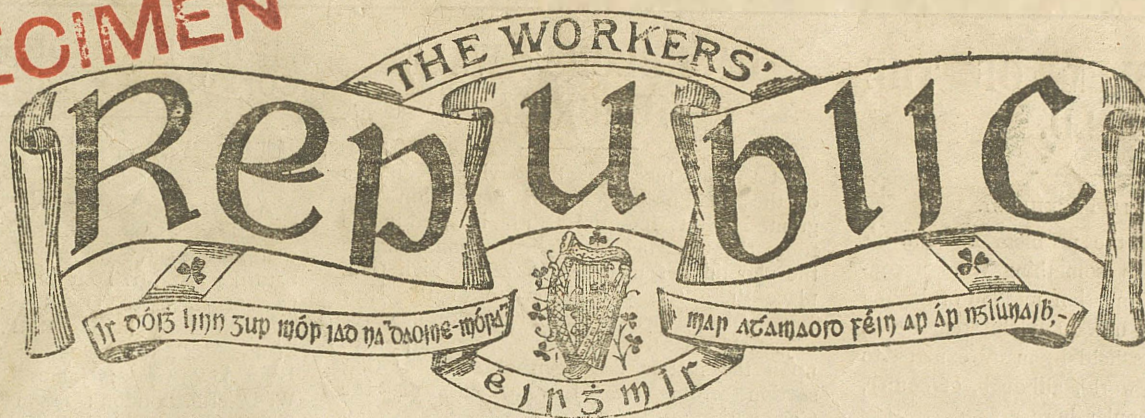


SPECIMEN

PRICE ONE PENNY.



"The great only appear great because we are on our knees: let us rise."

Vol. I., No. 1.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1915.

Weekly.

The Dublin Lock-Out and its Sequel.

Speech in Cork by James Connolly,
Acting General Secretary of The
Transport Union.

Mr. Connolly said in part:

Do you wish proof of the value of organisation to the Workers, or proof of how impossible it is to destroy an organisation if its members are loyal! I can give you that proof from the records of our own Union.

Let me give you a little bit of history—history of very recent date. You remember the great Lock-Out in Dublin in 1913-14; you remember how the Dublin Employers smarting under the defeats inflicted upon their individual efforts to keep their Workers in slavery, at last resolved to combine in one gigantic effort to restore the irresponsible reign of the slave drivers, such as existed in Dublin before the advent of the Irish Transport Union. You will remember how 404 Employers banded themselves together to destroy us, and pledged their sacred word of honour that they would wipe that Union off the map; that when the fight was over no man or woman affiliated to us, or friendly to us, would ever be employed in Dublin. You also remember how they did more than pledge their honour—the honour of some of them would not fetch much as a pledge—but they also deposited each a sum of money in proportion to the number of employees each normally employed, and that money deposited in the Bank in the name of their Association was to be forfeited, if the depositor came to terms with the Union before his fellows.

Thus strung together in bonds of gold and self interest, you might think they were well equipped for beating a lot of poor workingmen and women with no weapons but their hands, and no resources but their willingness to suffer for the right. But they were in for a surprise. They laid their plans with the wisdom of the serpent, and the unscrupulousness of the Father of all Evil.

Before the Lock-Out was declared they went to the British Government in Ireland, to its heads in Dublin Castle, and they said to that Government, "Now, look here, we are going to make war upon the Transport Union, but we believe that we cannot succeed as we would wish, while peaceful picketing is allowed. We know it is allowed in England, in Scotland, and in Wales, but we don't want it allowed in Ireland." And the Government said, "All right Gentlemen, the law allowing peaceful picketting is only a Scrap a Paper; we will tear

it up while the fight is on." The Employers said again. "Good, but these Labour men and women will hold together while they are able to hold Public Meetings, and hear their Speakers encouraging them. Could His Majesty's Government not manage to suppress Public Meeting, whilst the fight is on?" And the Government answered, "Suppress Public Meetings? Why, of course: the law which permits Public Meetings in Ireland, is just another Scrap of Paper, and has been torn up many a time, and oft; we will tear it up again, so as to help you in the good work of crushing the Labour Movement."

And you know, the British Government kept its promise to the Employers. All through that long and bitter struggle, the elementary rights won by Trade Unionists by a century of sacrifices were denied to us in Dublin, although freely exercised at the same time in England.

The locked-out worker who attempted to speak to a scab in order to persuade him or her not to betray the class they belonged to, was mercilessly set upon by uniformed bullies, and haled off to prison, until the prison was full to overflowing with helpless members of our class. Women and young girls by the score; good, virtuous, beautiful Irish girls and women were clubbed and insulted, and thrown into prison by policemen and magistrates, not one of whom were fit to clean the shoes of the least of these, our sisters.

Our right of public meeting was ruthlessly suppressed in the Streets of our City, the whole press of the country was shamelessly engaged in poisoning the minds of the people against us, every scoundrel who chose was armed to shoot and murder the workers who stood by their Union.

Two men, Byrne and Nolan, were clubbed to death in the street; one, Byrne of Kingstown, suffered unnameable torture in the police cell, and died immediately upon release, one young girl, Alice Brady, while walking quietly homewards with her Strike Allowance of food, was shot by a scab with a revolver placed in his hands by an employer, and within 24 hours after the murder, that scab was walking the Street of Dublin. Our murdered sister lies cold to-day in her grave in Glasnevin—as true as martyr for freedom as any who ever died in Ireland. But she did not die in vain, and none who die for freedom ever die in vain.

Well, did the unholy conspiracy against Labour achieve its object? Was the Union crushed? Did our flag come down?

Let me tell you our position to-day, and tell it by an illustration.

We recently put in a demand for an increase of wages in Dublin, for all classes of Labour in our Union. That demand was eventually met by the employers, and at a Conference between the representatives of the Union and the

Employers were prepared to settle matters through the Union, and that whatever terms were then agreed upon would determine rates for the quays and elsewhere, wherever our men were employed. Here are a few of the advances thus agreed upon, as well as the advances arranged with other firms not represented at the Conference, but dealing directly with the Union Officials.

STEVEDORES ASSOCIATION. One penny per ton increase on all tonnage rules.

DEEP SEA BOATS. One shilling per day on all day wage men.

CASUAL CROSS CHANNEL BOATS. One shilling per day.

CONSTANT CROSS CHANNEL BOATS. Eightpence per day.

DUBLIN AND GENERAL COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES. Four shillings per week on present rate, one penny per ton on tonnage rates, and carting rates to be levelled up also.

DUBLIN DOCKYARD LABOURERS. Three shillings per week.

ROSS AND WALFOLE. Two shillings per week.

GENERAL CARRIERS' MEN. Two shillings per week granted direct to men after receipt of letter from the Union.

These comprise the larger firms, many smaller firms also made advances as a result of action of the Transport Union, and in every case the advance made was in proportion to the manner in which the men had stuck to their Union.

The firms whose employees had fallen away gave poor increases or none at all; the firms whose members had remained loyal to the Union, paid greater increases, and so the men reaped the fruits of their loyalty, whilst those who were faint of heart were punished by the employers for the lack of faith in their Union and their class. So it shall ever be!

378 ROBBERIES IN TWO WEEKS.

During the fall the multiplicity of hold-ups and picket-pockets in Chicago astounded the crime investigators. On October 19 a motion passed through the City Council on a Finance requiring Superintendent of the Police James Gleeson to make weekly report of robberies contra-distinguished from burglaries. The first two weeks showed there had been 378 cases reported. Since October 19 there have been, according to the reports, 1,293 robberies, 33 attempted robberies and 33 purses snatched from loop shoppers. According to the superintendent's reports, 276 arrests and identifications were made. Two of this number were sentenced to imprisonment.

