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10492

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Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
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DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE:

S.
2310
D.M.P.

Detective Department,

Dublin, 21st. January, 1916

Online Special

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 20th. Inst., the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:-

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75, Parnell St.,
John McGarry and Joseph Murray for a quarter
of an hour between 4 & 5 p. m. John
O'Mahony for a few minutes at 5 p. m. Jas.
J. Buggy for twenty minutes between 6 & 7 p.m.
Pierce Beasley and Thomas McCarthy from 7-30
p. m. to 7-45 p. m. John McDermott for half
an hour from 8-30 p. m. William O'Leary Cur-
tis and J. J. Farrelly for half an hour bet-
ween 10 & 11 p. m.

Bulmer Hobson, Herbert Mellows, Michael
O'Hanrahan, M. J. O'Rahilly, Thomas McDonagh,
J. J.

The Chief Commr.

The under Secretary
Submitted.

W. E. Johnston

C. Carr 21/1/16

Under Secretary
Submitted

W. E. Johnston
21/1

W. E.

21/1

Chief Commr.
W. E.

22/1

10482

J. J. O'Connell, E. O'Duffy, and L. Raul

in 2, Dawson Street at 12 noon.

J. J. Walsh in his shop 26, Blessing-
ton Street between 8 & 9 p. m.

M. J. O'Rahilly, Herbert Mellows, and
P. Ryan in 2, Dawson Street for two hours

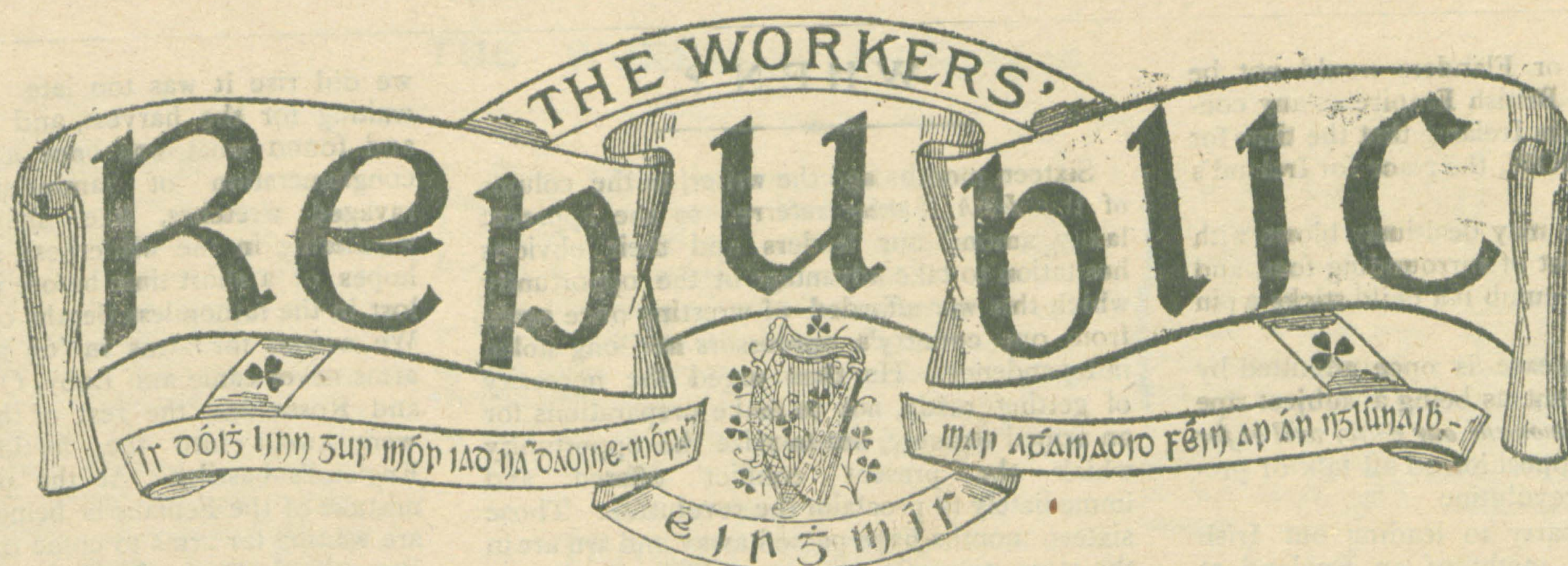
from 7 p. m.

Attached is a Copy of this week's is-
sue of The Workers Republic which does not
appear to contain anything deserving serious
attention.

Owen'Brien
Superintendent.

FOR LATE NOTES SEE PAGE TWO.

PRICE ONE PENNY.



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

Vol. I., No. 35.]

DUBLIN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1916.

[Weekly.

STRAINING AT THE LEASH.

Unloose the leash, restraining hand,
View! view! our harried enemy;
We wait in vain for your command
In fierce pursuit we fain would be.
We pray you loose us—bid us go,
Dost hear the thrilling "Tally Ho"?

The day is fair—why vacillate?
Soon fickle Chance shall spread her wing,
And once again 'twill be "Too Late."
Back in Fate's lap her gift we'll fling.
Shame deep as ours then ne'er shall be,
Who trifled thus with Liberty.

The robber prey is sorely pressed—
The Hounds of Justice on him gain.
Our place is there amongst the rest
Or merit we all mens' disdain.
He wronged us most—Shall we delay
Whilst they our debt of Vengeance pay?

Nay, loose us or the leash we break,
And join the Great Pursuit unbid.
No part in that last shame we'll take
When Fear behind mean Caution hid
Soon Courage too would seem a vice
And Freedom dear at any price.

