hinted, that the ballot would have gone against direct action. Even if it had, that would have shown clearly where the weakness lay. But the leaders didn't wait for that. And now we learn that at last week's meeting the miners' delegates, as a block, would have voted for, but when they were left free to vote as individuals, they voted against. The result: hearty congratulations from Arthur Henderson and the capitalist press. This ought to please Bob Williams, Bob Smillie. and C. T. Cramp. But the working-class in Great Britain, it would seem, must look

elsewhere for salvation. The Test Comes to France, The English leaders and the English majority have failed and fallen before the test. What of the French leaders and the French majority? This month, too, will show what stuff they are made of when the two great national congresses of the C.G.T. and the Socialist Party are to be held. Already the C.G.T. leaders are trying to explain away their attitude during the war. They know they will have to face the music when their congress meets. The big issue to be decided at Congress is plain and straight: evolution or revolution. It is too early yet to forecast the result of the Congress, but it is a certainty that the revolutionary Left is growing in boldness and numerical strength, and will make it hot for the present leaders. At the Congress of the Socialist Party the dividing line will be the attitude of the Party to the Third International, and the position of the party deputies who were out and out jingoes. The debate will be more than ordinarily lively, and the pace will be made by the Bolshevist Left. At the second Congress of the Seine section of the Party the division was clear cut. Longuet and the Centre again carried the day with a big majority. But the significant thing was that the Left, minority was almost as strong as the Right minority. At the National Congress the Seine section will be redresented by twenty-six delegates of Longuet's Centre, five Right delegates, and four Left. The section is strong against coalition with hourgeois parties, and is refusing to put forward again the

Trouble Brewing.

Some of these fine days the troubles brewing now in France will come to a head, and there will be an explosion. A vigorous minority in the Chamber has strenuously opposed the Peace Treaty of Versailles. M. Judet, ex-editor of the ultra-nationalist "L'Eclair," and other prominent politicians are charged with treasonable communication with the enemy during the war. A good deal of this is, of course, Clemenceau's electioneering, but it all forecasts a great deal of washing of dirty linen in the next few months. Better still, the continuous mutinies in the Army show the growing discontent. England over Syria and Persia indicate coming rifts in the Allied lute. The frequent references M. Albert Thomas, the Socialist ex-Minister of Munitions, makes to Ireland are significant. And the proclamation of the most extreme degree of martial law against the strikers in "liberated" Alsace-Lorraine is a straw showing which way the wind is blowing. Will France rise to the occasion and make an end of all this?

jingo deputies in the forthcoming elec-

The Spell-binder Again. Following, as usual, the lead of the English Press, the "Independent" has and all the time to bread and dripping! discovered a momentous pronouncement The husband is, indeed, a shade better in favour of Ireland in President Wilson's speech on the League of Nations last week. Ireland is to be settled by the League of Nations. God help us. But it won't work. In Ireland, at all events, the people are not to be put off by Wilson's attempt to repeat on them the tricks Asquith and Lloyd George tried so often and tried in vain. Wilson is an exploded bubble, and everybody knows it. Nobody in Ireland looks for anything from the vain peacock who thought he would go down to history as the saviour of humanity, and is really vious: the better and the proper arranger going down as the greatest fraud and ment would be for the Dail to print and failure of his time. Shantung, Korea, publish its own proceedings.

Siberia, Syria. Hungary, Fiume, all these are trumpet-tongued witnesses against Wilson, and their testimony is accepted in Ireland. By the way, is the League of Nations going to settle the negro question in the States; the Mexican question, the Phillipine question, or even the question of Debs and the political prisoners? What, is the "Independent's" little game, anyway?

The American Socialists.

The meagre news from U.S.A. gives only a hint of what happened at the Special Congress of the Socialist Party of America, held at the end of the month. It is clear, however, that the final breach in the Party has been made. The Centre holds on to the party machinery, press, etc. As their own seceding Communist Party section foretold, the Left Wing was prevented from seating its delegates, and, therefore, also from conquering the Party. Whether it will now unite with the Communist Party is not yet known, but that the famous S.P. has broken up into its constituent elements is the great fact that emerges. At the close of the convention we note that the S.P. issued a call for an International Congress to be held in America. The terms of this call are not at all clear, except that it would exclude the Scheidemann-Renaudel elements in Europe. But we can hardly believe that the American Socialists really hope for an International Congress in the States. Their own present circumstances will hardly commend them as conveners. Had this call from America come a year ago, or even nine months ago, it might have been answered from Europe, and it might have helped to build up a real International. But not to-day.

"New Ireland's" Reply.
One of several things we have wept over in Ireland is the common habit of mis-interpreting the printed word. Something is printed in a paper, and perhaps not less than one half of those who feel themselves moved to comment on it read into it something different from what it says, and go on to answer

some point that has not been raised at all. That has been the fate of our recent criticism of Dail Eireann at the hands of "New Ireland." As our readers ought to remember, we criticised Dail Eireann for (1) making a party organisation its mouthpiece, and for (2) not letting the public know whether adequate discussion, and, if so, of what standard, is given to the measures passed by the Dail. So here comes along 'New Ireland" with the discovery: "The Voice of Labour' raises the question of the propriety of the 'Dail' using the Sinn Fein organisation for

publishing its work, and of using that organisation for the purpose of carrying out the work. The criticism is really in the air, because there is no other machinery at hand, and besides it is the only really national executive instrument in the country capable of doing any of the work." If we were to analyse that citation carefully we think we could, without any strain on the imagination,

produce some wonderful results.

A Mare's Nest

Sure, criticism of the Dail for using the Sinn Fein Organisation for carrying out its work would be very much in the air if it had been made. But it has not been made. We no more criticised the Dail on that score than we did on the score that it was elected on a Westminster franchise, and for the same reason: it quite properly uses the instrument nearest its hand. "New the Army show the growing Ireland, itself admits that "the prin-The sharp difference with ciple of publicity is enormously valuable, and nothing but the gravest reasons should prevent the Irish public from having the fullest information on all points of Irish public affairs." But the methods? Those "New Ireland" suggests are not enough, and we didn't ask for them. We did not ask for fuller reports to be supplied to the Press. We asked that fuller reports be available for the public, and if "New Ireland" looks into the matter it will see there is a difference between them, and that it is the Dail's duty to give that publicity that is needed. From "New Ireland's" motes one would imagine that "The Voice" had some personal or party grievance against the Dail's rather defective publicity. If "New Ireland" thinks that, then "New Ireland" doesn't yet know "The Voice." On the other point, the use of a party organisar tion for making public the Dail's work, we still hold that it is objectionable, and we said it would be so no matter what that party organisation might be. But the main point is that of adequate publi-city. "New Ireland" asks if we can sug-gest a better. Surely the reply is ob-

IN THE SOUTH and WEST

- ARMED BURGLARY,

Newcastle West Farmers' Exploit. An extraordinary affair took place at Newcastle West on the morning of Sun-lay, 1st inst. The Assistant Secretary of the local branch, T. Flanagan, had re-ceived over £200 harvest bonuses from the Farmers' Union for distribution to

the members on Sunday.