THE PROBLEM OF THE CHILD.

By SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In dealing with the problem of difficult cases, we may learn something from a consideration of the Hungarian method of dealing with destitute and unwanted children, which before the War was held by many experts to be the best in the world, although, of course, Hungary is not popular here now.

The Hungarian State never refuses to accept the care of any child that is offered, but those to whom the child belongs may reclaim it at any time, and may visit it and carry on a free intercourse with it all the time.

The parents who leave their children in State care always know where they are, are advised to visit them, and are at once informed if they are ill.

The child is accepted and placed in the hands of those whose business it is to wash and feed and clothe it, before a single question has been asked. If it is ill, it is at once placed in the hospital of the reception bureau. If it is well it is sent to the "Children's Hotel," until a home for it has been found.

The State has hitherto cared for the Children till they were 15. When I was in Buda Pest, a year ago, powers were being sought to watch over them till their majority, which, in Hungary, is 24.

Permanent homes for the children are found with foster parents who live in 374 specially selected villages—the number of districts being limited to minimise the difficulty of inspection. Before a child is placed in the care of foster parents the house is examined by a Sanitary inspector, and the parents and their family by a doctor. The family must provide themselves with a certificate from the community in which they live. When a child has been placed in a family, the local inspector, always a woman, makes frequent calls upon it and a superior woman inspector calls twice a year to satisfy herself, not merely that the child is well-fed and clothed, but that it is happy, and that it lives in relations of affectionate confidence towards the foster parents and the local inspector to whom its character, habits and material conditions must be intimately known. In each district there is also a special children's doctor, who consults with the local inspector and the foster parents in regards to the health and needs of the child.

The Hungarian State pays the foster parents for the child's maintenance and provides clothes and medicines. It takes responsibility for the education of the children, their apprenticeship and placing in employment. Where the children show special aptitude the State provides secondary education.

The Hungarian State makes money grants to many poor mothers, especially when the families are large, from the birth of their babies until they are a year old. These mothers and their children are visited by the children's inspectors.

But the arrangements made for children placed by their parents, or others, in State care, do not apply to poor women who cannot afford to maintain their children, and who yet wish to keep them at home with them. It is admitted that in most cases it would be best for the child to be boarded out with its own mother. The only reason given for not doing so is that it would be more costly to maintain the child in comfort, because at present the children are boarded out with people who are not in need of State aid for their own maintenance, and have already a home.

From "The Women's Dreadnought."

BACHELORS' WALK MEMORIAL.

At a recent meeting of the Paving Committee of the Dublin Corporation permission was granted that a Memorial Slab be inserted in the footpath at Bachelors' Walk to commemorate the shooting of unarmed citizens which took place there last year. Certain of the New Imperialist element in the Corporation however objected, and the following pronouncement upon the matter has been obtained by that section from the Law Agent of the Corporation:—

"Dublin Corporation,
"Law Agent's Office,
"18th May, 1915.

"P. Tobin, Esq.,
"Secy. Paving Committee.

"Dear Mr. Tobin,

"Re PROPOSED MEMORIAL SLAB IN
FOOTPATH BACHELORS' WALK.

"Referring to the order of Committee that I should prepare agreement in connection with this matter; on looking carefully into the matter I have come to the conclusion that the inscription proposed to be exhibited on the footway of Bachelors' Walk contravenes the regulations for the Defence of the Realm as being likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty, and to prejudice recruiting of His Majesty's Forces. Any person exhibiting such an inscription, or aiding or abetting in its exhibition, or doing any act preparatory to same, is guilty of an offence against the regulations. The penalty for such an offence may be penal servitude for life or lesser penalty, or if the Court finds that the offence was committed with the intention of assisting the enemy, may be the death penalty.

"I will not prejudice the position of the individual members of the Committee making the order by stating whether I consider they have incurred these penalties, or any of them, but I must respectfully decline to render myself liable to them by the preparation of the Agreement in question.

"I am sure the Committee was not sensible of the full gravity of the order it was making when it granted the permission in question, and if same were forwarded to the Council for ratification, it would be my duty to advise the Council that it could not legally ratify it, and that in voting for any resolution in favour of ratifying it the individual members would be running considerable personal risk. I return papers.

"Yours faithfully,
"I. J. RICE,
"Law Agent."

LABOUR DAY.

All Branches of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in Dublin, accompanied by their Bands, will meet at Liberty Hall on Sunday, May 30th, at 2.30 p.m., prompt, in order to be marshalled for the March to the

LABOUR DAY MEETING

in the Phoenix Park. March off at 3 o'clock.

By Order,
JAMES CONNOLLY,
Acting General Secretary.

IRISH CITIZEN ARMY.

The Army and Reserves will parade on Sunday at Liberty Hall at 2.30 p.m. to take part in the May Day Procession to the Park. All ranks are called out for the muster.

By Order.

IRISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS & LABOUR PARTY

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

A meeting of the National Executive of the Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party was held in the Library, 'Trades' Hall, on Saturday last, Mr. Tom Johnson presiding. Also present—Messrs. D. R. Campbell, Belfast, Treasurer; Councillor R. P. O'Carroll, and Thos. McPartlin, Dublin; Councillor M. J. Egan, J. P., Cork; James Connolly, Belfast; W. E. Hill, London; Thomas Cassidy, Derry; and P. T. Daly, T. C., Secretary.

Letters of apology were received from Messrs. M. J. O'Lehane and William O'Brien.

Correspondence was submitted from the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Right Hon. A. Birrell, K.C., M.P. Chief Secretary for Ireland, J. S. Middleton, War Emergency National Workers' Committee, H. S. Lindsey, Parliamentary Assistant Labour Party, etc.

HOLDING OF CONGRESS.

It having been decided at the last meeting of the National Executive to postpone till a later date the Congress usually held at Whitsuntide the question was again discussed, Mr. James Connolly moved, Mr. D. R. Campbell seconded and it was agreed *nem con* "That the matter be held over till a further meeting of the National Executive." The Secretary was directed to circularize the Trades in reference to necessary financial support.

INTER TRADES UNION DISPUTE.

A Circular letter received from Mr. Turner, Secretary of the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks was considered at some length and it was decided on the motion of Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. W. E. Hill to forward a copy of the document to the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees for their observations.

VACANCY IN PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION OF COLLEGE GREEN.

The Chairman referred in feeling terms to the demise of the late Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M. P. In reference to the vacancy created by his death a report was submitted by the Secretary and discussion ensued in which Messrs. Connolly, McPartlin, Hill, Egan, Campbell, Cassidy and the Chairman took part.

It was finally decided to postpone consideration of the matter as it was expected action would be taken locally. The Dublin Sub-Committee were deputed to deal with the matter as it should arise subject to ratification by the National Executive.

JIM LARKIN.

It is long since the public were able to hear from Jim himself as to his position and intentions. Every newspaper in this country has joined in vilifying and traducing him in his absence even more than they did whilst he was still amongst us. We write therefore to state that Jim is still in fighting form. He had one bad attack of sickness owing to an escape of gas in his bedroom, but rallied, and is now rapidly recovering his health and strength. A wild attempt was made by the Irish Press to represent him as having quarrelled with the Irish Nationalists who welcomed him on his landing. We assure our readers that there is not a word of truth in the story. The men who welcomed him then welcome his appearance amongst them still. And the day will come when we, or such of us as the enemy leaves alive and at liberty, will welcome Jim back to the scene of his former battles and victories—and welcome him in triumph.

WAR RELIEF IN GERMANY.

By Alderman Joh. Sassenbach. Berlin.