We strain and pant—hark! hark away,
Scant cover can the quarry find.
Yet chained and muzzled here we stay,
'Tho' clear for us the call doth wind—
And we who loudest bayed of all
May not be there to see his fall.

MAEVE CAVANAGH.

Notes on the Front

WHAT IS OUR PROGRAMME?

We are often asked the above question. Sometimes the question is not too politely put, sometimes it is put in frantic bewilderment, sometimes it is put in wrathful objurgation, sometimes it is put in tearful entreaty, sometimes it is put by Nationalists who affect to despise the Labour Movement, sometimes it is put by Socialists who distrust the Nationalists because of the anti-Labour record of many of their friends, sometimes it is put by our enemies, sometimes by our friends, and always it is pertinent, and worthy of an answer.

The Labour Movement is like no other movement. Its strength lies in being like no other movement. It is never so strong as when it stands alone. Other movements dread analysis and shun all attempts to define their objects. The Labour Movement delights in analysing, and is perpetually defining and re-defining its principles and objects.

The man or woman who has caught the spirit of the Labour Movement brings that spirit of analysis and definition into all his or her public

acts, and expects at all times to answer the call to define their position. They cannot live on illusions, nor thrive by them; even should their heads be in the clouds they will make no forward step until they are assured that their feet rest upon the solid earth.

In this they are essentially different from the middle or professional classes, and the parties or movements controlled by such classes in Ireland. These always talk of realities, but nourish themselves and their followers upon the unsubstantial meat of phrases; always prate about being intensely practical but nevertheless spend their whole lives in following visions.

When the average non-Labour patriot in Ireland who boasts of his practicality is brought in contact with the cold world and its problems he shrinks from the contact, should his feet touch the solid earth he affects to despise it as a "mere material basis", and strives to make the people believe that true patriotism needs no foundation to rest upon other than the brain storms of its poets, orators, journalists, and leaders.

Ask such people for a programme and you are branded as a carping critic; refuse to accept their judgment as the last word in human wisdom and you become an enemy to be carefully watched; insist that in the crisis of your country's history your first allegiance is to your country and not to any leader, executive, or committee, and you are forthwith a disturber, a factionist, a wrecker.

What is our programme! We at least, in conformity with the spirit of our movement, will try and tell it.

Our programme in time of peace was to gather into Irish hands in Irish trade unions the control of all the forces of production and distribution in Ireland. We never believed that freedom would be realised without fighting for it. From our earliest declaration of policy in Dublin in 1896 the editor of this paper has held to the dictum that our ends should be secured "peacefully if possible, forcibly if necessary." Believing so we saw what the world outside Ireland is realising to-day, that the destinies of the world and the fighting strength of armies are at the mercy of organised Labour as soon as that Labour becomes truly revolutionary. Thus we strove to make Labour in Ireland organised—and revolutionary.

We saw that should it come to a test in Ireland, (as we hoped and prayed it might come), between those who stood for the Irish nation and those who stood for the foreign rule, the greatest civil asset in the hand of the Irish nation for use in the struggle would be the control of Irish docks, shipping, railways and production by Unions who gave sole allegiance to Ireland.

We realised that the power of the enemy to hurl his forces upon the forces of Ireland would lie at the mercy of the men who controlled the transport system of Ireland; we saw that the

hopes of Ireland a Nation rested upon the due recognition of the identity of interest between that ideal and the rising hopes of Labour.

In Europe to-day we have seen the strongest governments of the world exerting every effort, holding out all possible sort of inducement, to Organised Labour to use its organisation on the side of those governments in time of war. We have spent the best part of our lifetime striving to create in Ireland the working class spirit that would create an Irish organisation of Labour willing to do voluntarily for Ireland what those governments of Europe are beseeching their trade unions to do for their countries. And we have partly succeeded.

We have succeeded in creating an organisation that will willingly do more for Ireland than any trade union in the world has attempted to do for its national government. Had we not been attacked and betrayed by many of our fervent advanced patriots, had they not been so anxious to destroy us, so willing to applaud even the British Government when it attacked us, had they stood by us and pushed our organisation all over Ireland it would now be in our power at a word to crumple up and demoralise every offensive move of the enemy against the champions of Irish freedom.

Had we been able to carry out all our plans, as such an Irish organisation of Labour alone could carry them out, we could at a word have created all the conditions necessary to the striking of a successful blow whenever the military arm of Ireland wished to move.

Have we a programme? We are the only people that had a programme—that understood the mechanical conditions of modern war, and the dependence of national power upon industrial control.

What is our programme now? At the grave risk of displeasing alike the perfervid Irish patriot and the British "competent military authority," we shall tell it.

We believe that in times of peace we should work along the lines of peace to strengthen the nation, and we believe that whatever strengthens and elevates the Working Class strengthens the nation.

But we also believe that in times of war we should act as in war. We despise, entirely despise and loathe, all the mouthings and mouthers about war who infest Ireland in time of peace, just as we despise and loathe all the cantings about caution and restraint to which the same people treat us in times of war.

Mark well then our programme. While the war lasts and Ireland still is a subject nation we shall continue to urge her to fight for her freedom.

We shall continue, in season and out of season, to teach that the "far-flung battle line" of England is weakest at the point nearest its heart, that Ireland is in that position of tactical advantage, that a defeat of England in India,

Egypt, the Balkans or Flanders would not be so dangerous to the British Empire as any conflict of armed forces in Ireland, that the time for Ireland's Battle is NOW, the place for Ireland's Battle is HERE.

That a strong man may deal lusty blows with his fists against a host of surrounding foes, and conquer, but will succumb if a child sticks a pin in his heart.

But the moment peace is once admitted by the British Government as being a subject ripe for discussion, *that moment our policy will be for peace* and in direct opposition to all talk or preparation for armed revolution.