At an early hour his house was invaded by four armed men, whom he recognised as local farmers. They demanded the honus money and succeeded in extorting £18. the rest being successfully concealed. Several shots were fired outside the house, terrifying the secretary's wife and children The ruffians made off and at once went on the run.

On Monday and Tuesday the famous Red Army of Newcastle West mobilised 100 men and scoured the country. The four farmers were apprehended and brought down to the local R.I.C. barrack and handed over to the police: They now await trial on charges of burglary, extorting money by threats, and carrying arms without a permit. A fifth farmer who was engaged in the enterprise is still at large. Ample Security.

While carefully arresting the bodies of the farmers, the Red Army safeguarded the interests of the members by impounding an up-to-date reaper and binder as security for the stolen money 'Twill be sufficient.

PEACE BY NECOTIATION.

Solid Organisation Wins Big Wages Wages Without Strife.

The fierce fight waged in Meath and Kildare to obtain 34s, a week for farm labourers brings into relief the superior wisdom of the Co. Cork and Co. Limerick farmers, and the excellent strategy of the Transport Union organisers and officials in the latter area.

At Effin, Co. Limerick, the wages secured by negotiation are for regular men, 27s. a week, with diet, i.e., three meals every day. Casual men are em-

ployed by the week for 33s, and diet. Across the border, in Charleville, the wage is 30s. and diet for regular employees. Ballyhea, Co. Cork, has established a minimum of 27s. and diet, with 35s. and diet for weekly men. No regular employee is to do casual's work while there is a man idle in the parish, and no Union man is required to work with a non-Unionist.

, In South Tipperary the men over twenty are now receiving 19s. indoor. 35s. outdoor for a 54 hour week. In file. addition they receive time and a half for overtime and Sunday work Boys O.S.F.C., of Cork, spoke on the subject from 18 to 20 years receive 14s. indoor of Conciliation Boards on Sunday last. addition they receive time and a half

of the I.T. and G.W.U. has yielded higher wages and better conditions than thirty years of Parliamentary agitation and three years of Wages Board trifling.

NOBLE LORD CONDESCENDS TO STEAL WAGES.

In "sweet Adare" a long and bitter fight is being waged by the labourers in the service of the Earl of Dunraven, K.P., to prevent the Noble Earl reduc-

ing wages from 30s. to 25s.
This is apparently the Earl's notion of economy. By saving wages at the expense of the workers' children, his Lordship will increase his income and pay more income-tax—perhaps. So the Empire he loves will be saved from ruin,

The local feeling absolves his Lordship of direct responsibility for the atrocious crime of reducing wages below the starvation line. The agent in the matter is one Ballingal, a Scotsman, and a Fifer to boot. There are two Scottish proverbs: "It needs a long spoon to sup with the Devil," and "It needs a long spoon to sup with a Fifer."

Nevertheless the Ford of Dupreyon is

Nevertheless, the Earl of Dunraven is the man who will line his pockets with the money's worth of the bread stolen from the children of Adare.

The latest proposal for settlement from the Scottish gentleman who holds the honour of Wyndham-Quin alias the Noble Earl of Dunraven, K.P., in pawn, is a credit to the county which produced Andrew Carnegie, the money mag.

Ballingal proposes that all the men should return to work like good boys. Most of them would be ut once put on winter's work would be carried out by one-third of the permanent staff.
The others would have the privilege of

A MODEL BRANCH.

Charleville Branch, whose splendid and sensational victory we chronicled last week, is one of the very best under the Union banner. Like every other branch, its members are keen on wages and hours, but, unlike some, they realise that these are less than half the battle.

They are awake to the fact that there

is a class war going on in Society. Perhaps not the keenest of them has any theory about the class war, but they have had sufficiently sharp experience of the tactics of the master class to know war to be war, when it hits them on the eye.

Working-class Ethics,

They waste no time discussing the ethics of the variot; methods of fighting the boss. "Will it hit and will it hurt?" is what they ask concerning a new tactic. Direct action on the industrial field is supplemented by political pressure. A campaign is now on to secure the enforcement of Food Control regulations, and the D.C. has been asked to fix maximum prices for milk, and arrangements are being made for supplies independent of the normal sources at competitive rates.

Their Own Medicine.

The Profiteering Act will be used to the utmost extent. The workers' standpoint about these measures will not commend itself to doctrinaire republicans, but it is determined by the politics of the Union-Jack shopkeepers. They can-not complain if the advocates of the Workers' Republic invoke British law to compel a square deal over the counter .

Back of the ceaseless pressure on every possible line of attack there is a painstaking organisation. The arbitration proceedings of last year were prepared The arbitration for by the compilation of budgets of working-class expenditure, showing the lowest wages that would purchase the necessaries, of life. The housing projects are based upon a thorough investigation of existing houses, undertaken jointly by the I.T. and G.W.U. and the Federation of Discharged Sailors and

We hope shortly to publish the results of the workers' inquiry, with photo-graphs of some of the horrible hovels that Co. Cork capitalism provides for its

serfs.

The Centre of Light.

The Transport Branch is an active centre of propaganda. Cathal O'Shannon was invited to address them last Thursday, but J. MacDonnell had to act as substitute. The large attendance showed the keenness of the rank and

from 18 to 20 years receive 14s. indoor and 28s. outdoor, and between 16 and 18, 10s. and 18s. respectively.

The rural workers of North-Eastern Ireland would do well to totate these results and ask if after all Ulster is so prosperous. Liberty Hall, having overcome the labours of the census of members, might now with advantage take a national census of agricultural wages actually paid. The results would be a convincing proof that the direct action

Strange how anxious employers are for conciliation after their naked and brutal force fails to destroy the O.B. U.!

Glue your eyes on Charleville. are men there who know how to do things and young men who want to do them.

STRIKE IN THE CATES OF THE ENEMY.

The labourers at Furness, Withy and Co.'s, Rushbrooke 'dockyard, are on strike against the victimisation of two foremen who were included in a large number of men dismissed owing to the completion of a job. The foreman were immediately replaced by two others brought from Passage.

The petty bourgeois of Cork are shiveringly anticipating that Lord Furness will come along and lift the dockyards out of the harbour, "taking his capital out of the country" in wrath at the labourers.

Teachers and Trade Unionism.

At Glin a local teacher who hires three men has preferred to retain the services of a non-Unionist. The two Union men have withdrawn their services.

The I.N.T.O. would do well to run a vacation course for teachers on the principles and practice of Trade Unionism.

Ballykisteen.

The five-week strike at the stud farm, on account of the refusal of J. W. H. Harris to give an increase of 3s, a week, has been satisfactorily ended.

Four of the men were threatened with eviction, and in view of the very hostile feeling aroused locally, Dr. Moloney, T. D., induced Mr. Harris to offer arbi-

Fr. W. Keogh, C.C., and Mr. Raffan, BOLSHEVIK NAVAL VICTORY.

The British Admiralty announces that torpedo in the Baltic on Aug. 30, with a loss of seven lives. Another has been sunk since.