The War commenced on the second of August, and as early as the fourth of the same two magisterial bills which dealt with war relief were placed before the meeting of the Berlin Town Council. First of all a sum of 6 million marks (about £300,000) for the procuring of flour, cereals and other foodstuffs were asked for. Then it was proposed to contribute from municipal funds an additional 1000 towards the amount to be paid by the State in support of the families of combatants. The cost of this contribution was estimated to amount at the beginning to 673,000 marks per month. Attention was, however, called to the fact that expenses would considerably increase later on; both bills were accepted unanimously.

Regarding the supply of foodstuffs, a commission empowered with far-reaching authority was appointed a week later, which had the right to make purchases without consulting the formerly competent authorities. It is to be assumed that this commission has by now several times expended the amount originally voted for foodstuffs.

These stores are not intended to reduce the market in foodstuffs, they are—on the contrary, meant above all for reserves to be used in case stoppages of supply occur.

After another week the principles were laid down, according to which officials, employees and workmen of the town who had been summoned to military service, were to be treated. The pay of officials must continue according to law, employees are to receive from one quarter to three quarters of their salary, according to their term of service. Provision was made to assist the workmen, if need be, beyond the support granted to them by the State and the Community. This proposal was changed by the Committee in charge in as far as the total support of the men summoned to military service was to amount to, at least, half, at the outside, however, to three quarters of their ordinary salary.

The resolution passed at the end August, regarding the granting of relief to the unemployed was of particular importance for the reason that it gave rise to the hope that the measure will outlast the war and will—by being applied in normal times—lead to the result which the agitation of years has been unable to achieve.

Relief is to be granted to:

- (a) Employees and workmen only, who in spite of capacity and desire for work, are unable to find employment.
- (b) To the smaller trades—craftsmen and those not belong to any calling, who under present economic conditions are unable to support their families.

For person who have to support children the assistance amounts to 5 marks per week, for others to 4 marks. To persons who receive regular support from an employee or an unemployed relief organisation assistance is given in the form of a contribution of 50% in addition to the relief granted by the organisation; the proviso is, however, attached thereto, that the sum granted by the unemployed relief organisation together with the municipal addition amount to at least 5 marks or 4 marks per week respectively. Should the relief granted by the organisation together with the municipal contribution exceed the amount of 12 marks per week, the additional support is reduced.

At the beginning of November a rent assistance to the families of combatants was resolved on, estimated to lose about 500,000 marks per month. This rent assistance was

extended at the end of November to persons unable to earn their own livelihood and to the unemployed. This rent assistance is granted according to the same principle as that extended to the families of combatants; the additional cost, however, could not even be approximately estimated. To these must be added the considerably assistance the town has given in the shape of subscriptions to institutions for the feeding of children of the poor, to charitable associations and to particularly poverty stricken districts, for the purpose of providing gifts for the troops, etc. The sum total which up to now has been spent to relieve distress caused by the war may, roughly be estimated to amount to about 80 millions marks or £4,000,000.

EDITORS' NOTE.

Mr. Joh. Sassenbach is one of the best known men in the International Trade Union movement. After having been General Secretary of the German Saddlers' Union for many years, he became Director of the Berlin Labor Temple, a position which he holds still to-day. He is Executive Member of the German Federation of Trade Unions and has represented this body at many congresses abroad. Mr. Sassenbach is an old member of the social-democratic group in the City Council and recently became the first socialist Alderman of the German Capital.

THE BREAD QUESTION.

One of the avowed objects of the war Great Britain wages against the commerce of Germany is to starve out the German population. To the German Social Democratic Party which has always aimed at an Anglo-German understanding and has, therefore, supported with special energy the present Imperial Chancellors' endeavours in this direction, this part of the British commercial war is particularly unpleasant. For the declaration of the starvation policy has, as its consequences, produced among the largest part of the population a feeling hostile to England which will show its secondary effects long after the war, and which will be inimical to the idea of an Anglo-German understanding.

On the whole, however, enough grain for the making of bread is available. The difficulties lie elsewhere. The urban population of Germany has, during the last decades, become used to the consumption of wheat bread whilst in the country ryebread still predominates. The German production of wheat is not sufficient for the consumption, and it is here the import must make up for the shortfall.

By adding a certain percentage of rye flour a 'stretching' of the stores is achieved through which the amount necessary for consumption is assured. The population, of course, has to become accustomed to bread a little less pleasant to the taste; it is, however, principally the population of the big towns which is heavily affected, whilst the rural population does not feel the difference in the bread quite so much. As far as the health of the population is concerned, this change in the component parts of the bread is of absolutely no significance, for during several months the method of mixing has been practised, without any untoward affect on the health of the public having been heard of, it is the taste and not the state of public health which is being changed.

A further step towards the 'stretching' of the stores of grain is the introduction of the 'Breadcard.' Since the confiscation by the state of all grain used for the making of bread, the municipalities have become organs of distribution, Berlin first introduced the ration system, and the bread-card control. Each inhabitant of Berlin receives now 200 grams (four ninths of a lb.) of flour or a corresponding amount of bread daily, and the

system is to be extended over the whole of the Empire. Through these measures the people of Germany are protected, whatever happens, against the starvation intended for them by England. England's action makes the house-keeping of the people more difficult and expensive, but England does not gain its object. Race hatred, however, is roused through actions of this nature in a way which everyone who desires an Anglo-German understanding must regret.

W.J.

THE MAKING OF A "PAYTRIOT."

By "J. J. B."

Take an Irishman, mix well in English society, add British gold, leave in the English House of Commons for a few years, and when required he is ready for use.

For the benefit of those who are not well up in the fine art of cooking, I will explain myself in language that will come within the range of all.

The most important thing in the "constitution" of an Irish "payriot" is the **pay**. "Pay" (with an "S") is French for country; after a **spell** in the English House of Commons, country means PAY (with £ s. d.) for Irishmen.

To graduate for paytriotic "honors" a person has sometimes to suffer for his country, but the knowledge that in the end his country will suffer for him keeps his heart up. The most successful way to accomplish this "suffering" is to feign contempt and distrust for your "masters" at first and get a few months hard labor (the more "hard labor" the "softer" the job will be later on). Of course, many graduate without going through this course of study.

A candidate for these "honors" (if he knows the ropes) is given a comfortable salary by his own people, and at the same time has a "retaining fee" from his "masters."

You can "work" at this **game** up to any age you like, and some of the "patriots" like it so much that they have no intention of "retiring" from the business. However, their children and their children's children will live happy ever after in the full belief that they have done for their country—well, simply **done** for their country, that's all.

WORKERS' CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

Our Dublin readers will be glad to learn that we have established a Co-operative Store

AT 31 EDEN QUAY

for the Sale of the Products of the Women's Co-operative Work Rooms, as well as for other articles of Women's Wear and Men's Underclothing.

For the Reading Public also there will be a News' Counter for Labour and General Literature. As there are two distinct rooms in the shop, both large and commodious, the business of each will be kept distinct.

We will welcome all to visit and inspect the Store in question.

LIMERICK.

The Limerick Trades' and Labour Council have decided to hold a Local Congress of all the Labour bodies of the city and county and a small committee is appointed for the purpose of drawing up details. The long talked of asylum job is at last started and will give some employment to the members of the Building Trades, whom we regret to say are more than half unemployed.

SHOULD BE IN EVERY HOME.**THE RE-CONQUEST OF IRELAND.**

By JAMES CONNOLLY.

(Author of "LABOUR IN IRISH HISTORY").

The book is indispensable to all who wish to understand the many forces making for a regenerated Ireland. It deals with: The Conquest of Ireland, Ulster and the Conquest, Dublin in the Twentieth Century, Labour in Dublin, Belfast and its Problems, Woman, Schools and Scholars of Erin, Labour and Co-operation in Ireland, Re-Conquest. The Appendix contains: Mr. George Russell's "Letter to the Masters of Dublin," and an exhaustive quotation from the "Report of the Inquiry into the Housing of the Working Classes of Dublin."