We will be no party to leading out Irish patriots to meet the might of an England at peace. The moment peace is in the air we shall strictly confine ourselves, and lend all our influence to the work of turning the thought of Labour in Ireland to the work of peaceful reconstruction.

That is our programme. You can now compare it with the programme of those who bid you hold your hand now, and thus put it in the power of the enemy to patch up a temporary peace, turn round and smash you at his leisure, and then go to war again with the Irish question settled—in the graves of Irish patriots.

We fear that is what is going to happen. It is to our mind inconceivable that the British public should allow conscription to be applied to England and not to Ireland. Nor do the British Government desire it. But that Government will use the cry of the necessities of war to force conscription upon the people of England, and will then make a temporary peace, and turn round to force Ireland to accept the same terms as have been forced upon England.

The English public will gladly see this done—misfortune likes company. The situation will then shape itself thus: The Irish Volunteers who are pledged to fight conscription will either need to swallow their pledge, and see the young men of Ireland conscripted, or will need to resent conscription, and engage the military force of England at a time when England is at peace.

This is what the diplomacy of England is working for, what the stupidity of some of our leaders who imagine they are Wolfe Tones is making possible. It is our duty, it is the duty of all who wish to save Ireland from such shame or such slaughter to strengthen the hand of those of the leaders who are for action as against those who are playing into the hands of the enemy.

We are neither rash nor cowardly. We know our opportunity when we see it, and we know when it has gone. We know that at the end of this war England will have at least an army of one million men, or *more than two soldiers for every adult male in Ireland*. And these soldiers veterans of the greatest war in history.

We shall not want to fight those men. We shall devote our attention to organising their comrades who return to civil life, to organising them into trade unions and Labour parties to secure them their rights in civil life.

Unless we emigrate to some country where there are men.

Winter Coats & Boots

Special Value in Ladies' and Children's Boots and Shoes.

LADIES' WINTER COATS & COSTUMES,

From £1 10s. to £4 4s.

Best Material Supplied.

Perfect Cut and Finish Guaranteed.

Stylish Millinery to order. Give us a Trial.

Irish Workers' Co-operative Stores,
31 EDEN QUAY, DUBLIN.

WHEN?

Sixteen months ago the writer, in the columns of the *Irish Worker* referred to the apparent laxity among our leaders and their obvious hesitation to take advantage of the opportunity which this war afforded of wresting once again from our country's oppressors her long stolen independence. He then urged the necessity of getting ready, not to make preparations for an armed struggle, but to seize the opportunity which the present conflict offered and immediately to proclaim the revolution. Those sixteen months have passed away and we are in the same state of expectancy which promises to last for a long time to come, even if it is not to be perpetual. To-day we are still drilling and parading. Our eyes are still fixed on the future and our hearts are full with an unsatisfied longing. People to-day may think it the quintessence of imbecility to have even suggested a rising of the Irish people at the outbreak of the war. They may deride the idea as the idea of a madman. They will urge the plea that it would have been recklessness bordering on insanity to have made the attempt then unarmed and unorganised as they were. But was the suggestion so impracticable as it seemed? Was it an altogether insane idea? To-day we may be better armed and better drilled, but the available manhood of Ireland has been appreciably reduced. How many young Irishmen, the flower of the nation, the bone and sinew of our race, young men who would have been with us in such a struggle, have been lost owing to that momentary infatuation which swept them into the ranks of England's army?

That consummation so fatal in its results to Ireland, could have been obviated by a bold stroke on our part delivered unhesitatingly and in time. Whatever advantages have been gained in the matter of arms and drill since then has been effectively counter-balanced by the stupendous act of Judas Esau Redmond and its disastrous results. As long as England pays her bloodhounds to ferret into our secrets, as long as she is able and willing to reward treachery with the biblical thirty pieces of silver which hurled the soul of Judas Iscariot into the bottomless pit, so long will our time spent in preparation be in vain. Procrastination has ever been the bane of Irish revolutionary movements. It proved the ruin of the United Irishmen, the Young Irelanders and the Fenians. Shall it prove our ruin to-day? The answer to the question lies on the young men of the land. The greatest dullard amongst us knows that a certain amount of preparedness is essential to the successful prosecution of an Irish revolution, but when the time spent in such preparation is too long, surely the rank and file cannot be blamed if they begin to suspect that the delay is only a cloak to hide the incapacity and the moral weakness of their leaders.

John Mitchel in his day had to fight against the same evil and in the end it proved too much for him. That evil threatens to produce another fiasco like Ballingarry, but a more ignominious one. We shall waken up some fine morning to find the war over and the Irish people still preparing.

Preparing for what? Is it to drive the English out of Ireland as Marshal Mackensen drove the Russians out of Galicia? The idea is preposterous. No matter how we prepare it will all be in vain because England is secretly preparing to checkmate our every move. Can we not realise our only hope lies in quick decisive action? Can we not see that our only chance of success lies in a sudden blow given by determined men? Can we not read aright the lessons of history. This waiting has always been a curse to us. In '98 we would not rise till the French came, and when

we did rise it was too late. In '48 we were waiting for the harvest, and the harvest came and found what was once a proud people a conglomeration of famine-stricken, plague-ravaged wretches, like shepherdless sheep wandering in the wilderness, and the glorious hopes of a short time before now irretrievably lost in the fathomless depths of a great despair. We waited for arms in '65 and '67, but the arms never came and Luby, O'Leary, Kickham and Rossa and the rest of the Fenian leaders were swept into the foetid dungeons of England's bastiles. At the present time the mistake of the Fenians is being repeated. We are waiting for arms to come from over the sea. But will they come? Must we wait until the arms we have are taken from us and until English dungeons are again filled with our chosen leaders? Men of Ireland, wait no longer! Remember now is always the acceptable time. Now is always the time to strike. Waiting for a day to come is but waiting for the mirage that will lure us on to despair and destruction.

