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Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Detective Department,

Dublin, 3rd March, 1916.

SECRET.

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 2nd inst. the under-mentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other:-

Thomas J. Clarke has not yet returned from Limerick. Those seen to enter his Shop, 75a, Parnell St., during the day, included E. Daly, Joseph McGuinness, Thomas Byrne, Pierce Beasley, William Sheehan and John McDermott.

P. H. Pearse, A. W. W. Cotton, L. Raul, E. Kent, M. O'Hanrahan and M. J. O'Rahilly in No. 2, Dawson St. at 12 noon.

A. W. W. Cotton and P. H. Pearse left Amiens St. by 3 p.m. train en route to Belfast. R.I.C. informed.

J. J. Walsh, in his Shop, 26, Blessington St., between 6 and 7 p.m.

About fifty members of the Irish Volunteers were drilled in the Hall at rear of 41, Rutland Square, for close on two hours, from 8-30 p.m., John McDermott, Joseph McGuinness and F. Fahy being there at the time.

Attached

The Chief Commissioner.

The Under Secretary

Submitted

W. J. Hamilton

Comm 3/3/16

*Under Secretary
Submitted*

W. J. Hamilton 3/3

Ch. Sec.

To see papers

W. J.

3/3

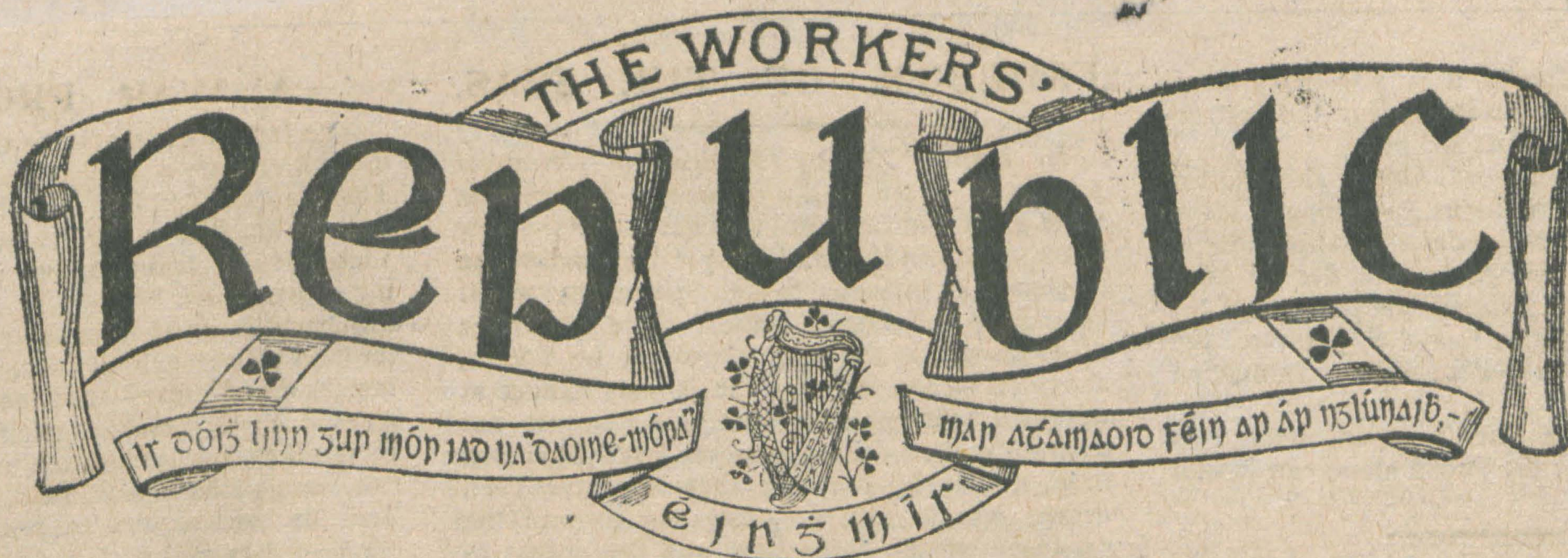
*Seen by Clerk
A.P.M.*

4/3

*Ch.
W. J.
5/3*

Attached is a copy of this week's issue of the "Workers' Republic", which, with the exception of a few paragraphs, does not appear to contain anything deserving special notice. There is also enclosed Number 10 of the "Tracts of the Times" series of pamphlets.

Owen Brown
Superintendent.



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

Vol. I., No. 41.]

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1916.

[Weekly

Notes on the Front

TIGHTENING THE GRIP.

In our editorial last week we pointed out that the pressure of economic forces were being brought to bear upon this country in order to compel the young manhood of Ireland to enlist in the British Army.

We also pointed out that this was also an astute move in the interests of the great capitalists. This latter point is so important, and so little understood in this country, that we feel moved to again revert to it in our Notes this week.

The first point scarcely needs any stressing. The Military Service Act now being applied to England has not been enforced in Ireland because, as has been confessed in the House of Commons by Mr. Bonar Law, it could not be put in operation without the use of a "considerable amount of force." The armed manhood of Ireland whom Messrs. Redmond and Devlin failed to betray into the ranks of England's army forbade the attempt being made to force them in.

They had good "reasons" for not being conscripted, and most of their "reasons" were well provided with serviceable ammunition. More reasons of various calibres are coming in every day, and hence the Government concluded that it would be better to let Ireland alone—until after the war.

After the war England may compensate herself for her defeat at the hands of Germany by wreaking her armed vengeance upon Ireland, but for the present other means must be sought for finding Irish recruits. What are those other means?

Oratory has been tried, and failed. All over Dublin recruiting meetings are being broken up by the spontaneous action of the jeering crowds. Up and down the country the Khaki recruiting bands are marching in vain. The supply of corner-boys and wastrels in our Irish towns and villages has fallen so low that the police magistrates have had practically nothing to do since the war fever swept up these undesirables in response to the oratory of Redmond and Devlin. In town and country the manhood of Ireland are thinking things about the Empire, and the things they think do not lead to soldiering for that institution.

The weeding out of young men of military age by the process of discharging them has been zealously recommended by the Empire builders, and adopted by many Irish employers. But many others whilst loudly proclaiming their zeal for recruiting have kept eligible young men in their own employment, and indeed insisted upon youth and physical fitness as a condition of employment in their service.

Newspapers have been bought, and journalists have freely prostituted themselves, in the service of recruiting, but few people in Ireland nowadays believe newspapers. We have been so long accustomed to their lying about what happened in Labour Wars at home that it has become impossible for us to credit what they say about other wars abroad.

So the British Government having used up all its light cavalry and infantry in vain now moves up its really heavy artillery to bring these Irish to reason. The heavy artillery in this case consists of the scientific employment of economic force.

Thus there will be served at one and the same time the interests of the British Government as such, and the interests of the great capitalists who own the British Government.

The material needed for the prosecution of every Irish industry which enters into competition with British industries will be interfered with either by totally prohibiting its importation, or by limiting it to such an extent that its cost will become almost prohibitive to those who do not possess large reserves of capital to call upon.

To make this still more effective in its power to cripple struggling industries, and bankrupt small employers, the Government issues secret orders to the banks to refuse all overdrafts to its business customers. At one blow this puts automatically out of business thousands of small employers who from week to week must trade upon the credit represented by those overdrafts.

There are thousands of small employers whose businesses are perfectly sound, but who have large sums owing to them not immediately realisable in cash, but nevertheless perfectly well secured. It is the perfectly legitimate custom of such employers to draw from their banks overdrafts upon their deposits in order to enable them to keep their businesses going, paying back to the bank the sums thus borrowed according as they themselves are paid by their debtors.