Indispensable alike to the Social Reformer and the true Patriot.

PRESS OPINIONS:

Catholic Times: "We can heartily commend Mr. Connolly's pamphlet."

Forward: "'The Re-Conquest of Ireland.' By James Connolly. Published at Liberty Hall, Dublin. Sixpence. Sixty-four pages, brilliantly written as Connolly's work usually is, of modern Landlordism and Capitalism in Ireland, and the struggles of the working class for freedom. It ought to have a wide sale among Irishmen."

Irish Citizen: "'The Re-Conquest of Ireland' is an unpretentious little brochure, far less ambitious in scope than Mr. Connolly's other well-known book 'Labour in Irish History', but it bears in every way the stamp of a clear and fearless thinker, and is an exceedingly valuable contribution to contemporary Irish thought."

"This courageous little book should be read and pondered by every progressive spirit who desires to get a clear grasp of the various forces which are at work to-day, making slowly but surely for the regeneration of our common country."

Irish Times: "Mr. James Connolly . . . has written a pamphlet which is on the same high level of lucid thinking and vigorous diction as his earlier book. Whatever may be the merits of his industrial and political gospel, he at least expresses it forcefully and well. . . . Mr. Connolly's review of the more recent history of Ireland, though not always impartial is interesting, and gives food for thought, which revolving in the minds of practical men, may result in some desirable reforms in industry."

Wholesale Agents: Messrs. EASON & SONS, or Direct from LIBERTY HALL. Price 6d.

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EDITED BY JAMES CONNOLLY.

The "Workers' Republic" will be published weekly, price one penny, and may be had of all respectable news-agents. **ASK FOR IT AND SEE THAT YOU GET IT.**

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All communications intended for publication must be delivered here on Tuesday morning. This rule will be strictly adhered to.

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Office, LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

*"An injury to one is the concern of all."***DUBLIN, SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1915.****OUR POLICY.**

On the appearance of our first number in such a time of tension and excitement, our readers, we are sure, expect some sort of declaration of policy. This we hasten to give.

The policy of this paper will be to implant in the minds of its readers a correct understanding of the position and needs of Labour in Ireland and abroad. To do this we shall devote most of our space to the Labour movement in this country, and whatever articles or reprints we shall publish dealing with conditions and developments elsewhere, will be published because they serve to shed a light upon some of our home problems, or because they show how people elsewhere have mastered some difficulty with which we are still grappling. Thus in the present issue we quote from a German trades union writer an article giving particulars of how the German municipal authorities have grappled with the problem of the increase of the price of food—a problem which is no less acute in Ireland than it is in Germany, but which in this country has not yet been grappled with in any statesmanlike manner. In the article on "The Problem of the Child" we show how the care of children is taken up in Hungary, which seems to have solved the question that the much talked of "War Babies" have produced in these countries—to the apparent destruction of all our conventional ideas of sex-morality.

At a time when everybody is talking of military matters, it would be mere affectation, or worse, to attempt to exclude such from our columns. Hence we keep in the fashion by our

Citizen Army notes, which deals with the lessons of military science as exemplified in campaigns of similar bodies of armed citizens in other countries in the past.

We pass no verdict upon the great War now raging. That part of our work was done in the columns of our predecessors, and any Irishman who has not already made up his mind as to his duty must just make it up as best he can without our assistance. The Defence of the Realm Act is very far-reaching, and we are not yet in a position to prevent its enforcement were we ever so willing.

We regret nothing in our former action. The work we did then had to be done at all risks or costs, to save the honour of our class and our country we did it, and in such an emergency we should so act again.

Our great work now is to consolidate our ranks, to educate our members, to lay broad and deep the foundations of a great Labour movement in this country, and to think out and propound the plans by which we hope to make it possible for that movement to enter into the possession of a regenerated Ireland.

From time to time we shall do our best to present to our readers an understanding of the true magnificence of the Labour movement; we shall tell how the workers of Ireland have suffered in the past, how they are winning their way to emancipation, and we shall do our endeavour to make this country realise that all those strivings after better wages and better conditions, all those squabbles over half-pennies and pennies per hour, squalid and sordid as they seem are nevertheless in their essence beautiful and spiritual strivings of imperfect human souls for the cleansing of the environment in which they are placed.

In the long run the freedom of a nation is measured by the freedom of its lowest class; every upward step of that class to the possibility of possessing higher things raises the standard of the nation in the scale of civilisation; every time that class is beaten back into the mire, the whole moral tone of the nation suffers. Contemned and despised though he be yet the rebellious dockworker is the sign and symbol to all that an imperfect civilization cannot last, for slavery cannot survive the awakened intelligence of the slave.

To increase the intelligence of the slave, to sow broadcast the seeds of that intelligence, that they may take root and ripen into revolt, to be the interpreter of that revolt, and finally to help in guiding it to victory, is the mission we set before ourselves in the columns of the *Workers' Republic*.

WATERFORD NOTES.

We expect to be able to publish each week notes from a Waterford Correspondent. The Trades' Council of that City has been asked to furnish the notes on the Labour Movement in the district. As a quite unauthorised attack upon certain officials of that body appeared in one of the last issues of the *Irish Worker*, and as we have complete confidence in the devotion of the Labour Cause of the men in question, we have taken this method of avoiding such mistakes in future.

NOTICE TO NEWSAGENTS.

Any Agent not receiving their proper supply of this paper, please communicate with:

Head Office, Liberty Hall, Beresford Place.

'Phones: 3421 and 4199.

"Out of Humanity's Reach"

BY M. E.

I am writing this article for the first number of the "Worker's Republic" on a bright May morning with the sound of the folk returning from worshipping the God of Love in my ears. I read those heartrendering accounts of the sinking of the Lusitania, and I know that, as I write, hundreds of bodies are heaped together for burial or tossing dishonoured in the laughing sea. It is an outrage against humanity, we are told, and alas with that statement even those of us who realise the pages of English History are by no means stainless, and who cannot accept the convenient doctrine that British diplomacy could not be improved upon, by a Cabinet of Archangels must sorrowfully agree. Our hearts are bleeding at the thought of the sorrow and suffering there is in the world to-day. But "to-day" suggests "yesterday" and "to-morrow". Was there not poverty disease, outrage and death amongst us a year ago? What is humanity doing to lessen the sum of the World's burdens in days to come? Yes "Humanity" is outraged—but—what has the average critic ever cared about humanity before?

Take "John Masters," this name is symbolic and does not refer to any living person. He is an Irish Unionist, what has he ever done for humanity? How does he regard his fellow human beings, those who with him are born and breathe and eat and drink and love, and live and suffer and die under the same stars?

"John Masters" is very keen just now, on "protecting women and children." But in normal times, women—one half of outraged humanity—are to him toys and breeding machines, he denies that they are rational human beings with the same needs, the same feelings, the same ambitions as himself. Loudly does he scoff at any person who tries to assert their rights or to improve their position. What does he care for the fact that thousands of wives and mothers in the "British Empire" do not get enough to eat and go half starved to face childbirth, that ordeal which men have agreed to smother in obscene silence last its heroism should be recognised as passing all that the most manly hero has ever achieved! Prostitution does not stagger humanity, yet is it worse to drown a woman than to pay her to be a harlot, the first cause of disease and death to generations yet unborn?