SEUMAS MACGOWAN.

(Galway.)

BENEVOLENT DESPOTISM.

That the nation as a whole benefits by the extension of Empire is demonstrably false; that trade follows the flag is a ridiculous delusion; that new markets are required in the general interests of the home community (with its millions of poor, who would only be too happy to increase their consumption), and that new markets are best obtained by conquest, are miserable fallacies.

But that a certain number of adventurers, capitalists, parasites, Government officials, and others, as distinct from the proletariat, derive considerable gain from Imperialist expeditions and Imperialist rule is undoubtedly true, and in this is seen an explanation of why they are so loud in defending and advocating the growth and maintenance of Empire, whilst the working classes are befuddled into shouting for the same policy.

But perhaps the most striking testimony to the virtues of "benevolent despotism" is seen in the employment of *native races* to fight our battles for us.

Wild animals are sometimes lured to their doom by means of one of their kind trained to act as a decoy, and we occasionally hear of setting a thief to catch a thief. The process has been adapted, with magnificent effrontery and a grim sense of humour, to the needs of aggressive Imperialism; and having extended the Empire by bringing the "inferior races" under our sway, by a masterstroke of genius we utilise them to still further extend and also to defend the Empire, and convert them into instruments for bestowing upon their brethren the boons which they themselves have obtained. It is very largely in this way that we have won our Egyptian campaign; and more recently in South Africa we improved upon the process by not disdaining the aid of the natives in the subjugation of another white race. Possibly it is this fact which explains why "methods of barbarism" are occasionally characteristic of "civilised warfare," but at any rate the arrangement has its distinct advantages. It is using up the *less valuable material*; it is cheaper from the monetary point of view; and quite, if not more, efficient; it permits the work being faithfully done without any *foolish scruples*; it affords an opportunity for the gratification of the bellicose spirit of savagery (so eminently distasteful to civilization), and it makes all parties happy. Decidedly there is a benevolence about this kind of despotism which is most refreshing, and must certainly vindicate it if anything can.

J. G. GODARD,

—*Westminster Review*, 1903.

CORK NOTES.

Father O'Flanagan has done much to dispel the feeling which many of us felt for some time that Cork was rotten. The meeting on Wednesday night was the largest we have ever seen. In fact after thousands had departed in despair, there were still thousands clamouring for admission. These would not be turned away; they insisted on hearing the Rev. Gentleman at any cost, and finally Father O'Flanagan had to address two meetings instead of one. Such meetings, such addresses. Those who missed them missed a treat. A fairly good report, though of course nothing like what transpired, appeared in the *Cork Constitution* the following day. Result: The issue for Thursday last completely sold out. The whole proceedings were described in a half column of the *Cork Examiner* of that date. "The Volunteers are to be congratulated on the success of the meeting, considering the forces arrayed against them, for we have now industrial as well as political felon-setters. The *modus operandi* of the former appears to be to enter establishments for nothing, and refuse to be served by men of military age. The methods of the latter depend entirely on the rewards. Can we not resurrect the remains of Captain Boycott?"

Nor is this all we owe to the Volunteers. They and they alone might be thanked that Ireland is exempt from the Conscription Bill, at least for the present. It is to be hoped they will lend their aid to those in Great Britain who are endeavouring to prevent this infamous Act becoming law. We cannot blame the working classes of Great Britain for the wrongs and injuries done to Ireland. It is not their fault if we have not Home Rule. Excluding Ireland from the Bill is only a bribe to keep us quiet till the shackles of slavery are firmly riveted on our fellow-workers across the channel. Then it will be easy enough to deal with the fighting race—what is left of them.

The Government seems to be taking a leaf out of the book of the food hogs and baby killers (milk sharks). Not content with robbing us by over-taxation and killing our industries, they are now engaged in pinching a portion of the miserable pittance allowed for education, at a time when they cannot fail to realise the value of brains in modern warfare. The tyrant can always keep the ignorant in subjection, but "when tyranny and knowledge meets one of them must die." We await the result of the tussle.

There is no poverty in Cork. This is the opinion of the Local Government Board official who paid us a visit recently. He might have walked through Patrick Street and the South Mall and saw all that was to be seen. Did he ask the Vincent de Paul's, the Sick Poor, and other charitable institutions? Why should he. The Government officials are the only people who think they have brains in this country.

We are glad to be able to state the first of the Conferences on Economic Questions will be held in the University College on Tuesday, 25th inst., at 8.30 p.m. If one door of education is closed it is well to know another is open. Will the young men and women of Cork, especially the working classes, avail of the opportunity.

The Poor Law Guardians have decided to ask the Local Government Board to hold a sworn inquiry into the milk question. All the members present voted for it, which looks very suspicious. We await the action of the Local Government Board.

The employers are at it again. Taking advantage of the absence of the men at the front, they have already succeeded by the usual method of starvation in using machinery for discharging ships. Now they are playing a game of shuttlecock with the Corporation regarding the putting up of machinery on the quays, but we notice the workmen are not considered in the scheme. Perhaps they are not expecting

all those whom they promised to keep their places open for to come back. Now is the time for those affected to speak out, and let their friends in the Council take action.

Two more felons have been added to the roll of honour. So far no charges have been made against them. They are just the type the English Government go out of their way to make martyrs of, and yet they say "Trust England" and "Forget the Past."

TRALEE NOTES.

[By ROBAL.]

CONSCRIPTION.