Large firms with unlimited capital to call upon do not need to pursue this practice, but in a country of small capitalists like Ireland nine-tenths of the business firms are kept going in this manner.

Observe well the deadly sequence of these moves of the Government. First, the restrictions upon imports create immediate financial troubles and precipitate an industrial crisis in which money is sought at a high premium. Next, the banks are forbidden to give their customers even the usual facilities to obtain this money, and thus when money is most needed it cannot be had.

Result. Will probably be widespread bankruptcy, the closing down of many places of employment in Ireland, and the consequent hunting of Irish workers into the British Army,

or to England to be conscripted in the near future.

Only those capitalists in Ireland with large reserves to call upon will be able to carry themselves over the crisis. For the temporary strain upon them they will be rewarded by being enabled to absorb all the business of the smaller firms who will have succumbed.

The business of the smaller firms will thus be practically confiscated by their mammoth rivals, and the small capitalist will be allowed to go into the workhouse if he is old, or to the army if he is young. If he goes into the army he will have the honour of fighting for the plutocratic gang that planned and accomplished his ruin.

Many Irish firms have already turned their entire business establishments over to war work. These firms have been enabled to exist for years because of the patriotic self-denial of Irish landlords who pushed their goods in season and out of season, at home and abroad.

Now these firms so established and supported have given up all their customers in favour of war work. They have sent adrift all the customers secured for them by long years of propaganda by others. Where will they look for these customers when the war is over? Factories in England and America will have snapped up all or a majority of their customers, and they will have to begin all over again the weary work of looking for orders, and whilst they are so looking their machinery will rust and their workpeople starve.

All over the country it is the same. We believe the Blarney Tweed Company is solely engaged in war work. Who is supplying its customers? Probably some of its English competitors. Pierce's Iron Foundry in Wexford has turned from the manufacture of agricultural implements to that of munitions for the English Army, thus reversing the scriptural idea of turning swords into ploughshares. In Kilkenny, in Dundalk, in Sligo, in Newry, everywhere in Ireland the capitalist fools have thrown overboard their old customers, abandoned a trade built upon the permanent needs of the community, in favour of a trade consisting of the passing needs of a mad war.

The very moment peace is declared all their orders will stop. And the returning soldiers will buy their necessities for civil life from the shops who have been compelled to get their orders filled by English or American factories whose owners were too shrewd to throw away customers to please the British Government.

All the firms that will be thus ruined are small firms; all the firms that will benefit by their ruin are mammoth firms; the British Government is owned by the great mammoth capitalist firms.

Do you see the point?

Again we press the point home. This war is not only a war for the destruction of a great

commercial rival abroad, it is also being manipulated by the great capitalists for the destruction of commercial rivals at home.

The capitalist class of Great Britain, the meanest, most unscrupulous governing class in all history, is out for plunder. The plunder of German trade by force, the plunder of Irish trade by economic scheming, the plunder of the small capitalist class by financial pressure, the plunder of the Irish Nation by a combination of all three.

The grip of the enemy upon Ireland is tightening. Perhaps the sword alone can loosen it. Wait and see!

QUAKERS AND CONSCRIPTION.

MINUTE OF THE YEARLY MEETING
OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
IN GREAT BRITAIN.
Held in London, 28th to 30th of First
Month, 1916.

This yearly meeting has been specially called together to consider the situation caused by the Military Service Act, which has just become law; and we take this, the earliest opportunity, of re-affirming our entire opposition to compulsory military service and our desire for the repeal of the Act.

War, in our view, involves a surrender of the Christian ideal and denial of human brotherhood; it is an evil for the destruction of which the world is longing; but freedom from the scourge of war will only be brought about through the faithfulness of individuals to their inmost convictions, under the guidance of the Spirit of Christ.

Our position is based upon our interpretation of the teaching of Jesus Christ. We regard the central conception of the Act the imperilling the liberty of the individual conscience—which is the main hope of human progress—and as entrenching more deeply that militarism from which we all desire the world to be freed.

It follows that our opposition is not removed by the provisions with regard to conscience, welcome as these are. We have in mind not only conscientious objectors, but also a large number hitherto held back from military service from no unworthy motive, but by a restraining influence to which they would find it impossible to give expression. The effect of compulsion is ruthlessly and indiscriminately to sweep all those into the army.

We consider that young men may do important service by going before the Tribunals, claiming exemption and making clear their reasons for doing so. At the same time we cannot admit that a human tribunal is an adequate judge of any man's conscience. The final appeal can only be to the source from which the conscientious convictions themselves spring.

Our lives should prove that compulsion is both unnecessary and impolitic. They should manifest a sense of duty not less strong than that which has driven many whom we respect and some even of our own members into the fighting forces. We can identify ourselves to the full with the griefs of our nation in which few hearts are not torn by suffering or harrowed by suspense. We pray that in steadfast conformity to the path of duty we may be set free to serve—to give the community the fullest service of which we are capable—each one in the way of God's appointing.

JOHN H. BARLOW,
Clerk of London Yearly Meeting.

Devonshire House,
136, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.

FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

In *Vossische Zeitung* (Radical) of December 25, 1915, Herr Ballin expresses anxiety lest "the great and beautiful thought" of "the new war-aim, Berlin-Bagdad" may "overshadow the tremendous interests which point to world commerce and over-sea-trade." The innocence of Germany in the war is proved, he argues, above all by the fact that she is only aiming at her own interests:—"That this war was not desired by us, as our opponents assert, is shown most clearly by the fact that we have been drawn into it with no other aim beyond the existence of the Fatherland, and free access to land and sea for the activity of our industries and our efforts. Access to land and sea! . . . No doubt, in peace the seas were always free, but in war they are ruled, as we now find once more to our cost, by the strongest fleet. Thus the ways must be sought and found which will assure freedom for trading-vessels not only in peace but in war." Ballin closes with Liszt's paean about the sea: "The sea is the highway of the earth. The sea is the parade-ground of the nations. The sea is the battlefield of power and of enterprise for all peoples of the earth, and the cradle of their freedom. . . . He who has no share in the sea, he is shut out from all the goods and honours of the world—he is only the stepson of our good Lord God." "Let us trust," concludes Herr Ballin, "that those who must one day negotiate the peace for Germany will see it that we do not become the 'the stepsons of our good Lord God.'"

Cambridge Magazine.

SWISS OPINION ON THE WAR.

The *Cologne Gazette* reports from Zurich:—A Hague correspondent of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* states that in circles of the Dutch Capital which are in touch with the Court, and also in diplomatic circles, the conviction exists that the end of the world-war is near. It is anticipated that the military decision will occur in the spring. The offensives of the English and French in the West and the Russians in the East must bring about an eventful change of the whole military position. Whatever the result of the offensive—whether it succeeds or fails—it will accelerate peace. But two things are regarded in well informed circles here (Zurich) as already quite impossible. Firstly the termination of the war by starvation of the Central Powers, or exhaustion of their military or financial resources; and, secondly, their defeat. In the most favourable case, the circles which represent serious opinion in London, Paris and St. Petersburg count on no more than a thrusting back of the armies of the Central Powers on to their own territory. All hopes of occupying German or Austro-Hungarian territory, or marching on Berlin, have finally been given up.

TWINEM BROTHERS'

MINERAL WATERS

The Workingman's Beverage.

TWINEM BROTHERS'

VOLUNTEER SAUCE

The Workingman's Relish.

Factory—66 S. C. ROAD, and 31 LOWER
CLANBRASSIL STREET. 'PHONE 2658.

A WAR PROBLEM.