Truly Germany has sins of commission but—have her critics no sins of commission and omission? A year ago, 'John' would have quoted, with strong approval, the "subjection" in which German men keep German women, why does he not recognise that the men who tyrannise over their own Countrywomen are not likely to be very chivalrous to their "alien enemies". Women cannot be safe unless they are respected as the mother half of humanity. Who said "War Babies"? Is Rape so much worse than Seduction? Having condemned all women, "John Master" is hardly less uncharitable to the vast majority of mankind. His next line is drawn at colour, to him black, yellow and brown are like women, sub-human. He deprecates all attempts to Christianise or Civilise them, he laughs at the thought of Indian or Egyptian Self-Government. Contrast his enthusiasm for "Belgium" with his former apathy about the "Belgian Congo," one may notice in passing that, though no one set out to "Avenge the Congo," Heaven has

permitted that vengeance to be very thoroughly accomplished.

May it not be that sins committed against our coloured brothers are odious in the sight of God, and an outrage against humanity. We may safely leave vengeance to Eternal Justice and instead, set about removing the beam from our eyes.

"John Masters" has never done anything for humanity, was this the best way to prevent other people ou raging it?

Does "Humanity," then mean "White Men"? Not all of them certainly, Labour is the next to go. "The lower orders" are unfit to manage their own affairs, and must have as little money as possible, John Masters is never tired of sneering at their "drunkenness," "paid Agitators," etc., etc. He never understands that the Workers are his fellow human beings and want to be treated as such.

All well-off white men are not within the pale. Of course Germans and Austrians are very unhuman just now, but, at the best of times, John cannot agree that foreigners are his brothers, with a natural right to a place in the Sun. His foreign policy is "Do unto other as ye would they should not do unto you."

Finally "John Masters" damns all those of his own well-off Countrymen, who are not of his own religion and politics!

One has only to remember that there is a "Herr Kaiser" in Berlin, with exactly the same characteristics, and it is not difficult to see how these two, with others of their kind, have made possible "Outrages against humanity." They are always hating and abusing, belittling and degrading some section of their fellow human beings.

This brings us to the thought of 'to-morrow, what are we doing to end the War? It is strange how hard "John Masters" finds it to understand the simple fact that pacifists object to "War" itself as an outrage against humanity. When English and Irish women wanted to go to the Hague to protect against "War," it was instantly assumed that one and all believed Germany to be in the right! Nay more, a protest in the name of Humanity, against Britain's shooting down Germans with Machine Guns, would in nine cases out of ten convince the average loyalist that one was justifying the sinking of passenger ships; both are wrong, we say and that is not the same statement as "one is right."

We object to all murder for any reason by anyone. But "Human Nature" has a question to put! "What about vengeance" are those who kill and destroy to go unpunished? must we not protect ourselves? I notice that most apologists for War, particularly Clerical apologists commit a glaring logical fallacy. First of all they declare that certain deeds demands some punishment, next, war is a punishment, therefore, war is just. The false reasoning becomes apparent if we ask whether they believe these deeds demand any possible kind of punishment, or do only tolerate some kinds.

For instance, would they approve of frying alive German Babies in revenge for the Lusitania. An indignant howl assures us that they only approve of "some," not of "all" punishments.

Has Christianity failed? Clerics are yelling, no. This is a splendid war, England is quite in the right, Her soldiers and statesmen are beyond reproach! Very well! Has Christianity failed in Germany? Loud cries of Yes. Have the English ever done anything, or do they ever intend to try to do anything to make the Germans better Christians? Can men be brought to God by machine guns?

Christianity has not yet made Europe Christian! Humanly speaking, I suppose this War must go on. One side or the other must establish some sort of a superiority, in

order to preserve a truce of exhaustion for a generation.

Can nothing be done, we need the "Grace of God" a power not of earth to enable Europe to repent, and make friends, and to resolve in future to refrain from mutual murder. This can best be done by encouraging humanity to co-operate in a friendly way to promote human happiness. Who are the Militarists, is it not those who sneer and jeer at "Social Reform" and at those who have ideals and aspirations, it is the man who believes humanity to be composed of ungrateful scoundrels, who is clamouring in time of leave for provocative Armaments, and a policy of fear. Keep people busy doing good, and they won't have time to plan evil.

Pacifists must actively encourage their countrymen to interest themselves in all races, and in all classes of mankind and womankind. Further, we have got to satisfy in some healthy moral way the very natural craving for the punishment of the guilty. Personally I am contented to leave the punishment of human guilt to Heaven, The Eternal Creator can "punish England" and "Avenge Belgium" without requiring either Germans or English to violate His commandments.

Pacifists will fail if they set themselves up to be "Superior" folks, far above the frailties of our nature. Who are we to say that all the English are hypocrites, and to deny that many many, many Soldiers are fighting in a cause they believe to be holy. If we think badly of them, they will think badly of us. Rather let us point out that the only real kind of punishment is moral—the condemnation of one heart and conscience, England has sinned, Germany has sinned, Humanity knows it.

Will the Germans of 2015 boast of the sinking of the Lusitania? Will England celebrate the "Bachelor's Walk" Centenary?

One begins to hear rumours of "financial boycotts," as a means of enforcing International Agreements.

What about "Sympathetic Strikes." The greatest punishment that can befall a guilty Nation is to be cut off from friendly communications with its fellows! This truth must become more and more apparent in proportion as zeal for human good, and a love for our fellows increases. Then if a Nation still refuses to listen to moral pressure and does wrong to humanity; that will enable us to protect ourselves without violating the laws of God and of humanity; each time we see a new recruiting placard, let us pray to God to show us how to recruit for Peace. If Peace can only come by War, Christianity has failed. If we love humanity, we must hate War!

ROOMS TO LET

LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

TO SOCIETIES,—Rooms to Let.
Apply to Caretaker on Premises.

N. J. Byrne's TOBACCO STORE,
39 AUNGIER STREET,
(Opposite Jacob's),

FOR IRISH ROLL & PLUG.

Don't Forget **LARKIN'S**

LITTLE SHOP for GOOD VALUE
in Chandlery, Tobacco, Cigarettes, &c.,

36 WEXFORD ST., DUBLIN.
IRISH GOODS A SPECIALITY.

NORTHERN NOTES.

FAILTE.

In Belfast there will be a hearty welcome for THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC. Be its existence long or short, it has its destined work to do, and that work shall be done. To the workers, the friends of Ireland, and the believers in the Republic in Belfast, no appeal for support for the paper should be necessary. Cuirfear Luiblidheacht na n-Oibridhe ar bun la eigin. Nar bhfada uainnee!

NOW OR NEVER.

The abdication of the Liberal Government, the formation of the Tory-Whig Coalition, and the abandonment of Home Rule for a policy of conscription, have been the great topics of the week. Even Italy and the visitation of the Castle Polo-Player had to take second place. The Ulster Unionists are in high glee, the Home Rulers are in high dudgeon, and others—"factionists," "cranks," "nobodies," etc.—well, they might be described as in high spirits.

FREE GIFTS.

A meeting of Belfast employers held last week decided to circularise employers in the city and province to take stock of all men of military age in their employment. The city has been duly marked off in departments, and the stocktaking is in full swing. The circular was made public at the end of the week. Later on all the eligibles will be "released" for military service, and will be replaced by men over age, boys under age and women. I am told that the tramway employees have got notice to prepare for service by June 3rd, and that a military circular has also been issued. At the time of writing these statements cannot be verified, but they come from excellent authority. How "patriotic" Belfast is!

AN MEIRLEACH.

His many friends in Belfast learned with regret of the removal of Seaghan MacDiarmada. His many and great services to Ireland should not be forgotten, as Ireland's enemies have evidently kept them well in mind. Perhaps the best friendship his friends could show would be to qualify for like honours.

THE CONVENTIONS.

The Belfast Branches of the Irish Transport Workers' Union sent four delegates to the Whitsun Conventions. The delegates were—Miss W. Carney and Messrs. James Flannagan, James Clarke and Thomas Cupples.

CROBH-DEARG.

TRALEE NOTES.

(By ROBAL.)