The Cahirciveen Rural Council have passed a vote of confidence in Redmond and the Irish Party "in safeguarding Irish interests" by "keeping to their resolution to oppose conscription." The voting was nine for and nine against; the casting vote of the chairman, Edward Fitzgerald, J.P., who is old enough to have more sense, was the deciding factor. The proposer of the resolution, yclept Ml. C. O'Shea, proved himself a worthy follower of Redmond by calling Mrs. O'Shea, a member of the Council, a liar and applying the same epithet to another Councillor, Mr. Sugrue. A Mr. Garvey, an ex-peeler, we believe, seconded the resolution. Truly, birds of a feather flock together, even in Cahirciveen.

RECRUITING.

At last we understand why the Recruiting Meetings have been announced as "War Meetings." The Ardfert meeting was in truth a War Meeting. War was declared on the "Sinn Feiners" to no small degree. That great upholder of morality, R. D. Murphy, J.P., denounced "the bloody Sinn Feiners" and was much alarmed at what women and children would suffer in case of a German invasion. He was ably followed by his brother Auctioneer, D. J. Reidy, Castleisland, who prefers to knock down auction lots at home rather than try his skill at knocking down "Huns" abroad. Of course, our one and only Thomas O'Donnell, M.P., came across from London specially to be present at the meeting and to abuse the "Sinn Feiners." Tom must be well paid, better than if he took his own advice and joined the H-Army—a soldier's pay would not amount to so much. No wonder recruits are not forthcoming when the eligibles who ask others to join will not set the example themselves. It is noticeable that O'Donnell in his spouting efforts has gone into another M.P.'s constituency—North Kerry. Flavin, to his credit be it said, has not appeared on a Recruiting platform since he spoke in Tralee some months ago. He has refrained from advising any of his supporters to don kakhi. In this he displays more intelligence and wisdom than Thomas O'. He's a wise guy.

THE SLATTERYS.

When J. M. Slattery & Sons wantonly dismissed some of their men lately they gave "Slackness of Work" as an excuse for doing so. Their Bacon Factory has been working overtime regularly this year, which goes to prove, if proof were necessary, that the real reason these men were sacked was because they had the courage of their convictions and belonged to the Tralee Workers' Union. Slatterys' employes can hope for little redress until they throw off their slavish spirit and refuse to allow themselves to be made footballs of by their employers. When they all do this and come into the Union then they can expect to get decent wages, shorter working hours, and better working conditions.

THE STREETS.

The principal streets were swept clean last week, which caused no little surprise. The reason however, is that a funeral of one of J. M. Slattery's relatives took place. It is said that the U.D.C. staff even swept outside the

Borough Bounds beyond the Sportsfield! Now, see what it is to be a Chairman of the U.D.C.!!

KILLARNEY IN LINE.

A Branch of the Transport Union has been formed in Killarney. Messrs. O'Connell and O'Connor, President and Secretary, Tralee Branch set the ball rolling at a big enthusiastic meeting on Tuesday night. The lot of the labourer in Killarney is a hard one and we predict much good being done by the new branch.

WEXFORD NOTES.

We had an idea that when John J. Kehoe was so anxious that a draft of soldiers should be brought to Wexford, that he would be the last in the world to tear down a recruiting poster, especially when he is a member of a recruiting committee, and a J.P. in the bargain, but as usual when it affects themselves, their loyalty is in their pocket. The board which he pulled down the poster from on Sunday morning, had been posted over one of his own auction bills, and as we said above, it affects his pocket, and this is generally where the like of these people keep their patriotism and their loyalty.

The soldiers which he is crying out so loudly for are, according to last Saturday's *People*, expected any day, and let us hope that before it stimulates recruiting amongst the working class, as he wishes it to do, that his own three eligible sons will oblige him by fighting for his king and country.

The latest recruiting posters to hand here are the most ridiculous ever sent since the beginning of the war. A picture of St. Patrick watching over a ploughman, with the ruins of a church in the background, underneath is printed, "the Island of Saints and Soldiers." It used to be the Island of Saints and Scholars, but between the withdrawal of the Education grants, and the mean recruiting methods adopted by the British Government, there will be neither saints and scholars. It has been a subject for ridicule since it was posted up, even the people who might be looked upon as loyalists, agree that it is the limit.

We understand that the Mayor and Alderman Kelly have been doing all they can to bring the girls' strike to a close. They held a meeting on Monday morning last with the girls when their grievances were put forward along with what they considered to be just remedies. After the meeting the Mayor and Alderman Kelly informed Murphy of the deliberations of the meeting, who, however refused to give in only on condition that the girls return to work on the old terms.

At the time of writing another meeting is in progress, which we hope will tend to strengthen the girls in their determination to fight for their rights against the tyranny which they have been subject to for such a long time.

HAIRDRESSING!

IRISH WORKERS' CO-OPERATIVE HAIRDRESSING SALOON.

Under the Management of a First Class Barber we have Opened the Premises

29 EDEN QUAY,

(Late Shipping Federation Office)

As a Co-operative Enterprise of The Transport Union, for our Members and the General Public.

NOW OPEN

USUAL HOURS. CLEANLINESS A SPECIALITY.

RAZORS CAREFULLY GROUND & SET.

Dublin Trades Council

A

PUBLIC LECTURE

WILL BE DELIVERED BY

FATHER LAURENCE,

O. S. F. C.,
ON

Tuesday, Jan. 25th,

IN THE

TRADES HALL,
CAPEL STREET, DUBLIN

SUBJECT:

'IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITIES.'

The Chair will be taken at 8 o'clock, p.m., by Mr. Thomas Farren, President, Dublin Trades Council. Several well-known Labour men will also speak.

ALL WORKINGMEN AND WOMEN CORDIALLY
INVITED.

ADMISSION FREE.

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.

Keep the Fires of the Nation Burning!