The fact of the matter is that the ruling class in each country is up against a new proposition. That proposition is "Trench Warfare." Lord Lytton touched it lightly in one of his novels. Victor Hugo also mentions underground fighting in his novel, "93." It seems plain to my untutored brain that an army that honeycombs its land with trenches can be easily beaten in a few hundred years—not before, unless food gives out. It resolves itself into a problem: If it takes four nations ten months to capture two canals and a brickfield, how many million lives do you require to prove that you can't win?—Casey in *London Labour Leader*.

A week or so ago says the Canadian *Forward* we cut the foregoing out of the *London Labour Leader* because it struck us as being humorous. When the time came to send it to the "machine" and we were weighing its merits as an item for this issue of the *Forward*, the evening paper arrived with a great screech head-line announcing that the British loss at the battle of Loos was 60,000 men, who gained in the onslaught some seven square miles. In other words it cost nearly 9,000 men per square mile of gain.

In the light of these figures just announced in the following dispatch our friend Casey appears more of a "military expert" than a humourist. The dispatch says:

BRITISH LOSSES NEAR LOOS TOTAL 60,000.

Tremendous Casualty List From Battle
Last September.

Special Cable to the *Star*.

London, Jan. 5.—English casualties in the battle of Loos alone, during the allied offensive in September, totalled 60,000, H. J. Tennant, Under-Secretary for War, announced in the Commons this afternoon.

Casualties at Loos were divided as follows: Officers, 2378; men 57,288.

For the 60,000 men who were killed, wounded and made prisoners, the British conquered about seven square miles of French territory between the La Bassée Canal and Lens. The battle began on the night of September 24, at the same time the French launched their great offensive in the Champagne.

And since then the British have lost to the Germans all the ground then gained.—
WORKERS' REPUBLIC.

THE AWAKENING.

I.

Out from the darkness she cometh,
Into the light of the day,
While the birds on the dew-dripping branches
Carol a welcoming lay.

II.

No longer the sorrowing woman
Who wept for her warrior dead—
No longer the harlot degraded
Who bartered her honour for bread.

III.

But a queen on her way to the crowning,
She comes through the Gates of the Dawn,
And her face now with joy is resplendent
That once was so haggard and drawn.

IV.

Long she had slept in her sorrow,
Long had her spirit been dumb;
But now she has heard Freedom calling,
And behold, she has answered and come.

V.

Into the light of the morning,
From the long night of sorrow and gloom,
She comes like a queen to the crowning,
And her triumph is tyranny's doom.

SEUMAS MACGOWAN.

REDMOND'S REMEDY FOR CONVERTING OUR YOUNG IRISHMEN INTO ENGLISH SOLDIERS

The brilliant suggestion made by the *Fallen One* at the Recruiting Conference in Galway is worthy of our serious consideration. The flooding of Ireland with recruiting literature may mean many new Irish industries, or imaginary ones, like our present munition factories, where ex-drapers' assistants and ex-publicans instruct a certain class of young women in the manipulation of machinery. Now it struck me that even the German Brutalities contained in the said literature might be of Irish manufacture. I have got before me the leaflet issued by the Civil League containing some of the evidence given before the alleged Commission of Inquiry that sat in Dublin two years ago to investigate the complaints made against the police. It will be remembered that the Labour men requested their friends not to appear before this Commission as a protest against its constitution. Consequently we are deprived not only of the largest part of the most damning evidence but also the vivid details of the most brutal happenings in the struggle of 1913. For the Labour men and women were marked down for special attention by our native Huns during that struggle in which Fergus Quinn won his promotion to Assistant Commissioner, notwithstanding the findings of the Bogus Commission.

Incomplete as is the leaflet before me, yet the contents present much that would make fine material for the manufacture of German Brutalities. By substituting the name "Hun" for the words "Police Constabulary and Constables," you have excellent examples of incidents calculated to rouse to vengeance the just ire of our people. Why, the king's first cousin, the Kaiser, allowing that he was born with a double dose of original sin, as suggested by his relatives, would find it difficult to rival any of the following incidents taken from the leaflet of the Civic League in which I use the more appropriate name of "Hun" for our alleged peace officers.

"Mrs. Jane Magowan, a tenant of the Corporation Buildings, stated that she saw a Royal Irish 'Hun' on the Sunday afternoon seize a large porter bottle which he found on a window sill and fling it across the balcony on the opposite side of the square at a man named Quigley. Quigley was a deaf man and could not see or hear what was going on."

"Mrs. Kate Johnson, another tenant of the Buildings, said she was in her rooms. She heard the crash of breaking glass done by the 'Huns,' some of whom rushed into her room and broke two large pictures and a looking-glass. They overturned her child's bed, wrenched away the socket from her own. A Constabulary 'Hun' threw the only chair she had against a press, breaking the door of the press and smashing the chair at the same time. They struck her on the arms and made black marks upon them."

"Mrs. Mary Lennon, living at 43D, Corporation Buildings, described the entry of the 'Huns' into her home. The family were at dinner. Some of the 'Huns' smashed the windows, and then those in the room rushed into the back premises. The 'Huns' were shouting for men and blood. They dragged her daughter out of the back premises by the hair of the head and flung her about. They flung a tin trunk over the balcony and two religious pictures on the walls were broken by the batons of the 'Huns.' The 'Huns' breaking them used bad expressions. The pictures were produced and showed large holes and rents."

The above will suffice for the present. Next week I shall, with your permission, give some more. It may do no harm to revive the memories of two years ago when the Champion of Small Nationalities sought in vain to crush the Irish Transport Workers' Union, as many of the then victims seem to have forgotten their own sufferings and their enemy's actions.

THE MARKET FOR LIES.

By ROBERT MINOR.

Newspaper Enterprise Association, U.S.A.

I had not been in Paris twenty-four hours before I got the HINT. And later I got the HINT in every other country that I visited. THE HINT came in various forms. First it came in conversation with a war correspondent; later from a man holding a government position; then from other correspondents; then the whole thing became clear as daylight. You can't get about in war countries unless you write FOR the side of the country you're in.

The hint didn't come often in tangible form. I don't want to give the impression that there was anything rough about it; it was the gentlest of hints, leaving no certain ground for accusations, but, nevertheless, there was no mistaking the meaning: "Come across" with something to create sentiment for THEIR side, or you don't get any privileges and will have to go back home and acknowledge yourself a failure as a war correspondent.

I don't blame any particular country—they are ALL doing it. And it comes out so naturally, there in the midst of all the heat and prejudice, that you can't even bring yourself to realize the meanness of it unless you're built of very neutral timber.

I only spent two or three hours in Germany, and half of that time was spent in a lock-up—yet I got THE HINT there just as clearly as in any of the allied countries.

Cultivating prejudice in this way is just a part of the fighting, one of the weapons as much as are rifles and 42-centimeter guns. The harm that it does last longer; for the next hundred years, the HATE thus engendered will curse the world.

Everybody contributes to this meanness. I asked a correspondent near the fighting at Goritza why he embellished his facts with such extravagant deductions. He replied: "I am a special correspondent. They want it on my paper."

I asked one of them why he did not report a story he told me of an English lord and a German officer having lunch together in the English trenches on Christmas Day a year ago. He replied that his people didn't want such things to be printed.

That is the way of it; a little touch of the human feeling and decency that is so badly needed on the mad continent is carefully covered up, and everything that breeds hate is, blazoned to the world. They don't stop with facts—there are enough brutal facts. BUT THEY INVENT OR TWIST ANYTHING THEY CAN THAT WILL STIR MEN TO KILL ONE ANOTHER.

I was listening to a recital by an old woman, proprietress of a cafe in a little French village, of the brutality of the invading troops, when in came the old man, who confirmed it all as an eye-witness. The woman finished her story with the exclamation "Salles Boches!" (French slang for "dirty Germans") when the old fellow protested, "Oh, but it was our boys that did it!" She angrily replied, "Well, our boys started it, but the salles Boches finished it!" I left them fighting it out between them.