The appearance of a Labour paper for Irish workers' interests at the present moment is, indeed, a pleasing and hopeful sign of the times. Never, perhaps, did the workers need a strong, healthy organ to champion their cause more than just now. They are oppressed on all sides, and their grievances and sufferings are well kept in the dark and made lighter of by the capitalistic Press which stifles their expressed opinions and sneers at their cause. A weekly journal devoted to the Irish Labour Movement has an uphill task before it, but if it sticks to it loyally, week in week out, and refuses to be side-tracked, its influence for good will soon be felt. Politics and party strife have tended a lot to keep the working classes asunder and divided. Fools that we are we blindly follow some party leader, and while boasting him we forget our unenviable, slavish position as workers, and he, rising on our shoulders to popularity, receives ample compensation for his efforts on the part of his party, be it Unionist, Redmondite, O'Brienite, or Separatist. We must try to change all that, and devote more time and labour to our own direct interests.

Surely we have an overdose of grievances—long hours, low wages, bad working conditions, just but to mention a few. Let us hope then that in this sense the WORKERS' REPUBLIC will start on its mission. Too long have we been the slavish servants of others; it is now time to look after our own interests.

In the belief then that to a mere worker party politics concern him but little; that employers, whatever their politics are, all harass and batten on him; these notes will be written, and in the sincere hope that in keeping strictly to the workers' viewpoint they will do something for the Labour Movement in Tralee. Harsh things may have to be said sometimes, but the necessity for adopting such an attitude will be justified by the cause and the motive for which they are used, and those who think they are sharply dealt with may console themselves with the remembrance that their actions are at fault, and they themselves are to blame.

Tralee will soon be quite used to picketing. Some months ago when the bakers started picketing as a means to achieve their object—and succeeded—the affair attracted a good deal of attention. Now the picket of the Munster Warehouse Assistants outside their former business house is the order of the day. The Assistants have a just cause. The firm want to break through the Agreement they signed last January twelve months in common with the other drapery houses re the living-in system, and want to keep four assistants on that system. The Assistants Society took the matter up months ago, but could get no satisfaction from the company, who practically ignored them as they did the Trades Council, who wanted to send a deputation to the company. The strike now on will, we hope, soon terminate in victory for the employees, who have the support of the workers behind them.

The meeting in the Picturedrome on Sunday to organise the labourers was a success. There was some straight talk indulged in, and a larger membership ought to result. There is a big number still outside the Trades Union ranks, and the sooner they come in the better for themselves. United we stand! Divided we fall.

CORK NOTES.

We hail with pleasure the issue of the WORKERS' REPUBLIC. The need for such a paper is only too apparent. Conducted on purely Labour lines, and free from personal and other prejudices, it is bound to help the cause it is out to serve.

In Cork the need for such a paper is badly felt, and if we can't have one of our own, it is to be hoped the workers will do their best to see that the REPUBLIC shall find its way into the home of every working man and woman.

In the past, the tendency among the working classes, has been, to criticise, and severely criticise the efforts of their own class, and very often unjustly; for our part, we mean in future not to say anything, if we are not able to speak well of those, who honestly, if unwisely from our point of view, are striving to do their best in the interest of the Labour movement.

Conditions have been such in the past, that it has been well nigh impossible to avoid contamination, and if labourmen and labour representative have not accomplished all, or nearly all that was expected, we mustn't forget a portion of the blame lies at our own doors, there is something more required than putting a half dozen men in the Council, and awaiting results.

The Cork United Trades & Labour Council, we are pleased to see, are making another effort to revive the Labour movement and from the tone of the circular recently issued by that body, there seems to be no reason why it shouldn't be successful.

Pity it is there should be any differences, between the various sections, perhaps the new movement will be the means of bringing about a better understanding to that end, we make a strong appeal to individual members.

We hope to give from week to week, items of interest concerning men and things, and shall be pleased to report any genuine grievance or complaint or any matter of importance.

Dealing with our opponents, we shall endeavour to be both just and merciful, while at the same time we intend sparing no one by reason of class, creed or politics. Truth is a pathway strewn with obstacles, but the only road to success, that success which brings with it peace of mind and contentment. Diplomacy has had its day, and the workingman has got to see to it in future that he is no longer grilled. At present, we cannot hope to accomplish a great deal. Signs are not wanting of an even still darker future.

Our movement has friends among all classes, creeds, and nationalities. Let us not alienate the sympathies of the least of those by any thoughtless or ill-considered judgments. 'Tis better to wait a lifetime to verify a statement than to live regretting an injury.

The Labour cause must appeal to all humane and right-thinking people, therefore it is not necessary to resort to violence to win our battles, and history proves victories won by such methods are only temporary, and we in the Labour movement know that concessions gained as the result of strikes were, even where there appeared to be a decided gain, only transitory considering how the capitalist can have his own back by increasing prices.

Our critics and opponents may misrepresent us as they will, but it would be well if it were clearly stated that the object of the Labour movement is to secure for all a decent living, and a tithe of the money spent in the present awful war would have secured that end.

The silly idea of making all men equal and splitting up the wealth of the world amongst them would not be entertained outside Bedlam, and is only used to belittle our movement.

In conclusion, we wish THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC every success, and trust it will be the means of securing for the working classes of not alone Ireland but the World, Peace, Happiness, and Contentment.

J. GOOD, Sec. Cork United Trades and Labour Council.

LABOUR IN WATERFORD.

Labour in the docks of Waterford previous to the year 1890 offered a very good illustration of the conditions under which the Irish workers groaned when in an unorganised state. No historian has yet arisen in Ireland to tell the story of the slavery of the Irish labourer in town and country; when such a one does arise he will find material enough in the records of dock labour to horrify every lover of humanity. No hours were too long, no wages were too low, no conditions too revolting, no treatment too brutal to be meted out to the poor slaves who toiled at loading or discharging the ships at the Irish ports. No black slave was ever treated with so callous a disregard for the claims of a common humanity as were these men in the past. The black slave had a marketable value, and his owner seldom allowed his passion to override his interest sufficiently to maltreat or misuse the slave sufficiently to decrease that market value. He safeguarded the slave just as he would safeguard his horse or cattle, but if the employer in Ireland worked his employees to death there were always others to take their places, and the driving to death of a worker did not lower the employer in the eyes of his fellows as did the driving to death of a slave.

Waterford is a typical example. Previous to the year aforementioned, 1890, no Labour

organisation of any kind existed on the quays of Waterford. The employers had their own way in every thing, and the workers suffered in consequence. It was work from Sunday night or early Monday morning, almost continuously during the week. Frequently men did not get home at all more than three or four times in the course of a week. No meal hours were recognised, and the unfortunate worker had to eat the food in the ship's alley way, or squatting down between decks, or any way he could. As there was no possibility of getting home for meals it had to be brought to the docks by the wife or child of the docker, the wife or child having to hang about often in the rain until opportunity offered to the worker to snatch at his food.

For this kind of labour the men were paid the large sum of 16/- per week. Sometimes under extraordinary circumstances the pay was indeed as high as 21/- for a week's work. The week averaged from 85 to 110 hours.

In 1890 a cross channel organisation was formed, and some slight modification was obtained. As soon as the improvement was got the Waterford men fell away from the union and it collapsed.

The conditions got bad again until in 1911 the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union organised a branch in the city. Since then very substantial increases were obtained. Now the wages paid are 27/6 per week of 55 hours. For casual men 6½d. per hour by day, and 7d. per hour by night. Hours of Labour have been thus almost cut in half, whilst wages have been newly increased from being 4d. per hour day and night to 6½d. and 7d.

As in 1890, as soon as the Waterford dock labourers obtained the increase through the Union they began to find reasons for deserting it. But a substantial number remained true to the Union and to their own interests, and through them the Union is building up again in Waterford.