BY GETTING YOUR COALS FROM

A. S. CLARKIN,
7 TARA STREET.

Try $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Sample. PRICES ON APPLICATIONS
'PHONE:—TWO SEVEN SIX NINE.

IF you have not the ready money convenient here is an Irish Establishment which supplies Goods on
EASY PAYMENT SYSTEM.

IT IS THE

DUBLIN WORKMEN'S INDUSTRIAL
ASSOCIATION, LTD.,

10 SOUTH WILLIAM STREET

Office Hours—10.30 to 5.50 each day. Monday,
Tuesday and Friday Evenings to 9. Saturday
Evening, 7 to 10.30.

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, JANUARY 22, 1916.

IN THE GAP OF DANGER.

IN this week's issue of THE WORKERS' REPUBLIC we publish figures showing the enormous profits now being made by shipowners and merchants engaged in the import trade, side by side with the demand of the Government that the working class should practise more economy, and avoid all requests for higher wages.

In many other walks of life the same story could be equalled. We find it in the municipal and poor law administration where the freest endorsement is given to the extravagant demands of the higher officials, whilst the most rigid parsimony is exercised against the lowly-paid workers. We find it in every company in the business world, where the rule is to vote outrageous incomes to figureheads amongst the directors, and princely salaries to the chairmen, even whilst protesting publicly inability to pay decent wages to the workers who produce it all.

On the Imperial scale the same story is reproduced. Untold millions are voted away to the work of destruction, and the work of construction and education is grudged the most paltry allowance.

The magnificent meeting in the Dublin Mansion House on Monday to protest against the withdrawal of the grant to Irish education had and has the support of all Ireland. But of what avail? The robbery will continue—the robbery of which the holy men of old spoke when they denounced as the great sin against God "the robbery of the poor because they are poor."

Politically we are helpless. Thanks to the militant Labour Movement we are not so helpless industrially, but even on that battlefield the odds against us have increased because of the defection of so many of those whose duty it was to lead, but who when the battle opened either deserted the battlefield entirely or went over wholly to the enemy.

The Irish Transport Workers' Union still stands in the gap of danger. Its flag still flies, its front to the enemy is still unshaken, its serried ranks have retreated not one inch, and behind it rapidly are gathering fresh hosts of zealous fighters. We know that we have since this war began passed through the greatest crisis in our history, that forces have been loosed against us the most deadly if the most silent that we have yet encountered.

We know that the storms we have survived are as naught to those gathering to break upon our head, but we know that we must press forward, that we have in our keeping the hopes of all the children yet unborn, and that those hopes must be safeguarded and shepherded to fulfilment. Many will fall by the wayside, many will desert us "ere the guns begin to shoot," many upon whom we relied will join the enemy, our world will be torn in confusion; but despite all the flag of Labour will yet be borne aloft triumphant in a free nation in which the wrongs of the poor shall be peacefully righted.

A CHALLENGE.

TO THE EDITOR WORKERS' REPUBLIC.

DEAR SIR,—

Mr. Skeffington has challenged me to prove that Ireland will gain more by the continuation of the war till the British Empire is smashed up than by a speedy peace. I accept his challenge, and unless the Defenders of a certain tottering Realm intervene, I am prepared to meet him when and where he pleases and prove to him—what I believe that he in his heart believes—and what many a person worthier than I has suffered and even died to prove, that now as ever "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity."

Yours truly,

CONSTANCE DE MARKIEVICZ.

WAGES IN PUBLIC HOUSES.

The pernicious habit of paying wages in public houses is again creeping in amongst certain employers in the port of Dublin. We warn these gentry that if this is not stopped immediately they will receive a shock from which some of them will never recover.

CORRESPONDENTS.

GEORGE WINCH.—Thanks for card. This war shows what the master class is prepared to do to increase the privileges of a section of its members. What then would it not be prepared to do if it thought that all the privileges of all its members were in danger of extinction.

DISPUTE.—Too late for last week. If there is a Belgian refugee working as a scab in a dispute at Early and Company, Camden Street the fact should be brought before the Executive, of the Trades Council, and complaint made to the military authorities. We certainly think that trade unionists should not allow other trade unionists to be victimised for defending their rights.

NORTHERN NOTES—Too late for insertion.

"BY KILLARNEY'S LAKES AND FELS."

THE LIGHT OF THE TRANSPORT UNION.

A very enthusiastic meeting was held in the Volunteer Hall, on the 11th inst., for the purpose of starting a branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union for Killarney, and also to take steps to form a local Trades and Labour Council.

Though the meeting was not advertised, and was called on short notice, still a large number turned up. Amongst the Trades Unionists present were—Messrs. Wm. Buckley, President, Brick and Stone Layers; T. Horgan, Sec. do; D. Rahilly, Sec., National Asylum Workers; James O'Shea, President, Drapers' Assistants; J. Buckley, Sec., do; J. Horgan, R. McCarthy, Painters; John O'Leary, Sec., Bakers.

On the proposition of Mr. T. Horgan, seconded by Mr. T. O'Leary, Mr. Buckley was moved to the chair.

In a few appropriate words he thanked those present for the honour conferred on him and explained the objects of the meeting. Mr. M. J. O'Connor, V.P., Tralee Trades Council and Secretary of the Tralee Workers' Union, was with them and he would call upon him to speak.