On a train between London and Liverpool I found three Englishmen, one a soldier, listening to a Belgian's story of atrocities. The Belgian had dramatic ability. "I saw it my own eyes," he said, tapping the said eyes with his fingers. "Little children so high," and he passed his finger across his wrist to indicate the cutting off of a hand. "And women." He indicated a slash of a knife across the breast.

He followed the most blood-curdling tale of brutality I have ever heard. His voice was a husky whisper and his eyes rolled wildly as he enlarged his tale. "Did you really see that

yourself?" I asked. "Yes." "Where?" "In Belgium." "What part of Belgium?" "All around, lots of places." "When?" "Several months ago." "How long were you there?" "Several months." "Where were you?" "In Antwerp." "How did you get there?" "On a ship, I am a sailor." "How long was the ship there?" "Oh, several weeks." "Did you come back on the same ship?" "Yes." "When did the ship sail?" "Oh, several weeks ago." "And you were in Antwerp all the time until the ship returned?" "Yes."

Then I turned to the Englishmen and told them what had just been told me in Paris by my friend G——, who had served eight months as an officer of the American Relief Commission in Belgium. He had had the privilege of moving where he pleased throughout Belgium and Northern France, back of the German lines, and he told me that he had tried to run down every atrocity story he heard. He said that he had never been able to find anything worse than the hugging of a woman by a soldier in all the eight months he had been there.

I also told my little audience of another friend, representing a London newspaper, who had been sent by that journal among the Belgian refugees at the beginning of the war for the express purpose of CONFIRMING atrocities. He had been unable to find one, and had been quietly recalled by that paper.

The dramatic Belgian's jaw dropped as I told this, and when I as gently as possible asked him whether he hadn't read that story somewhere instead of having really seen it, he didn't answer.

Just as an English soldier told me the Turks were awful fiends in Armenia, where he had never been, though all he had seen and fought in Gallipoli were decent so—Germans recuperating in Switzerland, told me almost word for word the same hackneyed stories of the French that the French had told of them.

Yet, the average, little anything-to-succeed war correspondent will sit in his office and coolly tell such stories as the truth, putting in the greatest possible bias, just to get invited to go to the trenches as the guest of the government, or even to get the cable officials to send his "stuff" a few hours ahead of his rival's, thereby "making good" as a journalist.

It is meaner and wreaks more havoc than anything that drunken soldiers will do.

Lying is the greatest atrocity of this war.

AS A FRENCHMAN SAW IT.

"The French fight for glory and the Germans for a living; the Russians fight to divert the attention of the people from home affairs; but John Bull fights to promote trade, and to bring about peace among the nations! When he goes after new territory he takes the Bible with him; and, in a while, the natives have the Bible and he has the land. First he falls on his knees, and then he falls on the aborigines. Nor is he lacking in self-conceit. If anything goes wrong, he knows where to lay the blame, for he has the Scotch, the Irish, and the Welsh always at hand for that purpose. Carlyle is known as an English writer, but if he had committed a murder, he would at once be known as a Scotch murderer."

MAX O'REILL.

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Manager—ALD. T. KELLY.

THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC.

EDITED BY JAMES CONNOLLY.]

THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC will be published weekly, price one penny, and may be had of all respectable newsagents. **ASK FOR IT AND SEE THAT YOU GET IT.**

All communications relating to matter for publication should be addressed to the Editor; all business matter to the Manager.

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

Subscription 6/6 per year. Six months 3/3. Payable in advance.

Office, LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

"An injury to one is the concern of all."

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1916

To the Seafarers of Ireland.

WE wish again to draw the attention of all thoughtful Labour men and women to the extraordinary attitude of the officials of the National Seamen's and Firemen's Union to the claims of their members in Ireland, and more especially in the port of Dublin.

As our readers are aware the seamen and firemen formerly engaged on the boats of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company upon being ordered refused to take the boats to sea after they had been worked by clerks and others scabbing upon the dockers out on strike.

These men refused, that is to say, to scab upon their mates who were members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union. For this refusal the National officials of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union declined to grant them any strike allowance, and for many weeks they have been dependent upon Liberty Hall for their weekly pittance. Now we find that the seamen of the London boats are also on strike for an increase of wages, and again the officials of the Seamen and Firemen's Union refuse to grant them any support. Is it not time again to ask our Seamen and Firemen brothers the simple question: *For what reason do they pay into a Union that deserts them immediately they need its assistance?*

A Union that appears to hate the name of any Irishman that still clings to Ireland.

We would respectfully submit to all the seamen and firemen whose domicile is in Ireland, that experience has proven to them that they cannot expect any justice from the national officials of the Union in question.

We also respectfully submit to them that the experience of the whole Trade Union world teaches that Labour should be organised as Capital is organised, viz., upon an Industrial basis. That the seaman cannot win without the help of the docker, and the docker is immensely strengthened by having the support of the seamen. That as they are both serving the one employer in the one industry they should be both organised in the one Union.

The only possible alternative to that system of organisation is the amalgamation of all unions of general labour into one body, such as was contemplated in Great Britain before the outbreak of war stopped all possibilities of immediate progress upon sane lines. Such amalgamation would make it possible to re-organise all the constituent bodies upon industrial lines as we have indicated above, and at the same time avoid the danger of crossing the interests of unions now sectionally organised. Those unions being first amalgamated their sectional interests would be eliminated from the problem. But the application of that solution to the shipping industry was rendered impossible by the fact that Mr. Havelock Wilson and his Union refused to join with a general labourers' organisation, and insisted upon remaining aloof as a sectional union.

As usual he preferred to play a lone hand, and to break up the labour ranks. It is only when he is in trouble that he remembers the principle of the Solidarity of Labour. At other times he only scoffs at it.

But his action in refusing to join an organisation that would have linked up the Seamen and Firemen in one Union with all the workers of the docks and harbours, and with the ranks of general labour everywhere, coupled with his persistent attacks upon the principle of solidarity in Ireland clears the air sufficiently to permit of action being taken to properly deal with him. We believe that the Dublin seamen and firemen do not desire any longer to be members of such a strike breaker's union as the N. S. & F. U. is being made into. We believe that they wish to be enrolled in the ranks of organised Labour in Ireland, and to be a part of the militant movement of Labour in this country.

If they so desire, if we are correct in our estimate of their aspirations, we submit to them that it is time they took steps to organise a *Seafarers' Section of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union*. Such a section should be open to all seafarers whose domicile is in Ireland. Linked up with the dock labourers as they would be their interests would be at once identical, and the motto, "Each for All, and All for Each," would become a reality, having immense influence upon their industrial progress. We are confident that we could secure recognition of their membership card in all the ports of the world, and that the new departure would mean a gain rather than a loss to those who prefer the deep sea boats.

We have been patiently watching the rakes progress of the N. S. and F. U. in its despicable attitude to its Irish branches. We believe that the time has come for the Irish seafarers to do what the Irish Dockers have done so well for themselves under our banner, viz., throw their lot together in an Irish organization, and by so doing increase their power as well as the power of the shore workers—and thus unitedly to form a force that would set the fighting pace for the Labour Movement of all the world.

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT CONCERT.

The National Festival this year will be celebrated by a Magnificent Concert in the Rotunda Rink on St. Patrick's Night. The best Irish-Ireland talent has been secured, and a well-known sagart will deliver a patriotic address. The price of admission varies from 3/- to the handy "tanner."

The Irish Workers' Dramatic Company

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

For the Benefit of Two Injured Members of The Irish Citizens Army, will be given

Saturday, 4th March, 1916.

TWO IRISH PLAYS AND A FIRST CLASS CONCERT.