Fr. W. Keogh, C.C., and Mr. Raffan, of Kilfrush, heard the case argued by Mr. Harris, and J. Dowling for the Union, last Friday, and made the following award:—Wages, 84s.; hours, 9 hours a day and a six-day week; three shillings to be paid for three hours' work on Sundays, and all extra work at the rate of 1s, per hour. The rent of the octtages is fixed at 1s, a week.

THE LUST RATION.

AN EYE-OPENER IN COUPONS. CARDS ISSUED TO THE ALLIED CRUSADERS.

(From the September number of

"Daia," Glasgow.)

The staff of the 256th Brigade of the French Army of Occupation recently issued instructions for the uso of a "maison publique" (not the sort of "public house" which is the object of attack by "Pussyfoot" and his friends, but one which, like the ladies, Louis XIV. kept about him in scores, is 'known by a much coarser name out of The document has been pubdoors.") lished by "L'Humanite."

The brothel is in the town of Monchen Gladbach, in a district in which, according to an English lady writer, there has always been a good deal of sober simplicity, born of the Christian influences which for generations have swept that

part of the country.

The paper says that there are only two inmates in the house, that the resources of the town do not permit any increase of the personnel, and that the requirements of regular German and Belgian clients must be attended to! Huns before our gallant Allies the French! The "hidden hand" stil at work! Surely there is a provision somewhere in the Peaco Treaty which forbids such shameless (or shameful) pro-Germanism? Cannot our sane Socialist M.P.'s do

something to put an end to this abominable trickery, and insure that the crusaders of the Entente shall have access to the "personnel" of the establish. ment in preference to the barbarous Boche?

Comrade Frank H. Rose will surely make a firm stand in this matter if his knees are not too much affected by standing so long when the National Anthem was sung recently in the House; or brave Ben Tillet; or Mr. Barnes (Minister without Portfolio). Or must it be left to the modest and patriotic editor of "John Bull"? But why do not the French apply to our military authorities for assistance?

There must be somewhere in France a gallant British officer who has taught morality to the benighted Indians. He would doubtless be able to tell them how "increase the personnel." people have no initiative.*

However, the Sir Galahads of the utterly neglected. "In order not to prevent disorder and in order not to exact and some step-dancing. from these women work beyond their strength (the French are, above all, a chivalrous people) the following measures will be taken." These measures will be on each allotted day twenty tickets-five per company. Men wishing to visit the establishment will apply to their sergeant-major."

In our last issue we drew attention to the fact that British officers in Turkey were offered up-to-date and complete harems "which appear to be extremely popular." For an officer an up-to-date and complete harem (and he does not have to apply to his sergeant-major); for a private a ticket—one of twenty—" on each allotted day" when the precious token is not required by any one of the hundreds of his fellow-soldiers of the Cross.

Thus are solved great problems like equality of sacrifice and of opportunity. In this way is morality firmly seated on her shining throne, from which the abandoned legions of the Kaiser would have deposed her. Thus are worlds saved for democracy.

P. LAVIN.

*See the "Queen's Daughters in India," and Lord Roberts' Bazaar (brothel) Circulars.

A LEEDS CUSTOM.

Mr. Eamonn Martin, of the clothing firm of Messrs. R. Briscoe and Co., whose premises are in the Liffeyside area, referred to in a paragraph headed "A Leeds Custom," informs us that his firm does not employ its tailors on Sundays.

On two recent occasions, however, it had been found necessary to bring in engineers on Sundays to install new machinery required to cope with the rapid extension of business.

Had that work not been overtaken by the engineers on Sundays the tailoring staff would have been out of work for several days.

Messrs. Briscoe do not believe in a seven day week, and never practice it.
Their working week is six days, and does not extend beyond 44 hours

We have not heard from the other firms in the area, but we hope they have duly taken note of our warning.

GLASTOW LABOUR SAYS "HANDS OFF IRELAND."

At a meeting of Irishmen in Springburn under the auspices of the local Irish Labour Party, on Sunday 3rd Aug., the secretary was instructed to summon a conference of delegates from the various Irish and Labour societies in Glasgow for the purpose of arranging a "Hands off Ireland" demonstration, and focussing public opinion on Ireland's claims.

The conference, as arranged, was held in the Central Halls, Bath St., on Sun-day, 81st Aug. It was well attended, day, 31st Aug. It was well attended, delegates being present from the I.N.F., A.O.H., Sinn Fein, Irish Labour Party, A.S.E., Toolmakers, M.E.A. Workers' Union, Glasgow Trades and Labour Council, Glasgow Federation I.L.P., etc. Comrade P. J. Dollan expressed the feeling of the conference when he defeeling of the conference when he de-

feeling of the conference when he declared that while the workers' movement could protest against the heartless policy pursued towards Russia and other Continental countries, the case of Ireland must not be lost sight of, and it was the duty of the working class in Britain as well as of the Irish section of it to help the people of Ireland in their magnificent fight for freedom, and to remember that it was not a case of helping any particular creed or party, but involved the maintenance of a great fundamental pinciple.

The delegates agreed to promote a public demonstration in the largest hall available in the opening weeks of October, and appointed a committee to arrange details. Mr. Jno. V. Burns, who presided over the conference, was elected chairman; Mr. P. Wheatley treasurer, and Mr. Jas. Roe, 25 Avenue road, Springburn secretary. The conference was most harmonious and authorizatio and most harmonious and enthusiastic and it is hoped that similar action will be taken on the Irish question from one end

of Britain to the other.

CLASS WAR AND STEP DANCING.

At a meeting of Bruff Branch I.T. & G.W.U., held on Sunday, 81st inst, Mr. T. Sheahan presiding, the subjoined re-solution was proposed and seconded, and carried unanimously. Proposed by carried unanimously. Proposed by Michael Daly and seconded by John Kelleher. Resolved—:"That we, the members of Bruff Branch Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, call upon all workers—agricultural labourers, tradesmen, carmen, servant boys and servant girls, and all boys and girls of 16 years who have to earn their bread to come and join this branch of above Union. thereby placing themselves in a position to demand a living wage for the future, for the members of this branch are determined not to work with non-union men Some or women from this day forward."

The chairman announced that on Sept.

30th there would be a lecture given on the Class War by a prominent official of glorious French Army are not to be the Union, and the committee will strive to supplement said lecture by a concert

ACRICULTURAL WORKERS WAGES IN ITALY.

At a congress of agricultural workers include the division of the time of the women amongst the men of the various battalions. "In every-battalion there following figures were stated to be the average hourly wages in the most important agricultural provinces of Italy, where wages are highest, viz:-Ordinary work from 1s. to 1s. 21d. per

hour.

Mowing (fodder) from 1s 74d. 2s. 43d. per hour. Harvest (grain) from 1s. 101d. to 2s. 43d. per hour.

These rates represent an increase of about 220 per cent, over those ruling in 1915.—Board of Trade Gazette.

A LABOURER'S VERSE. * From the "Scottish Farm Servant" wo cull these poems by Andrew Dodds, a prominent official of the Scottish Farm Servants' Union:-

MARY'S BOY. O, Mary when you kissed your Boy, And held Him to your breast, You surely knew a mother's joy Far more than all the rest.