Mr. O'Connor, who was received with applause, said he was glad to have an opportunity of speaking to such a large number interested in the labour movement. They had met for a two-fold purpose; first to form a branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, and secondly to take steps to establish a Trades and Labour Council in Killarney (hear, hear.) If they looked for a moment on the condition of the workers they would readily find that their lot at the present time was anything but desirable, and they would find also that those who were worst off were that unfortunate class of the community—the unskilled workers—the ordinary labourers. Their wages were low, entirely too low; their working hours were long and the conditions under which they worked were detrimental to their well-being (hear, hear.) The cost of living had enormously increased since the outbreak of the war, so much so that it was a mystery how the workers could exist on the wages they were receiving and support and bring up their families in decency and comfort. The cost of flour, coal and other necessities of life had all gone up—the only thing that had not gone up was the workers' wages (applause.) In the few instances in which they had got what were called "bonuses," these bonuses were miserably small and altogether out of proportion to the increased cost of living (hear, hear.) But a worker's grievance did not begin and end with wages alone. The same remark applied to the working conditions. If the factory or workshop where he had to work was badly ventilated, insanitary, or otherwise unhealthy, the £3 a week would soon cease to be any benefit to him (applause.) A worker's well-being was not solely dependent on the circumstances attached to his work. There was also his social conditions to be looked into. He should have a decent, healthy, comfortable house at a reasonable rent so that himself and his family would not suffer by reason of defective housing conditions. These were all matters which required careful consideration with a view to remedial measures being taken. It was all very well to discuss their numerous grievances, to bring them up before their minds' eye, but if they were only to do that and no more then their meeting that night would fail and fail dismally (hear, hear.) They of the working classes had troubles and troubles enough; there was little use brooding on them—they should

start to work to redress them. A medical doctor who merely told a patient what he was suffering from and prescribed no remedy would be considered a fraud. For the grievances they suffered from there was a remedy prescribed, an unfailing remedy in the three words, "Unity and Organisation" (applause.) He asked them there that night to unite and organise, and the Union he asked the skilled and semi-skilled workers to join was a Union founded, controlled and composed of Irishmen in Ireland—the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (applause.) It had done much good for its members in other centres, and it rested with those in Killarney to see that it would do good work for them also. Their branch would be directly under their own management; they would have local Home Rule—not the Home Rule on the Statute Book kind—but, real live Home Rule in their branch affairs (laughter and applause.) He understood that there were unskilled workers paid only 10/- a week in Killarney ("shame.") This was a disgrace to civilization and reminded them forcibly that those who spoke just now of civilization and humanity might remember that the eyes of the fool were on the ends of the earth; look into things nearer home and wage war in the interests of their down-trodden brethren at home against those inhumanly low wages (applause.) The Urban Council employes, too, were complaining. Well, a lot of the blame was on the workers own shoulders. They had the power in their hands if they only used it. Labour had not the representation on the Council to which it was entitled and it was for the Trades Council when formed to weld all the workers together, educate them and get the weight of public opinion on their side—get genuine labour representatives on the Council, and so help to improve their own lot and the lot of their fellow workers (loud applause.)

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close, after which some sixty names of intending members of the Irish Transport Workers' Union were handed in and the first meeting arranged.

A conference of delegates from the different Trade societies was also held and definite steps were taken to form the Killarney Trades and Labour Council.

DERIVATIONS.

The Glasgow *Socialist* has in its answers to correspondents the following amusing skit upon some of the war terms found in the jingo press:

PERPLEXED.—(1) The term "Bosches" as applied to the Germans signifies approbrium. Its synonyms are skunks, pigs, rotters, swine, fiends, thugs and baby-murderers. It is derived from the British word "bosses" meaning "to boss," i.e., to bully, sweat, rob, and murder. This caste still exists and may be observed daily in Hyde Park on horseback—hence the term "Rotten Row." For further information see the "Clarion." (2) The word "Flag" is composed of the initial letters of Fraud, Lying Artifice, Greed. These qualities being absolutely essential to success in business, we get the familiar expression "trade follows the flag." The working class do not possess these qualities consequently "their labour never flags." See? (3) A statesman is a man who officially states things. (4) The bagpipes are common to many savage races. They are chiefly instrumental in throwing an enemy into demoralised confusion, thus permitting a successful counter-attack on the left-hand flank. No! they have no smell—the music is enough. Your other queries will be dealt with next issue.

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FORTY WARS DURING SIXTY YEARS.

[From a Swedish Paper.]

'Forty wars during sixty years.' A nation with such a record must surely be a warlike people and any Englishman who sees this will without any hesitation say that must be the barbarous Germans. How great must their surprise be when they hear that it is not the warlike Germans but the peaceable, lamblike English people who have such a record behind them during the last century.

One war against Russia, 1850; three against Afghanistan, 1841, 1849 and 1878; four against China, 1841, 1849, 1856 and 1860; two against the Sikhs, 1845 and 1848; three against the Kaffirs, 1840 and 1848; three against Burma, 1850, 1852 and 1858; nine against India between 1857 and 1897; three against Ashanti, 1864, 1873, 1896; one in Abyssinia, 1876; one against Persia, 1852; one against the Zulus, 1878; one against Basutos, 1879; one in Egypt, 1882; three in Sudan, 1894, 1896 and 1899; one in Zanzibar, 1890; one against the Matabeles, 1894; two against the Boers, 1881, 1900; and now the 41st war.

What streams of blood have not flown in all these wars, and have they been carried on to protect weak nations and to uphold treaties? The answer can be read in a well-known Paris paper, *Matin*: "All these bloody wars must be attributed to this nation of shopkeepers' insatiable lust of possessions."

A TRAITOR.

The workers know the value of conscription to the employing class. They saw conscription in operation during the French railway strike. They have seen its consequences in Germany. They have themselves had a foretaste of the consequences under the Muitions Act and the economic pressure that has been too often associated with recruiting. The known value of conscription for industrial purposes, added to the fact that no case has yet been made or attempted for conscription as a military weapon, makes it inevitable that the Labour movement must oppose it through thick and thin. The man who, being a worker or claiming to represent the workers, lends his aid to the imposition of conscription is a traitor to his class.