Doors Open 7.30 p.m.
Performance begins at 8 prompt.

Admission Threepence.

THE IRISH

WORKERS' CONCERT HALL,

LIBERTY HALL,

SUNDAY, 5th MARCH, at 8 p.m.

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THE IRISH PLAY

"The ELOQUENT DEMPSEY"

(IN THREE ACTS),

FOLLOWED BY A HIGH-CLASS CONCERT

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TO SOCIETIES,—Rooms to Let.

Apply to Caretaker on Premises.

FEED THE CHILDREN IF YOU WANT GOOD SOLDIERS.

A LESSON FOR THE DUBLIN CORPORATION.

By GILSON GARDNER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—An inquiry by an expert commission into the causes and cure of child poverty in its relation to national efficiency and "preparedness" is proposed in a joint resolution introduced in the House of Congress to-day by Representative Edward Keating, of Colorado.

In preparing the resolution Congressman Keating has had the assistance of Judge Henry Neil, the "Father of Mothers' Pensions." Judge Neil contends that the basis of any military preparedness is "Feed all the children."

"Thousands of children are suffering slow starvation in this country," said Judge Neil to-day, discussing the Keating resolution. "Those that grow up are weaklings, mentally, morally and physically. They make a class that create a rotten place in the national life. They are not only unfit to fight in an army, but they are so low in vitality that they are unable to feel loyalty, patriotism, love of home, and cannot be depended upon. The first requisite of an army is healthy people. German success is largely due to the fact that her children are well nourished, and child poverty which prevails in this country and in England, is almost unknown in Germany."

Representative Keating's resolution recites that "proper preparation of our country for national defense demands the creation of conditions favourable to the birth and growth of healthy and sane men and women; and recruiting officers of the military and naval service of the United States have reported that more than 50 per cent of the young men applying for enlistment are defective, physically or mentally, or both, and officers connected with other departments of the Federal government have reported that widespread child poverty prevails in our country; and child poverty, which may be defined as insufficient food and clothing, and habitations detrimental to human life, is certain to produce weak, defective and delinquent adults, and this in the richest country in the world, blessed with abundant natural resources and a power of production unequalled in the history of the human race. Child poverty and the consequent increase of unfit adults in the United States are due to conditions within the scope of legislation and present a problem which should engage the attention of the Congress of the United States."

For these reasons Mr. Keating's resolutions propose "that the President of the United States appoint a commission of seven to inquire into child poverty, its extent and its effect on the manhood of the nation, its effect on the military and naval power of the nation, and to make recommendations for legislation to abolish the conditions which produce child poverty and delinquent and defective adults." The commission is to include three surgeons, one from the army, another from the navy and one from civilian life.

"Eight hundred million dollars was spent in the United States last year to maintain institutions for dependents and defectives," said Congressman Keating when asked about his resolution. "The production of feeble-minded children has more than doubled in the past ten years, and will soon bankrupt every State and the nation unless we can abolish child poverty."

"If we want real national preparedness we must begin to prepare the human material upon which the nation must depend in time of need. It is said that a large part of the recruits fighting for England in the trenches in Flanders and

elsewhere are getting enough to eat for the first time in their lives. We have got to face this problem of national efficiency; we must begin to give the children a chance; we must not attempt to build 'military preparedness' on a rotten foundation.

"That is why I introduced the Bill to eliminate child labour in the United States, and that is why I have introduced this resolution, which I hope can be passed, so that we may take an inventory of our national race stock and see what is happening to the generation upon whom America must depend in the future."

GORT NOTES.

A very successful coursing match was brought off at Coole Park on Sunday last, the first of its kind in Gort. The arrangements were in the hands of the Labour Section—none of the big guns being in evidence—and were capably conducted. It is a pity we could not have more of this sort of enterprise, and not be constantly oppressed with Capitalist money-making societies, associations, and humbugs.

With the advent of Spring the local corps of Irish Volunteers are entering upon a programme of more determined work than was possible during the dismal inclement weather which we have been experiencing for some time past, and the recruiting committee should have a busy time for some time to come. The work of suburban organisation should be immediately taken in hand, and facilities arranged to enlist outstanding members before the summer competitions come under way. There are several districts badly in need of a stirring up, notably Cloughnacava; Ballyboy; Kilmacduagh; and Tiernevan. These districts are anxious to come in, and should be set going forthwith. Beagh is still in the turmoil of discordancy, which should be easily rectified. Let us hope for improvement during the coming month, meetings can easily be arranged on application to the Gort corps.

The "barrack dance" is still the chief topic of conversation, and, judging by recent developments, will be the subject of interesting revelations in the near future. The calling for inquiry is coming on, when matters relating thereto are badly in need of suppression, and several awkward questions may be asked. Chief amongst those I would like to know:—

How the smutty song was received.

Did any one venture to be Teddy-bear?

Did the married woman oust the Ladies?

Who are the dames attending the "privates"?

Did the Clergy hear it yet?

When will the Nelly v. Kilmartyn match come off?

Will the Hickey v. Lade soon follow?

Will "Mac" get the "pub"?

Who is the girl that wants the "Republican" colours taken down? Has she a Separation Allowance?

Are the "Sinn Feiners" getting their own back?

Why did the "Slavies" leave the Commercial?

I understand the Leap Year Dance has been indefinitely postponed, and many and various are the reasons given for its postponement.

In next week's Notes I propose to deal with a few points of its inner history and the composition of its Committee. Wait and see.

The suggestion which I offered in the concluding note last week has been promptly acted upon, with the result that the newsagent was deluged with orders for the REPUBLIC. I hope that this beginning can be taken as a happy augury of any progress. There were many readers disappointed in obtaining their copy, but I'd wish to impress upon those late owners the necessity of ordering in advance. Owing to the present uncertainty prevailing with regard

to paper shortage, unsolds become a dead loss, and if readers are not far-seeing enough to have their copy on order, they have but themselves to blame. When purchasing this copy see that next week's will be retained for you. It will be worth getting.

S. REVART.

THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

By 'J. J. B.'

The way to Freedom has been a very Calvary for Ireland, and the end is not yet.

Irishmen in every generation have sacrificed their lives to the cause of Freedom. In every generation Irishmen have had the choice of two roads—the narrow road to Freedom or death; the wide road to dishonour or slavery! In our generation is added to the latter the attraction of dying in Flanders, Egypt, India, or the Balkans for Ireland's oppressor.

The men who died for Ireland, or the men who lived a few years in slavery and dishonour—Whom do you honour to-day?

The time has come for the Irishmen of our generation to answer this question in the only way such a question can be properly answered—by action. From beyond the grave the voice of the men who died for Ireland demand an answer! The hirelings of England, from Recruiting Platforms, also want an answer! YOU MUST ANSWER NOW.

"We may fail," the fair t-hearted will say, "if we fight for Ireland now."

I tell these people that in a fight for Freedom you cannot fail. Freedom dies through want of blood—not because of too much of it. *If we do not fight for Freedom now we will fail.* It was the blood of Emmet and Tone and the rest of our Irish martyrs that preserved Ireland as Ireland so long, and every drop of blood shed in the sacred cause of Freedom makes that cause more certain of success.

I will add, without comment, an extract from Cardinal Mercier's Pastoral Letter:—

"I was asked lately by a Staff officer whether a soldier falling in a righteous cause—and our cause is such, to demonstration—is not veritably a martyr. Well, he is not a martyr in the rigorous theological meaning of the word, inasmuch as he dies in arms, whereas the martyr delivers himself, undefended and unarmed, into the hands of the executioner. But if I am asked what I think of the eternal salvation of a brave man who has consciously given his life in defence of his country's honour, and in vindication of violated justice, I shall not hesitate to reply that without any doubt whatever Christ crowns his military valour; and that death, accepted in this Christian spirit, assures the safety of that man's soul. 'Greater love than this no man hath,' said Our Saviour, 'that a man lay down his life for his friends.'"