When little Jesus smiled, what thrill Was in His baby glee? Did you not dream He well might still The waves of Galilee?

When you bent o'er your little Child, And hushed Him in His cot, Your fondest dreams were ne'er so wild As the Great Cross, God wot.

THE FARMER VIEWS HIS WHEAT FIELD.

You look along the ripening grain, Full twenty acres of it, And count the money that you'll gain And glory in your profit.

And in its golden sheen you view The shimmer of the guineas; O, sordid soul, God pity you For very great your sin is.

What's gain but little children's need, The widow's dreadful anguish, And ere you satiate your greed. How many poor will languish?

God's fingers lay upon the wheat A sunny gleam of gladness. And you, poor man, would play the cheat And turn it into sadness. ANDREW DODDS.

The Role of the Labour Unions Revolution. the Russian m

By N. P. AVILOFF (GLEBOFF),

People's Commissionary for Posts and Telegraphs in the Government of the Russian Soviet Republic.

> Translated by CATHAL O'SHANNON. (Second Instalment)

Wages and the Ruin of Industry.

Side by side with the fight for the eight hours' day there was a fight for the raising of the wages and this took up a great deal of the time of the professional organisations. The prices of articles of the first necessity had risen incredibly during the war, while the increase in wages affected only certain industries, few in number, the stopping of which would have caused loss to the imperialist government. Moreover the rise in wages was only so much per cent. and it did not improve the material situation of the working class.

Supported by the bourgeois government of Leon Kerenski, the capitalists showed little or no benevolence towards the workers but haggled with them over every farthing and often drove them into striking. Then the fight for the minimum wage necessary for a living began, and it was only thanks to a spirited revolutionary attack that the workers succeeded in triumphing over the resistance of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie gave way with very bad grace, and when, either by legal means or by the acceptance of collective bargaining or by open fight, the workers had succeeded in obtaining the increase in wages, the bourgeoisie addressed complaints to the Government on the impossibility of keeping their factories going in view of the exorbitant exactions of the workers, saying that the disorganisation of production was the result of these exactions of the workers claiming "fabulous" wages.

In spite of the complaints of the bourgeoisie against the raising of wages, the unheard-of exploitation of the workers went on merrily at high pressure and the price of prime necessaries rose enormously, so that from time to time the workers were compelled to demand increases in wages if they were not to die of hunger.

The Fixing of Wages Scales.

The professional organisations and their federations had not only to lead a campaign for the raising of wages but they had also to establish scales of wages as nearly equal as possible for the different categories of workers in industry. The unions saw the necessity for the most detailed elaboration of scales divided into groups and categories according to the difficulty and the intricacy of the labour. Begun before the October Revolution by the unions of the metal and typographical workers, this campaign was taken up afterwards by all the unions.

Workers' Control of Industry.

However, the organisation of unions and the fight for the eight hours day and the raising of wages was not the whole story. The professional organisations took an active part in the organisation of workers' control and devoted many efforts to preventing the complete disorganisation of production by the plundering capi-

In the early days of the Revolution—the period in which the very idea of workers' control was conceived —it was the factory committees which themselves undertook to bring it about and in the following months workers' control became the task of the professional organisations.

The latter believed that it was necessary to bring the workers' control into their own hands in order to centralise it and introduce Committees of Economic Control into every industrial organisation before fixing the economic conditions in each concern in the interests of all industry and the working class of the whole of Russia.

In addition to workers' control, which no doubt contributed to the abolition of capitalist domination and prevented the disorganisation of businesses, the professional organisations sought to extend their influence over the organisation of production and stóp the complete destruction of industry. The labour unions sent their delegates into all the managerial and organising offices in order to help in the fight against the disorganisation of manufacturing concerns and against the disorganisers themselves, the capitalists.

Identity of Political and Economic Struggle.

But all this work, which demanded continuity and regularity, was often interrupted by political events. During the eight months of bourgeois-social-patriot power the unions applied themselves not only to economic problems but also to political questions, for they realised that these two questions were inseparable and that if the political situation remained the same the economic position of the working class would become worse and all its conquests would be undone. That is why the unions provisionally abandoned their economic activity in October and gave themselves up entirely to the political fight, playing during the October Revolution the role which corresponded to their organising capacity.

No Strikes After the October Revolution.

The fall of the capitalists from power wrought a great change in the life of the working class and its economic organisations and it became necessary to utilise promptly all the strength of the unions in order to solve the new and hitherto unknown problems.

This important account of organised Labour's part in the making of the New Russia will be CONCLUDED in next week's " Voice,"

All at once strikes shed their sharpness and the revolutionary Russian workers who had taken power into their own hands in October, 1917, said to themselves: "Under the government of the workers and peasants there is no room for strikes," and they caused the strike movements to cease as soon as the Revolution was accomplished. Strikes lost raison d'etre, after the October Revolution, as a method of fighting of the working classes for the improvement of its economic condition. The power of the workers and peasants established the eight hour day by means of a law and later on it regulated wages in the same manner.

Transforming the Unions into Governing Organs.

But from the moment the fight of labour against capital lost its old importance the professional organisations had also to change their tactics by transforming their economic fighting organs, until then directed against the capitalists, into auxiliary organisations of the Socialist State itself. And if Comrade Lenin, in April, 1917, could find no other expression than that of "a morass" to define the professional movement he now renders homage to the unions for the fine part they played in the re-organisation of our national economy.

Organising Industry—The Workers' Republic,

Abandoning their old role the unions since then have busied themselves with the most difficult and most complicated problems: the organisation of industry and the determination of the conditions of labour in the Socialist State.

Some decades ago Karl Marx said that the degree of development in a country could be judged by that of its professional organisations. We can now judge the degree of development of our Socialist industry by the role which the labour unions play in the organisation of that industry. It was to attain to that role that we created the unions of production. Before the October Revolution we had need of labour organisations based upon the principle of the craft interest in order to have greater success in the proletariat's fight against capitalism; after the October Revolution unions of this kind were indispensable to us in order to utilise our strength to the fullest in the organising of the economic life of the country. The role of the labour unions in the October Revolution was so important that we have the right to say that they entered as masters into their new Socialist State. As much at Petrograd as at Moscow the centres of the Trade Union movement I did not say that the solitary critic had were the headquarters of the revolutionary forces and "any connection whatever with any perall the Trade Union leaders themselves were then in son or persons in the hall," and, therethe cockpit in the fight against the power of the capital-

The General Staff Seizes Power.

The General Staff of the October Revolution was posted in the Smolny Institute in the flats on the lower floors occupied by the Central Committee of the professional organisations of all Russia. It was there the Government of Workers and Peasants was organised and it was from there the Revolutionary Bureau of the Directorate of the Communist Party in Petrograd directed the labour movement in that city.

The representatives of our Trade Union movement played a great part in the October Revolution. In the find an English word that will express first months the unions followed the general current of the working class's revolutionary struggle for the maintenance of the power of the workers and peasants. Then as new problems, the establishment of a Socialist State, the building up of our whole national economy, industry, commerce, transportation, arose, they took over the direction of the organising of the new and Socialist Russia.