It is to be hoped that the labourers of this southern city will bestir themselves and wipe of the reproach of being the worst organised in Ireland, and the most ready to betray those who have done most for them. In their Trades' Council they have a body of organised skilled workers whose efforts on behalf of the so-called unskilled man are second to none in Ireland. With such ready and competent assistance there is no reason why the general labourers of Waterford should not be as well organised, and as well able to enforce the respect of their employers as any in Ireland.

LABOUR DAY DEMONSTRATION.

Labour Day will be celebrated this year by a Mass Meeting in the Nine Acres, Phoenix Park, on Sunday, May 30th at 4 o'clock p.m. Mr. Thomas Farren, President Dublin Trades' Council, will preside, and the following are expected to speak:—John Lawler, John Farren, John Simmons, James Connolly, P. T. Daly, T.C., R. O'Carroll, T.C., T. Lawlor, P.L.G., M. J. O'Lehane, W. P. Partridge, T.C., and W. O'Brien.

IRISH BUILDERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The second General Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, June 6th at the Trades Hall, Capel St., at 4 p.m.

ADMISSION BY MEMBERSHIP CARD.

Any Members having no Cards should obtain one from Secretary, 4 Portobello Harbour.

All members are requested to attend.

LABOR REPRESENTATION.

An important conference was held in the Trades' Hall, Dublin on Tuesday, May 4th to consider the question of Labour Representation. The conference was called jointly by the Dublin Trades Council and the Dublin Labour Party. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Farren, President of the Dublin Trades Council, and there was upwards of 150 delegates present. The President, having expressed his pleasure at the large and representative character of the meeting, outlined the necessity for considering the pre-ent position of Labour Representation in Dublin, and invited an expression of opinion from the delegates.

A full and frank discussion of the whole question then ensued in which the following took part:—Thomas MacPartlin, M. Culliton, W. P. Partridge, T.C., Andrew Doyle, John Lawless, Peter Macken, Wm. O'Brien, Joseph Farrell, P.L.G., J. M. Peavoy, James Kelly, T. Murphy, R. O'Carroll, T.C., Thomas Lawlor, P.L.G., B. Finnegan, H. McDermott, John Redmond, J. A. O'Connor.

A resolution was then unanimously adopted re-affirming the necessity for Labour Representation, after which the following resolution was adopted:—

"That this Conference stand adjourned to Tuesday, June 1st, for the purpose of considering ways and means of carrying into effect the resolution to maintain Labour Representation and to secure the adhesion for it of all the Trades Unionists of Dublin. And in the meantime that the delegates ascertain the views of their organisations, as to whether the Labour Member should be controlled by a Labour Party or by the Dublin Trades Council."

The following is a list of the delegates present:—Bakers, James Hughes, Pres. Francis Moran, Tres. John Barry, Sec.; Boot and Shoe Operatives—H. Dale, W. Renshaw, R. Newth, T. Allen. Bricklayers—R. O'Carroll, T.C. Cab and Car Owners—John Lawler. Carpenters (Amal.)—Thomas McPartlin, J. Moloney, John Simmons. Carpenters (Gen. Union)—M. Culliton, R. Brophy, J. Bigley. G. Murray, D. Reynolds. Carpet Planners—T. Murphy, Coachmakers—Frank Farrell, T. Boyle. Electricians—A. Wright, J. Moran, C. Woodhead, T. Ellis. Engineers—Alexander Ballett. Farriers—B. Drumm, J. Gorman, Sec., R. Hughes, Tres. Irish Drapers Assistants—T. J. Shine, H. Batt, E. Hayes, - O'Halloran. Transport Workers—T. Foran, P.L.G., Pres, W. P. Partridge, T.C., J. Metcalf, P. W. Byrne, J. O'Shea. Litho' Artists—J. McManus, C. W. Bussey, J. Wilson, C. R. Millen. Mineral Water Operatives—T. Kearney, M. Donnelly. National Union of Insurance Agents—James Kelly, W. P. Sheppard, (Sec.) H. J. Owens, J. Dunne. Painters (Amal.) J. Black, J. Cooke, J. M. Peavoy, P. J. O'Neill, M. McGrane, Joseph Farrell, P.L.G., Wm. Corrigan. Painters (Metropolitan)—J. Scully, Pres., T. Cahill, Treas., E. McCabe, Peter Macken. Paviers—E. Hart, (Senr.) E. Hart, (Jnr.) Plasterers—R. W. Brown, C. M. Kearney, J. Cheevers, T. Irwin, Sec. Plumbers—J. Kelly, P. O'Connor. Saddlers—A. Doyle, J. E. Nolan, M. Hackett. Sawyers—G. Paisley, G. McCluskey, G. Treacy. Purveyors & Grocers Assistants—Messrs. Giles, Connor, (Gen. Sec.), Fay, (Pres.), Hanvey, Coyle. Slaters—J. Taaffe, David Smyth, P. D. Bolger, Peter Quikino. Stonecutters—Thos. Farren, (Gen. Sec.) Railwaymen—P. Redmond, J. Murtagh, J. J. Doyle, B. Finnegan, P. Rooney, D. Nolan, James Manweiler. Tailors—James Nevin, Thos. Lawlor, P.L.G., Arthur Murphy, P. Matthews, John O'Sullivan, James Sherlock, Wm. O'Brien. Waggon

Builders—Thomas Brady. Irondressers—J. Owens, J. Duffy, W. Kelly. Irish Clerks—P. P. Farrell, J. McBride, Jos. McGrath. Gold and Silver Workers—Robert Adair, (Tres.), John Costello, (Sec.), Wm. Oman, (Pres.), - Hinksman, J. Brock.

(A number of delegates neglected to sign the attendance sheet).

SINGER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY.

The employes of the above company in Dublin have, through the Transport Union, put in an application for an increased salary and commission. The present terms are deplorably low, and since the increase of food prices the agents are not able to earn enough to live in decency and health. Almost all classes of labour are rightfully clamouring for an increase, and in many cases the employers have heartily responded. Yet this company, one of the richest in the world, holds back, and neglects to answer the courteous letter of the men's representatives.

We have every confidence that if the men are firm, and take action as they should, the working class of Dublin will support them by refusing to deal with scab agents or collectors.

PEASANT AND KING.

You who put faith in your banks and brigades,
Drank and ate largely, slept easy at night,
Hoarded your lyddite and polished the blades,
Let down upon us this blistering blight—
You who played grandly the easiest game,
Now can you shoulder the weight of the same?

Say, can you fight?

Here is the tragedy: losing or winning
Who profits a copper? Who garners the fruit?
From bloodiest ending to futile beginning
Ours is the blood, and the sorrow to boot.
Must you music, fluter your flags,
Ours are the hunger, the wounds, and the rags.

Say, can you shoot?

This is your game: it was none of our choosing,
We are the pawns with whom you have played.
Yours is the winning and ours is the losing,
But, when the penalties have to be paid,
We who are left, and our womenfolk, too,
Rulers of Europe, will settle with you—
Are you afraid?

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY, in the
New York Evening Post.

STONE CUTTERS UNION OF IRELAND INSURANCE SOCIETY.

(Approval No. 70.)

Members are requested to attend Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday next, June 3rd at Trades' Hall, Capel Street, commencing at 8 p. m.

BUSINESS:

Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

RICHARD MAHER, President.

THOMAS FARREN, Secretary.

300,000 Competitors

Wanted immediately to enter for the
Double Jig and Reel. Marathon Race.
1 Mile Flat.
2 Miles Walk and Tug-of-War Competitions,
AT THE
Musical and Athletic Carnival
IN CROYDON PARK ON SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY, 12th and 13th Jnne.

Full particulars from the Secretary.

Irish Citizen Army

Headquarters: LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

COMMANDANT: CHIEF OF STAFF:
JAMES CONNOLLY. M. MALLIN.