EMMET ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

AND COMMEMORATION ADDRESS

(Under the Auspices of the Wolfe Tone Memorial Committee),

ROUND ROOM, MANSION HOUSE,

Tuesday, March 7th, 8 p.m.

Prices, 3/6, 2/6, 1/6, 6d. Doors open at 7.30.

Proceeds will be devoted to the

DEFENCE OF IRELAND FUND.

Artists from Dublin, Derry, Belfast & Mullingar.

Address by Mr. J. O'Flaherty, Loughrea.

REMEMBER EMMET! KEEP ALIVE HIS PRINCIPLES.

CORK NOTES.

The employers of Cork—Unionist and Nationalist alike—seem to be determined that no effort shall be spared to drive the sons of the workers, and even everybody else's children, into the British Army. Some very straight talking was indulged in at the last meeting of the Trades Council. It was stated that for some time past hundreds of men of military age were arriving in the city, fleeing from Conscription, and some of these were finding employment in certain city establishments. Various remedies were suggested to prevent this sort of thing, not that we have any objection to giving shelter to anybody fleeing from injustice, but when we consider how the capitalist class take advantage of the misfortunes of those people to flood the market with cheap labour, and try to drive, by means of starvation, the remnant of our male population to Hell or Flanders, it is time something should be done.

The half-yearly report of our local railways go to show that the companies have no cause for complaint. In fact they were gloating over the success of the year's working (some exceptions of course) those who some years ago went in for a niggardly policy, and are now reaping the benefit. It appears from recent happenings the other companies are now trying the same game. We shall deal with one this week—the Cork, Bandon, and South Coast. Quite a large number of men are under notice on this line, notwithstanding their increased prosperity. We do not suggest for a moment the company intend filling their places with Belgian Refugees or slackers from other places, but we are quite prepared to "Wait and See." The men affected appear to be mostly of military age. Significant! when we recollect the employers of Cork pledged themselves not to employ men of military age and physically fit. Perhaps they have also made up their minds to dispense with their services under similar circumstances. If we find that to be so we shall not hesitate to give the names of those people. It is not for us to suggest a remedy. The attitude of a certain class saved Ireland from Conscription. Should it be necessary to advise what course to adopt to prevent starvation? Not satisfied with creating unemployment, they have also adopted a meaner method of accomplishing their designs. The price of bread, coal, and all the other necessities of life are higher in Cork than elsewhere. And picture the meanness of the Cork merchants. Within the past few weeks they charged the poorest of the poor a farthing a pound extra for sugar, and when challenged by the Consumers' League some of them charged the legal price, but sooner than give the people the satisfaction their friends the Government put on the additional duty, and now those people can charge the 4½d., and, like the Shipping Companies, "Share the Profits." Nor is this all. Rumours of reductions and dismissals are floating about in all directions. Even the soldier and the war victims and their dependants are threatened. One case will do for the present. A local firm who pride themselves on their loyalty to King and Country had an ex-soldier working for 15/- per week. The man tried to rejoin since the war broke out, but was rejected. A few weeks ago he asked for an increase of wages, and was offered a reduction. He is now walking the pavement, and some people cannot understand why we do not hate the Germans.

TRALEE NOTES.

[By ROBAL.]

THE MCGALEY CASE was the subject of a big protest meeting in Denny Street on Wednesday night week when a huge crowd assembled. Great enthusiasm prevailed and a resolution was passed amid vociferous cheering condemning the imprisonment and demanding McGaley's release. Messrs. T. Slattery, R.D.C. (chairman) J. P. O'Donnell, M.C.C., T.

O'Gorman, M. J. O'Connor and Councillor Partridge made vigorous speeches. Despite the coldness of the night none of the large number present left until the meeting was declared over. Councillor Partridge created much laughter by his challenge to the Englishman, District Inspector Britten, R.I.C., to a fistic bout in a seven foot ring. At the time of going to press the challenge has not been accepted. The McGaley Indemnity Fund was further augmented by the proceeds of a Lecture and Concert held in the Rink, on Sunday night, under the auspices of the Tralee Division, A.O.H. (Irish-American Alliance.) The spacious Hall was packed with an enthusiastic audience which rapturously applauded Mr. P. H. Pearse's Lecture on "The Nature of Freedom." The Concert was excellent, the items—all Irish-Ireland ones—being well received.

THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS of the Tralee Battalion, comprising upwards of three hundred men, headed by the newly-formed Pipers Band, marched to the Sportsfield, on Sunday evening, where they were reviewed and addressed by Mr. Pearse.

HILL 7 (the Soldiers' Club) is not, if rumour can be believed, conducive to the existing harmony being continued amongst the soldiers' friends and good ladies of the upper ten. Quarrels between these parties at Hill 7 are, it is reported, of no uncommon occurrence. Petty jealousies in connection with "our gallant defenders" are supposed to be responsible for this regrettable state of affairs.

Councillor Partridge and Mr. T. O'Gorman addressed a very large meeting in Killarney on Sunday under the auspices of the local Branch of the I.T.W. Union which is making rapid progress in "Beauty's Home." Councillor Partridge also spoke at a meeting of the Fenit Branch when the refusal of one of the merchants to pay the men working at Fenit Pier the increased wages was dealt with and a remedial course of action decided on.

A CIRCULAR from the Dublin Trades Council in connection with the City of Dublin Steam Packet strike came before the Tralee Trades Council at their last meeting when the delegates present undertook to get subscriptions from their societies in aid of the men on strike.

WEXFORD NOTES.

We are glad to be able to chronicle the fact that the Stocking Factory girls have won a victory over Murphy, having resumed work on Monday last with a guarantee of an increase of wages, shorter hours, and no victimization. But although we admit they have won a victory, we are of opinion that a minimum wage should be agreed upon, and that they should not have to pay for the needles which they have to use to make profits for their employer, who buys them for 5d. per doz., add sells them to the girls for 1d. each, a profit of 7d. per dozen. Then we were told, as we are always told in a labour dispute, that the girls had no grievance, but we think that the fact of Murphy having agreed to increase their too hard earned wages is in itself an admission of the lies circulated by one of our local papers hers, alleged to have emanated from Murphy himself.

However, all is well that ends well, and if the girls did nothing else they showed an example to some of the men of Wexford as to what can be gained by united action and solidarity, as not one of their number broke away for the three months which the fight lasted. But although they have resumed work they ought to still act collectively, and not allow one of their number to be victimized because of her activities in the dispute. An injury to one ought to be the concern of all. If that spirit is made manifest the girls at Murphy's Factory will have better times than ever they had any conception of.

The Sabbath-breaking campaign is still in full swing at Pierce's, but we suppose that this is another of the curses we are subject to through

being tied to the Godless British Empire. Men are working night and day, Sunday and Monday, for a miserable wage.

The farming class in the County Wexford are very much up against Redmond (the heaven-sent leader) just now owing to his condemnation of their laxity in connection with the Recruiting Campaign, and no wonder they are. One week he is telling them to till and work extra land, and the next he is wanting them to send their sons to Flanders to fight for Ireland (moryah.) We have not much love for the farmers of Ireland, but we must admire them for having sense enough to stop in Ireland while the battlefields of Europe are drenched with blood in the interest of commercial jealousy.

We have been told that Stafford has waived his claim to the loading of the schooner Alice T, and if it be so we think that he is a sensible man, as the man had no case whatever owing to the charter being signed behind the back of one of their owners.

Whether it is true or not, we notice that the two scab bailiffs, Miscalla and Byrne, are not on the job. For their sakes it is a pity, as they were all at home at such a miserable occupation.