Building the Workers' Republic.

In January, 1918, the first Congress of the professional organisations of the whole of Russia established laid it down that:—"The centre of Trade Union gravity has to be transferred to the field of organisation of the economic life of the country." From this time forward the unions devoted themselves entirely to this work of organisation and during the ten months of Socialist building up they helped with all their strength the power of the Soviets in reconstituting the completely disorganised national economy.

At the moment of the October Revolution our industry was on the verge of complete disorder; the factories were closing down in scores and the manufacturers were abandoning their businesses and flying, after pillaging as much as possible. In face of this state of affairs the working class did not remain inactive but set itself to work out, by its own methods, the resumption of production. Labour control was intensified. The works' committees obtained the right, under the direction of the unions, to control the economic life of the workshops and to remove all the elements impeding the development of industry. The productivity of the works had to be raised. The works' committees boldly took this complicated task upon themselves and prevented the complete breakdown of industry,

AN ECHO OF LIMERICK AN DROGHEDA.

(The following letter was crowded

from last issue.—ED.)

To the Editor, "Voice of Labour.

Dear Cathal,—I regret to have draw your attention to a rather ext ordinary statement appearing in y last issue under the sub-heading

"The Limerick Debate."

The writer makes the unqualif statement that the solitary critic of Executive found himself utterly a openly deserted by what he terms loud-mouthed but cunning gang."

Well, I have to come to the conclusi that the writer is either deliberately tring to mislead his readers, or that must be very much misinformed facts. I think I made it perfectly cle to Congress that I had no connection whatever with any person or persons the hall, and, besides, I know that Co gress knew, in stating this, that I spot the truth. Therefore, Mr. Editor, the could be no desertion of me by anyone as I stood independent of any "gangs, just as I have always done, and hav usually found myself in the minority a

Surely, Mr. Editor, the National Executive is not going to set itself above honest criticism, and surely you are no going to allow your paper to hurl such a false charge as the above at the head of one who scorns "gangs" of any kind. The men to whom you refer can speak for themselves, but I at least demand an apology for the statement made, and I shall be only too pleased to take on the writer for any wager he wishes if I fail to produce enough evidence to prove my

I sought no honours or cheers at Congress, and hold my own opinions about quite a few who did. I exercised my right to criticise, in no spirit of hostility, and if, by the "fortunes of war," I was placed in a false light, then I can only say that I am a believer in the philosophy of "truth will out"—even it be sometimes posthumous.

The true story of the Limerick Strike will also come in due course—but, with Tom Johnson, I believe that in doing so we must not take the enemies' time. Thiggin Thu? A few cheers or a little cheap popularity may appeal to shallow minds, but there are some who never take the shadow for the substance, and are content to watch and wait-aye, even for a lifetime.

Apologising, Mr. Editor, for trespass. ing on your valuable space,-Yours fra-

THE SOLITARY CRITIC.

(The writer of the paragraph replies: I am guilty neither of trying to mislead your readers nor of being ill-informed. fore, there is no need for the critic's self-righteous offer of a wager that he will disprove what I did not say. I did not accuse him of seeking "honours or cheers at Congress," nor did I deny him his perfect right to criticise the National Executive, or anybody else. So far as my recollection goes, the dictionary meaning of desert is to abandon, to run away, and it was of running away I accused certain people who were expected to say a great deal at Congress about the National Executive and Limerick. I didn't accuse your correspondent of that, but I accused others of it. If they did not run away, I'm damned if I can their awful silence. I didn't accuse your critic of entering into any league or covenant with them, but I stand by my statement that when your correspondent had spoken, not one of them had the courage to speak after him. Lastly, it wasn't "the fortunes of war" that placed your correspondent in the light he appeared at Congress—it was the misfortune of words which he himself said were used outside after Limerick.)

IRELAND IN THE FOREICH PRESS.

"La Feuille," Geneva, August 27, in an editorial by Marcel Laurent, says: The Irish question still remains in the front rank. A great effort is going to be made by the Sinn Feiners to capture the local administration. If they succeed, as is very probable, we cannot see how the English Government can get out of the impasse in which it is more and more dragged. M. De Valera continues his propaganda in the United States, and neither encouragement nor money is lacking him. The question of the independence of Ireland has to be settled quickly if England does not want to find herself up against strange complications. plications.

SPIRITUOUS MUNITIONS, .

A London correspondent says that among the munitions at Archangel, which Mr. Churchill is reluctant to abandon, is a huge dump of cases of whiskey.

DUBLIN DOINGS.

Entered on the eighth week, the strike of the employees engaged by the principal city music depots has been ended.

The settlement was reached as a result of a series of conferences held at the Ministry of Labour, at which representatives of the firms affected and the unions interested were present, and the employees have since returned to work.

The arrangement come to has given satisfaction, and makes provision for the establishment of a joint board, consist. ing of equal representation from both

The terms of settlement are to last for a period of twelve months, with the imnortant proviso that, in the event of the cost of commodities in the meantime showing any appreciable advance, the question of a further adjustment in the employees' wages shall be taken up by the Board after six months have elapsed. In effect, the agreement entered into only lasts for a half year, because, without the slightest doubt (and signs are not wanting at present), the prices of the articles in common use will be further enhanced between now and six months' time.

Now that the music strike is but a memory, we avail of this opportunity of recording our appreciation of the magnicent manner in which the strikers conducted the campaign. Truly, they made a bold and courageous stand against the combined forces of a London-Liverpool Music Syndicate. During the progress of the fight not one single article left or was taken to any of the firms in dispute, excepting in one instance. The exception referred to occurred towards the end of the struggle, when a lady, evidently in great distress, called on the strike committee for a permit (which was readily granted) to remove a "baby grand '' piano from Messrs.. Pigott The blockade instituted by the employees was complete in every particular, and pays a deserving tribute to the way in which the strikers discharged their various picketting duties. No doubt, the fact of the pickets being always on the qui-vive was responsible to a large degree for the success of the strike.

With a joint board established for the music trade, perhaps the necessity will never arise again for the employees to be forced into taking strike action. At the same time we feel confident that if it ever becomes necessary to have to issue a further "call to arms" there will be the same spontaneous and gener. ous response from all hands, as on the last occasion.

Sack Slaves,

Heartiest congratulations to the girls in Messrs. Smyth, sack merchants, who have now returned to work, having won a meritorious victory after being eight weeks on strike. They put up a grand fight, indeed. For grim determination, and as soldiers in industrial warfare, they could give us, the alleged "stronger sex," a few profitable hints on how to combat successfully the class that will do anything for us except get off our backs. We, therefore, have much pleasure in doffing our hats to these ladies on their achievement.

In resuming work, however, their case does not end there. The settlement has been arrived at on the definite understanding that the whole question of better wages, not only as it affects Smyth's girls, but as it affects the em-ployees generally in the sack-making line, will be taken up at once through the Merchants' Trade Association. A claim for a living minimum wage has put it. already been served on the employers.

hopefulness that a new economic era is case of their employees. well within sight for Dublin's sackmaking slaves.