We propose to give under this heading, from time to time, accounts of such military happenings in the past as may serve to enlighten and instruct our members, in the work they are banded together to perform. A close study of these articles, will, we hope, be valuable to all those who desire to acquire a knowledge of how brave men and women have at other times and in other places, overcome difficulties and achieved something for a cause held to be sacred. It is not our place to pass a verdict upon the sacredness or worth of the cause for which they contended; our function is to discuss their achievements from the standpoint of their value to those who desire to see perfected a Citizen Army able to perform whatever duty may be thrust upon it.

We would suggest that these articles be preserved for reference purposes.

Moscow Insurrection of 1905.

In the year 1905, the fires of revolution were burning very brightly in Russia. Starting with a parade of unarmed men and women to the Palace of the Czar, the flames of insurrection spread all over the land. The peaceful paraders were met with volleys of shrapnel and rifle fire, charged by mounted Cossacks, and cut down remorselessly by cavalry of the line, and in answer to this blood general strikes broke out all over Russia. From strikes the people proceeded to revolutionary uprisings, soldiers revolted and joined the people in some cases, and in others the sailors of the Navy seized the ironclads of the Czar's fleet and hoisted revolutionary colours. One incident in this outburst, was the attempted revolution in Moscow. We take it as our text this week because, in it, the soldiers remained loyal to the Czar, and therefore it resolved itself into a clean cut fight between a revolutionary force and a government force. Thus we are able to study the tactics of (a) A regular Army in attacking a city defended by barricades, and (b) A revolutionary force holding a city against a regular Army.

Fortunately for our task, as historians, there was upon the spot an English journalist of unquestioned ability and clear-sightedness, as well as of unrivalled experience as a spectator in Warfare. This was H. W. Nevins, the famous war correspondent. From his book "The Dawn of Russia," as well as from a close intimacy with many refugees who took part in the revolution, this description is built up.

The revolutionists of Moscow, had intended to postpone action until a much later date in the hope of securing the co-operation of the peasantry, but the active measures of the Government precipitated matters. Whilst the question of "Insurrection" or "No Insurrection yet" was being discussed at a certain house in the city, the troops were quietly surrounding the building and the first intimation of their presence received by the revolutionists was the artillery opening fire on the building at point blank range. A large number of the leaders were killed or arrested, but next morning the city was in insurrection.

Of the numbers engaged on the side of the revolutionists, there is considerable conflict of testimony. The government estimate, anxious to applaud the performance of the troops, is fifteen thousand. The revolutionary estimate on the other hand, is only five hundred. Mr. Nevins states that a careful investigator friendly to the revolutionists, and with every facility for knowing, gave the number as

approximately fifteen hundred. The deductions we were able to make from the stories of the refugees aforementioned, makes the latter number seem the more probable. The equipment of the revolutionists was miserable in the extreme. Among the fifteen hundred there was only a total of eighty rifles, and a meagre supply of ammunition for same. The only other weapons were revolvers and automatic pistols, chiefly Brownings. Of these latter a goodly supply seems to have been on hand as at one period of the fighting the revolutionists advertised for volunteers, and named Browning pistols as part of the "pay" for all recruits.

Against this force so pitifully armed, the government possessed in the city, eighteen thousand seasoned troops, armed with magazine rifles, and a great number of batteries of field artillery.

The actual fighting which lasted nine days, during which time the government troops made practically no progress, is thus described by the author we have already quoted.

Of the barricades, he says, that they were erected everywhere, even the little boys and girls throwing them up in the most out of the way places, so that it was impossible to tell which was a barricade with insurgents to defend it and which was a mock barricade, a circumstance which greatly hindered the progress of the troops, who had always to spend a considerable period in finding out the real nature of the obstruction before they dared to pass it.

"The very multitude of these barricades (early next morning I counted one hundred and thirty of them, and I had not seen half) made it difficult to understand the main purpose of all the fighting.

"As far as they had any definite plan at all, their idea seems to have been to drive a wedge into the heart of the city, supporting the advance by barricades on each side, so as to hamper the approach of troops.

"The four arms of the cross-roads were blocked with double or even treble barricades, about ten yards apart. As far as I could see along the curve of the Sadayoya, on both sides barricade succeeded barricade, and the whole road was covered with telegraph wire, some of it lying loose, some tied across like netting. The barricades enclosing the centre of the cross roads like a fort were careful constructions of telegraph poles, or the iron supports to the overhead wires of electric trams, closely covered over with doors, railings and advertising boards, and lashed together with wire. Here and there a tramcar was built in to give solidity, and on the top of every barricade waved the little red flag.

"Men and women were throwing them (the barricades) up with devoted zeal, sawing telegraph poles, wrenching iron railings from their sockets, and dragging out the planks from builders' yards."

Noteworthy as an illustration of how all things, even popular revolutions, change their character as the conditions change in which they operate, is the fact, that no barricade was defended in the style of the earlier French or Belgian revolutions.

Mr. Nevins, says "But it was not from the barricades themselves that the real opposition came. From first to last no barricade was 'fought' in the old sense of the word. The revolutionary methods were far more terrible and effective. By the side street barricades and wire entanglements they had rid themselves of the fear of cavalry. By the barricades across the main streets, they had

rendered the approach of the troops necessarily slow. To the soldiers, the horrible part of the street fighting was that they could never see the real enemy. On coming near a barricade or the entrance to a side street, a few scouts would be advanced a short distance before the guns. As they crept forward, firing as they always did, into the empty barricades in front, they might suddenly find themselves exposed to a terrible revolver fire, at about fifteen paces range from both sides of the street. It was useless to reply, for there was nothing visible to aim at. All they could do was to fire blindly in almost any direction. Then the revolver fire would suddenly cease, the guns would trundle up and wreck the houses on both sides. Windows fell crashing on the pavement, case shot burst into the bedrooms, and round shot made round holes through three or four walls. It was bad for furniture, but the revolutionist had long ago escaped through a labyrinth of courts at the back, and was already preparing a similar attack on another street."

The troops did not succeed in overcoming the resistance of the insurgents, but the insurrection rather melted away as suddenly as it had taken form. The main reason for this sudden dissolution lay in the receipt of discouraging news from St. Petersburg from which quarter help had been expected, and was not forthcoming, and in the rumoured advance of a hostile body of peasantry eager to co-operate with the soldiery against the people who were "hindering the sale of agricultural produce in the Moscow market."

CRITICISM.

The action of the soldiery in bringing field guns, or indeed any kind of artillery, into the close quarters of street fighting was against all the teaching of military science, and would infallibly have resulted in the loss of the guns had it not been for the miserable equipment of the insurgents. Had any body of the latter been armed with a reasonable supply of ammunition, the government could only have taken Moscow from the insurgents at the cost of an appalling loss of life.

A regular bombardment of the city would only have been possible if the whole loyalist population had withdrawn outside the insurgent lines, and apart from the social reasons against such an abandonment of their business and property, the moral effect of such a desertion of Moscow would have been of immense military value in strengthening the hands of the insurgents and bringing recruits to their ranks. As the military were thus compelled to fight in the city and against a force so badly equipped, not much fault can be found with their tactics.

Of the insurgents also it must be said that they made splendid use of their material. It was a wise policy not to man the barricades and an equally wise policy not to open fire at long range where the superior weapons of the enemy would have been able with impunity to crush them, but to wait, before betraying their whereabouts until the military had come within easy range of their very inferior weapons.

Lacking the co-operation of the other Russian cities, and opposed by the ignorant peasantry, the defeat of the insurrection was inevitable, but it succeeded in establishing the fact that even under modern conditions the professional soldier is, in a city, badly handicapped in a fight against really determined civilian revolutionists.

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