Arklow owners who were in the habit of bringing cargo to and from Stafford are watching this matter very closely, and if he goes ahead with the case it will militate very much against him.

KILLARNEY NOTES.

Councillor Partridge held a most successful meeting here on Sunday. It would be well for those who are still outside the ranks of the organization to come in and join their respective Unions. For, as Mr. Partridge explained to those listening to him on Sunday, nothing can be obtained without Unity. Perhaps the influence of some of our local public men may be preventing those who are yet outside. If so, they are not worthy of the name of Workers.

We had the foreman of Messrs. Kilpatrick's having a prominent position among the R.I.C. Who this "high-shouldered" individual is and where he came from no one seems to know. The locality would not be anything the worse if he left it. We have enough of his type just now without he adding to the number. This Kilpatrick firm were, I believe, expected to work wonders to relieve employment among the workers of Killarney, but we have failed to see the "wonders" so far. The most of the hands employed are a few locals following horses, the other jobs being filled by importations.

I see where our friend, the chairman, did the needful at the last meeting of the Urban Council, all at the ratepayers' expense, by voting with his friends to oust the workman from becoming a tenant in one of the cottages that were built for the workmen, all because the workers would not crawl on their knees to "his majesty." No doubt the six of you are well suited. Perhaps you might enlighten the public the reason for suppressing the doctor's report on the cause of the outbreak of sickness owing to the unsanitary condition of Haggard's Slums. But perhaps you will find you will be compelled to take action.

LOUGH LEIN.

NORTHERN NOTES.

On Sunday afternoon Commandant James Connolly, of the Irish Citizen Army, gave a military address of the first importance to the Belfast Irish Volunteers. There was a good attendance, and, better still, close attention to the principles explained. The address has done much good here, and has brought heart and hope to the North. Its straight and direct treatment of the Irish situation in its military aspect struck right home, and won confidence and trust.

Captain Joe Robinson, of the Glasgow Irish Volunteers, is still in prison and untried. He

is in good health, and sends his love to all his friends and to the Dear Dark Head.

Last week the young Carrickmacross men who were imprisoned for singing "God Save Ireland" were welcomed home. The whole countryside and many people from adjoining counties turned out and gave the released men a welcome to warm the very cockles of their hearts. A big meeting was addressed by The O'Rahilly, and the people paraded the town singing "God Save Ireland" and other National songs. The police didn't dare to attempt any arrests this time.

In the Belfast Vintners' Assistants' Association, for some time past, there has been a big battle over affiliation to the Trades Council. A powerful section, perhaps a clear majority, are anxious to have the Association linked up with the regular labour movement, and want, for this reason, to affiliate with the Trades Council. The Council is unable to accept their affiliation unless the Association refuses the big subscriptions given it by the wholesale firms for advertising purposes. This the Trade Union section is willing to do, but it is unable to get the necessary overwhelming majority. Most of the opponents of affiliation are not opposed to affiliation in itself, nor to identification with the Labour movement, but they do not want to lose the big wholesale subs. The result is a deadlock from which neither side can find a way of escape. The deadlock has continued for a considerable time. A fresh attempt is now being made to settle the question, and it is to be hoped a solution satisfactory to all may be found.

Meanwhile the Association is making rapid strides and enrolling new members by the score. Already not a few of the houses in the city are Union houses in the full sense.

The Belfast branch of the Irish Transport Union has added another to the Union's notable list of war victories. Last week, on the approach of the usual change in hours, the branch put in its demand for an increase of wages to correspond with the increased cost of living. At Monday night's general meeting, one of the best in our history, the employers' reply was considered. The meeting decided to take the offered increase in wages for the time being, the Union holding itself free, in accordance with its standing principle, to make its future action suit the future circumstances. The increase is a shilling a day all round, with $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on all tonnage rates, the prevailing high over-time rate to be maintained. This is another step forward and marks another win to the branch's credit.

Last year's committee and officers were re-elected at the meeting. The Acting General Secretary's address on the strong and strengthening position of the Union was heartening and encouraging.

CROBH-DEARG.

SLIGO NOTES.

For a considerable time, past there has been practically no employment on the quays of Sligo while amongst the tradesmen there must be considerable distress owing to the same cause. Within the past few weeks a batch of twenty-five labourers crossed over to England to secure employment in munition works. What is going to become of the remainder of the unemployed workers of the town is a ticklish problem at the present moment. Unless things improve immediately and there is no prospect of that, they will be compelled to join the army or go to England as munition workers. This is one of the things that should be taken into consideration by those in responsible Irish Volunteer circles. If immediate action as advocated in the REPUBLIC week by week, has to give way to postponement and indefinite delay, then the Irish Volunteer movement will have been in vain. Men must live and a starving man cannot be very particular as to

the means by which he earns a livelihood for himself and those dependent on him, and even men who would be with us in an armed struggle cannot be blamed if they have to yield through force and circumstances, and accept the "fatal Saxon shilling."

We see that the Grocers' and allied trade assistants have opened a branch of the Grocers' Assistants' Association. This is as it should be, but why is it that the Mayor of Sligo who would send all the Grocers' Assistants to manure the fields of Flanders was invited, and the President of the Trades Council was ignored? Jinks too, we hear, is a member of the Licensed Vintners' Association, and therefore cannot be in sympathy with the assistants. We wonder what the General Secretary of the Assistants' Association think of this. We have been subsequently informed that some of the Trades Council were casually invited on the street.

A controversy is at present going on between the Trades Club and the Trades Council. The Club, it appears, has issued a circular calling on old members to renew their membership of the club, as it expects they will be at much expense owing to the Trades Congress being held this year in Sligo. The Trades Council think this a slur on their body, and desire to draw the attention of the Parliamentary Committee to the matter.

The dispute between the Seamen and Firemen and the Sligo Steam Navigation Company is left to the arbitration committee for settlement.

The Dockers are offered an increase of 1d. per hour for day work, and 1d. per hour for night work, by the Sligo Steam Navigation Company, and I am sure the Laird Line will give it also. Trade is very bad in the Docks at present.

DESTITUTION AND THE POOR LAW IN IRELAND.

LECTURE BY REV. P. J. CAHALANE, M.A.

On Tuesday, 15th February, was held the Fourth of the Economic Conferences organised by Prof. Smiddy and Mr. Rahilly at University College, Cork. A large audience of workmen, social workers, and students assembled in the spacious Examination Hall to listen to a paper on "Destitution and the Poor Law in Ireland" by the Rev. P. J. Cahalane, M.A.

In the absence of Prof. Smiddy, Mr. Rahilly presided and for the benefit of newcomers explained the object of the conferences—to enable the workers to show their interest in higher education and establish their claim to University Tutorial classes such as their fellow-workers in Great Britain enjoyed.

Father Cahalane then read an interesting paper detailing the historical and economic causes of contemporary destitution in Ireland.

Father Cahalane described the condition of Ireland when the Royal Commission on the Poor Law issued its report in 1836. Bankswindling, artificial inflation of prices of agricultural produce, depreciation of the currency, bad system of land tenure, all combined to produce a state of misery which we can hardly conceive. Contemporary writers give us graphic pictures of the country. The Rev. Lecturer read several interesting passages from "J. K. L." and others. A country with six millions living in wretched mud hovels and two and a-quarter millions subsisting on inadequate and irregular wages can hardly be described as prosperous.

The Poor Law Act foisted on an unwilling country over 130 Unions of which the buildings alone cost four millions. The whole machinery and legislation are unsuitable for Ireland. There is still on the Statute Book an Act empowering the deportation back to Ireland of

needy Irish workers who have lived and worked in England.