Stony-broke, Moryah!

dared to seek a slight improvement in their wages was vicious and callous in the row, who, after a one day's stoppage of extreme. In acting in the manner his employees, made an unconditional stated, the firm might plead a certain amount of justification were the wages in operation anything like what might be regarded as handsome or reasonable. But such by no means was the case, perhaps, as Redmond's Ridge, the em-Brown's men were paid a scandalously ployees in the bottle-making business low rate of pay. At present there is were perilously near taking strike action hardly (if any) class of labourers in re-ceipt of a wage as miserable as that pay-able by this establishment at the date the men's modest claim for better wages. of the lock-out.

to exist, when the proprietors allege rent rates.

Inability to meet the workers claim for the shillings extra, in order to purchase a little more Government subsidised bread,

Rogan at the Royal.—A Battle Royal

Behind the scenes at the Royal, the Union brought off a rather dramatic coup, in which Scan Rogan played the leading role.

The matter was one in connection with dispute that had arisen in the Winter Gardens between the female employees and the manageress, owing to the latter lady's recent behaviour towards those in that department.

No satisfaction having been received from the management, with whom the Union had been in communication on the matter, all grades in the Theatre, recognising at once the unsatisfactory nature of the managerial reply, and the issues involved, decided to cease work during the middle of Howe Show week, unless the manageress meantime modified her methods.

The crisis, however, was never reached, because the fair amazon in complaint was given clear and well-defined instructions to "mend her hand" instanter towards the girls, and it was furthermore intimated that the attendant dismissed would be immediately reinstated.

All's well, therefore, that ends wellfrom the Union standpoint.

The award in the case of the mail-yard drivers has been issued, and by its terms provision is made for the employment of two extra drivers, and two extra yard-men. In addition, the arbitrator grants 3s. extra for Sunday work.

Printers' Section.

Following the settlement of the Printers' Strike, our members who were locked out in consequence of the trade trouble have now returned to work.

Merchants and Granaries

Merchants' Warehousing Company and the Granaries Company in respect of the store hands, for whom 14s, per day in the case of casual employees, and 12s. per week advance in the case of constant employees has been claimed. The demand also asks for the establishment of a 14-days' annual holiday, apart from the existing statutory holidays.

Saddlers' Section's Signal Success.

The initial case of this section has proved very successful, although a latter-day addition to the ranks of the O.B.U.

In response to the Saddlers' and Harness-makers' demands, the Employers' Trade Association met the Union, and expressed agreeableness to introduce a

48-hours' working-week. On the wage aspect of the claims an offer was made equivalent to an advance of 12s. per week in the case of the weekly wage men, and a 40 per cent. increase on wages are; that, however, is a mere the pre-war price list schedule rates, to nothing!! The little demand for £2 those at present being paid on output or by results. In this latter connection, while there has been general acceptance, the employees have put forward an alternative proposal for a guaranteed minimum weekly wage, and as far as the harness-makers are concerned, a minimum rate has been fixed by the Associa-

The revised rates operate on and from 1st September, 1919.

Egg and Butter Section.

Charlie Byrne, butter merchant, Kevin The old question: the cussed little street, granted the 7s. advance to his pet" who sticks out against all his employees; whilst another 6s. goes the fellows and "won't join," creating an way of the men engaged by Mess's. Lemass, cooperage factory.

Drapery.

The claims of the employees in Messrs. Todd Burns and O'Dea, both establishments near the Nelson nuisance, have been duly despatched for the "necessary action," as the military junkers would

Hickey and Co. have conceded 5s extra to their employees, and Frank Cal-At the moment we have a feeling of laghan and Co. have done ditto in the

Wells, druggists, after a week's strike of the men, had to admit defeat, and The action of Messrs. Brown, bottle had to submit to all the indignities and manufacturers, Church street, in lockindemnities conventionally imposed on a ing out their employees because they had beaten foe, whilst a similar fato has to be recorded against Barrett, Westland surrender to the superior Union forces.

Bottle-Workers.

In the Ringsend sector, better known.

But, then, 'twere just as well that culty has been bridged by the concession this "philanthropie" institution ceased of an additional dollar to the man's are The strike, however, was averted, as

l'improved tonnage and load rates was be-

Transport Union Notes.

Mailings.

A conference between representatives of the Irish Maltsters' Association and the Transport Union has been arranged for Wednesday, 10th inst., to discuss the following demand:—An all-round increase of 10s. per week, in the case of provincial maltings, the increase to be based on last year's standard rate of 35s. for a six-day week; a 48-hour week; time worked in excess of 48 hours to be regarded as overtime and paid for at time and a half rate; double payment for Sunday work; these conditions to come into operation at the opening of this season. If the serving of this demand on there maltings has not taken place, it is because the local Branch Secretary has failed to furnish H.O. with the necessary information Ganal Workers.

The patience of these men has been exhausted waiting for even a definite reply to the application made at the be-ginning of the year for some improve-ment of their condition commensurate with the new conditions on English canals. A general meeting of the men has decided to compel some attention to their claims and they have issued a notice that they intend to cease work on the 13th inst.

Dungarvan,

The great. "Peacemaker" of Cork—Father Thomas—is to try his hand at the settlement of the general town strike in Dungarvan. Here's the best of wishes for success!

Blarney. Mahoney Bros., woollen mill proprietors, are somewhat particular concerning the selection of their work-people, but too high a sense of discrimination may not meet the approval of the people who support this firm.

Cleghduy.
"The Last of the Limeworks" will A fresh claim has been served on the probably take a new lease of life, as the proprietor has agreed to talk the burning question over with Tadg Barry some day next week.

Feenagh.

The charming achinen of requesting the Harvest Bonus in advance, inceting with its just reward, some rustic financiers question the prodigiousness of their current agreements.

Kilkenny. The offer made by the Countess of Desart to her labourers at the Talbot's Inch Wood-Working Factory is graciously accepted, and all look forward to the splendid wages (of the future) when the new (imported) heads get going.

Traice. It must be the terrible slackness in the woollen industry that causes Revington to dock a few specially picked Union members a copple of bob a week, under the plea that they are working less than standard town hours! The hours are not less than in other woollen mills, but the will set things right.

Arigna, the news of the conference arranged be-tween owners and men to take place on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at Arigna station. The delay in getting the "Powers that Be" to take up their grievances was promoting a feeling of disgust, and but for the dependence of the country on their coal supplies, would have taken action ere this. W. J. Reilly is instructed to attend the conference, with local delegates.

Mooncoin. atmosphere of sweetness like a blue-bottle on a beef-steak! The usual re-

fore the All-Ireland Conference of the Flour Millers, held at the Ministry of Labour last week, in conjunction with the national demand of the flour-milling operatives. A representative gathering of both the employers and the various unions interested was present. The discussion lasted for three and a-half hours, and the proceedings reached a deadlock on practically all the clauses in the re spective claims. Eventually it was decided to refer the claims in their entirety to arbitration, and the promise was made that the arbitration proceedings would take place immediately.

It is understood that Professor Bailia will be invited to act in the capacity of arbitrator, in view of his dealing on former occasions with matters of a similar kind in connection with the Irish flour-milling industry in all departments.

The impasse thus far reached hardly augurs well for the success of the lately. formed milling joint industrial council But, then, we pertinently ask, can capital, under the most favourable conditions imaginable, be ever conciliatory towards labour?

NOTICE.

No. 3 Branch I.T. & U.W.U

Applications for the position of Clerk
will be received up to and including Friday next, 12th inst. Applicants are requested to give particulars of qualifications, etc., in handwriting, and addressed
to Secretary, Branch No. "3," 74

The case of the city mill-carters for
Thomas Street, Dublin.

No. 3 Branch I.T. & U.W.U

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Thomas Street, Dublin.

Thomas Street, Dublin.

Thomas Street, Dublin. No. 3 Branch I.T. & C.W.U

sult: stiffness! strife- strike! The place: Iverk and Carrigeen Co-operative Society, Ltd., Ballinlough.

Killenaule.

More "precious pets" at the Knocka-vardagh Co-operative Creamery. Co-operation!! As P.T. says: "Ye Gods!"

Branch Secretary tells us that some men are getting slack in their support of the Union. We trust these are not the townsmen for whom the Union has just secured their increases. Agricultural sections are also doing well; the Bonus money received in one amounts to £400: By the way, did anyone ever try to cal-culate the total of the money secured through the Union? The amount should be colossal! H.O. will soon publish some figures that will stagger you.

Bishopstown,

The agricultural members of the Branch are grateful to Organiser Barry for his successful negotiations of their demands. Every farmer paid the increase of 5s. Thanks to efforts of Secretary Donovan, of Bishopstown, the Munster Institute came into line with increases bringing wages up 35s. to 43s. per week.

Gowran.

Organiser Branniff put in some hard work in this district settling with the farmers; and also in Bennettsbridge and Dunmore areas.

Wexford.

After the usual shuffling-which we After the usual shuffling—which we have now learned to expect from such "Public" Bodies—the County Council have passed the following increased rates of pay to quarrymen: Time workers, 3d. per hour (old rate 7d.); stone breaking (steam). 1s. 2d. per cubic yard (old rate 10d.); breaking after blast, 1s. 5d. per cubic yard (old rate 1s. 2d.); without blast, 2s. 6d. per cubic yard (old rate 2s.); quarry foreman, 40s. (from 30s.); engine driver, 45s. per week (from 40s.); engine oiler, 30s. per week (from 25s.). Payment of new rates to be retrospec-Payment of new rates to be retrospective from the 20th August. Four extra meetings of the Finance Committee of the Council to be held in the year, so that fortnightly payments of wages would be guaranteed.

Ballon.

Dissatisfaction is manifest in this district because a few farmers are not observing the terms of their agreement. What have the hones farmers to say to those men, who seek to under-cut

Branch members are concerned because Lord Monteagle's steward will not join the Union. Query: Would the steward of any "noble" lord be an acquisition?

Cattle Pens.

Next week we hope to give some facts s to how Messrs. Robson and T. E. The miners received with satisfaction Af'Connell's firm pay the toll on cattle and other stock.

Flax Scutching.

A movement is taking place in Co. Monaghan for the formation of a conference between milll owners and workers to regulate wages and conditions. Monaghan branch are putting forward an application for a rate of 2s. per stone with a £6 bounty. Gortnahoe.

We should like to know who is responsible for the unfair allotment of work among the roadmen in the district. The R.D.C., the county surveyor and the ganger, all have their particular idiosyncrasies.

Dean's Grange.

Perseverance rewarded!! Four months' persistent correspondence with the Waterworks Committee of the Dublin Corporation has at length elicited a reply. The Transport Union members who were refused the prescribed double pay for working bank holidays have now been offered a day's leave for each holiday worked. Cork.

The Mineral Water Section has obtained an advance of 11s. per week, retrospective from 1st June, a 48-hour week, and a half-day. The pleased ment-bers cheerfully subscribe first week's advance to the union's fund.

Newport, Co. Tipp.

A pretty little game! The Union makes a demand on Charlie O'Connell for his smith and floorsman. Charlie looks innocent and says nothing to the expectant workinen, but writes to Liberty Hall that they have not asked for any increase. Won't work!!

Kinsale Junction.

An anticable settlement has been effected of agricultural demand, with 5s. advance and harvest honus. A conciliation committee under the presidency of the P.P. is set up.

Mallow,

The obstinacy of the guardians in refusing to hear a Union representative in support of the officials' claims will be duly recognised at the next election.

J. BOHAN. I to mine and back.

JOTTINGS FROM ULSTER. (From Front Page.)

hope that members of the Coachbuilders' and Electricians' Society will see to it that in January they send such a deputation to make the laws that the local workmen may be protected from all such importations as that complained of.

The results are not yet to hand of the many applications sent to the different employers in the city, but by the time "The Voice" is published, Dockers—Deep Sea—Carters, Drovers, Breadservers, Bakers, Grist Mill and Seed Stores will have heard the verdict and will take petion in accordance.

It may interest Ulster readers to hear the opinion of Lieut.-Col. Sherwood Kelly, V.C. (who in 1917 commanded the 1st Batt. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers), upon the British interference in Russia. Writing in the "Daily Express" he says: "I saw the British money poured out like water and invaluable British lives sacrificed in backing up this worthless army (Russian) and in keeping in power this worthless Government (the Government set up in Archangel), and I became convinced that my duty to my country lay not in helping to forward a mistaken policy, but in exposing it to the British public," On another page of the "Telegraph" a highly placed British officer informs the "Daily Express" representative that Russia. sentative that

"There is not the smallest gratitude among Russian officers fighting against the Bolshevists for the help given by us. They are simply out to restore themselves to power, and no credit, no thanks, will be given to us when, if ever, they achieve that am-

bition."
It is not so long ago since Belfast trams were covered with advertisements asking the Ulster boys to go to Russia. When his audience shows signs of weariness at his one hundred and ninety-ninth point about Home Rule, the Ulster M.P. raves of the terrors of Bolshevism. It is refreshing to find that the truth is beginning to trickle through of the powers opposed to Bolshevism and the reason, and once again the so-called statesmen bition." and once again the so-called statesmen learn—you cannot fool the people all the time.

The remarkable recovery of this branch is an excellent illustration of what can be done by "nourishment," especially when our special brand of "self-deter-

mination" is used.

The "City Fathers" grant of "5s.
and a half-holiday" to their employees
gave other "bosses" a good headline,
while their refusal to give "the crown" to a "blackleg" gave rise to suspicions that "there is something in a Union" after all.

That band will be heard to advantage shortly, if only in "a big drum solo."

Those workers' houses, too. There's a lot of chaps won't join a "Union" (ye know what I'm coming at) till they're built. Some of them will "blackleg" it till the Cathedral starts.

We want a few Councillors for 1920-

workers only need apply.