After detailing the misery of the Famine times and the inadequacy of the relief works undertaker, Fr. Cahalane proceeded to criticise the present day system of Poor Law administration. He outlined some of the suggestions of the recent Vice-Regal Commission—the removal of the insane to asylums, the boarding-out of children, etc. In particular he emphasised the necessity of introducing some methods of co-operation with voluntary workers analogous to the famous Elberfeld system in Germany. Unfortunately we had not as yet the men equipped for such a task.

Mr. Rahilly then opened a discussion by criticising the present Workhouse system. He pointed out that if we omit the patients in Fever Hospitals, about 50 per cent. of the "sick" in the Unions were old and infirm bed-ridden people who were transferred to the hospital because they were inconvenient in the ordinary Workhouse ward. Their presence in the Union lowered the standard of nursing and prejudiced the condition of real cases. The remaining patients were sick poor unable to go to the County Infirmary. This failure to provide for our sick poor proper hospital accommodation free from the Workhouse taint was a most unjust hardship. Other grievances were the incompetence, chicanery and petty tyranny of pauper attendance and the drifting of convalescents into workhouse wards. Complete separation of Hospital and Workhouse and proper co-ordination of hospital administration were the only remedies. Furthermore the present methods of appointing Workhouse or Dispensary Doctors were most unsatisfactory. Appointment ought to be by competitive examination open to all Irish men and women with an Irish medical licentiate or degree. Mr. Rahilly said he fully agreed with Fr. Cahalane's idea that the aid of voluntary agencies, charitable societies, ought to be enlisted. As to outdoor relief, however, he held that it should either be adequate or not be given at all. At present the miserable pittance was really a dole to the employer and helped to lower the wages of working women. In conclusion he pointed out that unconditional relief was harmful and wasteful. Relief should be accompanied by personal help and advice and should be conditional on the report of a health visitor or woman inspector.

Mr. Marsh denounced the demoralising effects of granting outdoor relief through political influence. He also suggested that poor-law administration should be seconded by preventive measures, among which he included co-operative stores.

Alderman Kelleher expressed the hope that the workers would avail themselves of the opportunity of discussing social and economic problems. He agreed with the condemnation of the present "mixed workhouse system." Two suggestions occurred to him. Poverty should be not only relieved but prevented. Unemployment was often due to objective causes and implied no moral fault. The authorities should have power to help a man to find employment, to redeem his tools which have been pledged and to pay his arrears of rent. Some Guardians of the poor fancied that they were guardians only of the rates. He also held that the local authority should grant an old age pension to the deserving poor who were beyond work but not yet eligible for a Government pension. Cottage homes on the Derby plan were the proper reward for old couples who had led industrious lives. Finally he agreed that co-operation between the Poor Law administration and Trade Unions and friendly societies was a great desideratum. The Poor Law is a fact; we must humanise it and make the best of it.

At the next conference, Tuesday, 22nd Feb., Professor Smiddy will read a paper on "Strikes—their social and economic effects."

Irish Citizen Army

Headquarters: LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

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

THE VOICE OF ERIN.

AIR:—THE IRISH MAIDEN'S LAMENT.

My hour hath come;
And o'er the foam
I call my wild geese back to me—
My exiled sons,
My fervent ones
With hope and health and loyalty,
From Connaught hills
And Munster rills,
And Leinster plains they're trooping forth,
And, dusky-browed,
Erect, uncowed,
Sweep down the Warders of the North.
Around my bed,
The Martyred dead.
Lie peaceful under shamrocks deep,
And hushed to rest
Upon this breast,
My lullaby hath soothed their sleep.
Oh, heart's desire!
The golden wire
Of my sad harp is tuned to song;
The night hath passed,
And God at last
Hath crowned with hope my vigil long.
Awake, arise!
'Neath dawning skies,
The Sunburst waves its folds again,
And through the land
On every hand,
Is heard the tramp of marching men.
O, brothers wake!
Your fetters break!
Too long you've bent the servile knee!
From coast to coast
In gathering host,
Swell Ireland's call to liberty.

ETHNA CARBERRY.

SOCIETY OF AMALGAMATED TOOLMAKERS.

TO THE EDITOR WORKERS' REPUBLIC.

February 22, 1916.

SIR,—

I read an article in a recent issue of your paper with reference to the taxi drivers on strike which I am deeply in sympathy with. The article refers to there being no trades union for the mechanics, which I beg to contradict, as there is a branch of a trades union in Dublin for mechanics in the motor line. It is known as the Amalgamated Toolmakers' Society.

The Dublin Branch meet every Monday evening from 8 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. at 128 Capel Street.

JAMES HEFFERNAN, Sec.

WARNING TO NEWSAGENTS.

We wish to warn all our newsagents that some unauthorised person is visiting shops in Dublin and advising that the REPUBLIC should be put out of sight as it is going to be suppressed. Also collecting returns.

There has been no change in the assistants in our despatch department, and no stranger should be listened to on such a matter, nor entrusted with any copies of our paper. MANAGER.

**PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR ADVERTISERS**

UNITE AGAINST THE BRITISH PRUSSIANS

Why do they want Conscription?
To make the "shirkers" sit up, or to make the Workers Lie Down?

To crush German Militarism, or to Crush you by British Militarism?

To achieve victory for the Allies over Germany, or to Secure Victory for Capital over Labour in these islands!

Refuse to recognise the distinction they are making between married and single. They are trying to divide you, so that they may the more easily crush you. This is the thin end of the wedge! It will be the Married Men's turn next! And after that they can still raise the age limit!

Refuse to be chloroformed with "Exemption Clauses." The exemptions will depend on the tender mercies of the Tribunals, controlled by your Bosses! You know how the Munitions Tribunals have Worked! Take warning!

Refuse to be gulled by any so-called "Pledge" that there is to be no Industrial Conscription. This has already been started by the Munitions Act. Remember the pledge that the Registration Act would not be used for introducing Conscription!

Your best Safeguard against the Extension of Industrial Conscription is this—Treat the Conscription Act as a "Scrap of Paper"! That's all it will be—if you determine to make it so! Remember how the South Wales miners made the Munitions Act a dead letter!

The Conscription of even one man is a blow aimed against the liberty of all!

Even if you have attested, do not fail to stand by your unattested mates when they take action, for Conscription will affect you as much as it will affect them!

Refuse to be Military Conscripts!

Don't Delay! Crush Conscription!

—Free Workers' Press, Glasgow.

NOTES FROM THE BACK.

In the year 1709, at the request of the English landlords, 871 Protestant Palatine families from Germany were brought over to Ireland and settled on the land as tenants and labourers at a cost of £24,850 5s. 6d. The "Natives" at the time were almost wiped out in the interests of "Civilization," "Religion," and "Small Nationalities," &c.

This may account for the whistling of "Der Wacht am Rhein," which is so frequently heard in the country.

Lloyd George, when he was introducing his German Insurance Act, promised us all 9d. for 4d. Instead, we are now paying 9d. for a four-penny loaf, and the "heaven-sent one" is stumping the country telling the workingman how to rear a five quid family on 18 bob.

So when it suits our rulers they send to Germany to re-stock this country with farmers. When we want new laws we copy the German laws, and when the royal family of England dies out we send to Germany and we get kings and princes galore, so that by the "Grace of God" the royal hutches are never empty.

"England will bleed Ireland white," said the late Joe Chamberlain many years ago.

"Ireland has done well, but she will have to do better," an English landlord declared to the "Hell or Connaught" remainders in Galway, and his Civil Servant aide-de-camp John'e, told the natives to "bleed on."

The west is now becoming the "one bright spot," and we may soon see a "Connemara hayro" springing out of the Flanders' trenches, and trotted, covered with ribbons, round the ruined towns and villages.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

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THE MANAGER.

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