Red Flag.
We didn't know fife bands used music. The only form in which the Red Flag air is available in Staff notation is in the song-book issued by the Proletarian School, 590 Argyle Street, Glasgow. (7d.)

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What an unpleasant sound it has, this word-work! It makes us think of effort

word—work! It makes us think of enorth and strain and weary hours when all the clocks seem slow, or heavy tasks that stretch out before us like a long, straight road on a hot day. That is, when we are working for somebody else's gain at a job we dislike, which is the lot of the everyday worker.

It's a different story when a man is working for himself or has a chance of working at something that suits his gifts. The plotter on his plot beholds with jay the succulent lettuce or the smiling spuds, the produce of his toil, nor recks the labour that brings him such gifts of

The horseman, the chauffeur, the skilled mechanic, the born teacher will sometimes forgt he is a wage-slave when engaged on something that interests him. Work that appeals to the heart or the mind becomes a pleasure and a gain. Un-congenial work done for a living is

A Burden and a Degradation.

Under Capitalism the average worker is a square peg in a round hole. Some of the surgeons we have might have made good carpenters (workers in wood instead of bone) only for their parents, while no doubt a few of our dockers would have done well as clergymen only it cost so much to go to college. The reason work is unpopular is because it's compulsory, and you've little or no choice. You take what you get, and make what you can

of it.
Two changes we have to make when we get that Workers' Republic are—freedom for all to choose their work according to their gifts with a chance to qualify for same, and public service as the driving force in lieu of private profit. But under the workers' regime as under the bosses, work will be compulsory. The idle rich as well as the idle wits, the exploiters of every class and occupation, will get a chance of doing their bit for their fellows or practising McFadden's hunger-cure.

When all Work, and all work for all, and all have access to the fruits of the labour of all, our working hours can be cut down by half. "Those who do not work, neither, shall they eat," said St. Paul. The workers in Russia have taken St. Paul down from the shelf and are putting him into practice, so there's a row gains on out there.

Who Are the Workers?

A man unloading grain from a ship is doing work, but so is every one else who helps in the disposal of the grain, and everyone one else who earns his living by helping to keep the grain worker alive and fit.

The clerk who tallies the grain is a worker, and so is the dairyman who supplies the docker's milk, the insurance agent who calls to his house, the surgeon

who patches him up when he gets a fall, the teacher who drills his children, the bank clerk who tallies his boss's gains, and the journalist who writes the letters he reads in the evening papers.

Each of these people dresses and talks

according to the nature of his work, but every intelligent grain-worker knows that all wage-earners are his fellow-workers and eligible for membership of "Darcy Thompson, J.P., Trim, Barbour, Trimblestown, Trim. Some are manual workers, and have no Randal Plunkett (alias Lord Dun-

turn for the pen. Others are mental sany). workers, and are not adopted for bodily labour. Others again can do their share of both. All are workers, even though some of the work they do is not as use-ful or as necessary as the work the docker does. Under a proper social system, the insurance agent and half the clerical workers would be employed at useful productive work instead of their present "dud" occupations.

The Census of Union Membership

for June 30 last is now available, and illustrates these points very forcibly indeed. The Union has now become the property of well over 100,000 people engaged in 120 occupations.

Whereas a few years ago its strength lay in the Transport workers, at the present time by far the largest body enrolled in its ranks are the farm labourers, and fully half its total strength work at the production or distribution of food.

There are also more members now employed in various industries from building to glove-making than in Transport and fuel combined. So that the older members, whose loyalty and sacrifices have made and kept the Union, are witnessing a complete change in its char-

acter and scope. In addition to all these manual workers, there are some thousands of non- treacherous summer colds. I manual workers from clerks to

Some Union Problems

Who have joined us all over the country. This is as it should be.

As the Union developes, the difficulty and complexity of the work of administration requires in its officials a high level of clerical ability.

The correspondence dealing with the affairs of all these workers scattered over 400 branches and the financial work of

400 branches and the financial work of the Union are daily increasing in volume and importance.

It is the duty of the worker who is trained to book work and the use of the pen to bring his knowledge and skill to the assistance of his fellows, whose employment and training have not fitted them for the business of Union administration.

In many districts indeed branches have failed because no one could be found capable of doing the secretarial work, and many branches that have lived leave much to be desired in this respect.

A Place for All. We therefore welcome the brainworker to our ranks equally with the manual worker. Each has his part to fill each completes the other, and both are entitled to the same rights and consideration from the Union in return for the same levelty and same

the same loyalty and service.

The work of the I.T. & G.W.U. is the very worthiest to which the members' talents can be applied. The Union is striving to help the poor to help themselves, and to help one another.

It teaches, them to work, fight and

make sacrifices for one another.

It intends as the crown of its work to abolish poverty, the source of such misery and degradation. This programme embraces all that is best in the preachings of Sinn Fein and of Christianity understood as social

forces. Here is a wholesome outlet for all the refer is a wholesome outlet for all the energy and intelligence we can muster. Talk of "killing two birds with one stone." When we make a success of the Union's work, everything else will follow, prosperity, personal and national, freedom, personal and political, and the fine things of life will flourish verdantly in a congenial atmosphere

in a congenial atmosphere.

THE AFTERMATH IN MEATH.

Cleaning up After the Big Sweep.

"All Honourable Men."

working hours can be cut down by half.
"Those who do not work, neither shall they eat," said St. Paul. The workers in Russia have taken St. Paul down from the shelf and are putting him into practice, so there's a row going on out there. No wonder the idle rich of England are spending your money and mine getting the Esthonians to shoot the Bolshies down. If there was too much St. Paul in England some people would be inconvenienced, so the bad example in Russia has to be stamped out before it spreads. There's not room enough in the "Voice" to even refer to work in all its phases. We just have space for an application or two of some general principles.

Who Are the Workers? One of the objections that the M.F.A. deliberately protracting a struggle that they have been so insistent in 'deploring' when it could be pretented that it was forced upon them by the fran-sport Union. We are confident, however, that before many more days pass they will have changed their tune to a prayer, and the prayers will be "Give us peace in our time. O Lord!"

The Recalcitrants.

Several graziers in other areas are still wearing war-paint and feathers. Here are the names of some whose feathers have to be bleached:
Sir N. Everard, Navan (who was

actually one of the principal peacemakers).

Segrave, of Rathfeigh, Tara, Wilkinson, of Kilmessan. Geraghty, of Kilmessan. Gilpin, of Kilcock. Morrin, of Dunshaughlin.

A Land Hog.

Smyth, of Robinstown, is another instance of the Faith of our Farmers. A loyal member of the Meath Farmers' Association who refused to do aught withcut its instruction, now, despite the agreement that binds him, offers his one employee 26s. a week and £2 bonus.

Smyth is a land hog who has several farms and a sawmill, and—one employee. He is a case for the Irish Industries Development Association.

DUNBOYNE BRANCH DRAW. 1st Prize, No. 440, John MacWilliams, Clonee; 2nd, No. 928, J. McGee, Maynooth; 3rd, No. 224, Mrs. Reilly, Cushenstown.-M. REID, Secretary.

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