—Huddersfield Worker.

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WAR AND DEMOCRACY.

BY MEYRICK CRAMB.

CHAPTER II.

TRADE.—COLONIZATION AND LAND
G R E E D.

The immense importance of trade rivalry as a cause of war between nations has never been sufficiently realised. The glamour of patriotism conceals the reality beneath; men die for a flag, or for an unsubstantial cause in wars which owe their origin to the jealousies of commerce. It was thus in the city-states of Greece, in Rome and Carthage and in the Europe of modern times. It is so still at this hour.

During the period beginning with the fall of the Roman Empire and ending roughly with the first colonization of America land rather than trade would seem to have been the main excuse for war, as instance the 100 years' war between France and England, and the chronic skirmishing between the latter country and Scotland. The explanation probably lies in the fact that through all that space of time commerce and manufacture were at a very low ebb; so low, indeed, that the merchant class, as opposed to the knights and robber-barons, earned a reputation for peacefulness which it did not deserve and did not long retain once it had got the upper hand in the councils of the nations.

In the gamble for trade supremacy England had the inestimable advantage of her island situation. Her rivals—Spain, France, and Holland—were at all times liable to invasion by each other's armies, and hence had to spend much money and employ many men on land defence. England, on the other hand, could stake all on her fleet. If she won at sea she could seize the colonies and trade routes of the states at war with her; if she lost there was no great harm done. Safe from invasion, damaged ships could be refitted and new ones built. It was an unfair game with the dice always loaded in favour of one player.

The author of "Rule Britannia" was working out a logical thesis, and not speaking in mere patriotic exuberance when he wrote—

The Nations not so blessed as thee
Shall each in turn to tyrants fall,
While thou remainest great and free,
The dread and envy of them all.

It is easy to remain great and free when you have a convenient strip of water between yourself and your enemies; and other nations (not so blessed) are likely to fall to tyrants when the tyrants are often subsidized and egged on in their work by the Government of England, the land of the free! England allied with mediæval Austria and despotic Prussia, and slavery-ridden Russia against the France of the Revolution while her very infants were taught to say in their prayers—

"I thank the Lord that I was born
A little English child."*

One wonders if any of them ever perceive any irony in the words when they go back to their "homes" in the slums to find that father is out of a job again, and that mother has pawned the flatiron to buy a bite for supper.

The priceless advantage of island-situation has been discovered even by Japan, and in recent years the statesmen of that country have paid

England the tribute of that most sincere form of flattery—imitation. In 1904-1905 Japan wrested the valuable province of Korea from Russia, having first taken good care to secure the good will of Great Britain—thus insuring herself against an attack in the rear from Russia's ally, France. Ten years later we find her allied with Russia against Germany, and after annexing the important German colony of Kiaochow, taking advantage of the pre-occupation of Europe to enforce unparalleled demands upon China, reducing that country almost to the level of a vassal state. At this rate we shall soon have some bard of Tokio writing a sublime and soul-stirring ballad about Nippon ruling the waves (of the Pacific, at any rate) and remaining great and free while other nations stand round in an envious circle awaiting their turn to be plundered!

England's insular situation and command of the seas has resulted in a very unequal division of those colonisable territories abroad which should by rights have been the common heritage of all Europe.

In the years following the Napoleonic wars which left the continent exhausted and England the only nation with energy for overseas enterprise—her rulers marked out for their own the vast unpeopled, undeveloped areas of Australasia, South Africa, and North Western America quite regardless of the fact that the claims of other countries were as great as theirs, and that Germany, Austria, Italy and even Scandinavia might in a few generations time be in need of territory on which to place their surplus populations.

Of course it can be pleaded that in thus making a virtual "corner" in habitable land England was only following the example of those great maritime powers of the past, Portugal and Spain who once enjoyed between them a monopoly of the trade of South America and the East and West Indies as well. But a monopoly of land is even more unjust than a monopoly of trade. There is something hideously wrong in a system which allows one state to control (literally) millions of square miles of territory which it can never hope to populate, while other nations (not so blessed) but with a larger population and a higher birth rate are without colonies at all.

Seeley, in his "Expansion of England," showed how that there was once a greater Spain, a greater Portugal, a greater France, and a greater Holland, and how these dominions one by one fell to the rapacious maw of Greater Britain. He impressed upon his readers the immense value to a people of land owned overseas—how it gives to the poorest labourer the chance to possess a farm of his own, and offers an easy solution of all problems of overcrowding and unemployment. But he did not enlarge upon the unfairness of one people possessing these privileges in such immense quantity whilst other peoples whose need was as great possessed them not at all.

Australia alone is larger than Europe without Russia, and if every country in Europe except Russia had staked out a portion of that island continent a century or so ago there would have been less overcrowding and poverty in the towns and cities of Europe, less excuse for war as a "necessary blood-letting in a congested area" as one German writer has cynically and callously described the present holocaust.

It will be argued as it often has been argued, that emigrants of every race can and do settle in British colonies and there enjoy the same rights and privileges as the British themselves. But unfortunately, or fortunately there is a thing known as "race sentiment," the love of the

* Needless to say, democracy is repressed quite as harshly in modern capitalistic Japan as it ever was under the regime of the Samurai. The brutal executions of Socialists a few years ago are a case in point.

home-land is deeply rooted in the human heart, and when from reasons of over-population a man decides to leave his native country he prefers to go to a place where he will find the same laws and the same language and social customs as he left behind him.

Many thousands of men and women from every nation in over-crowded Europe have gone to Canada and to Australia during the last 50 or 60 years, but how many more would not have gone if a portion of each of these vast territories had belonged to every country needing an outlet for its people?

The shining watch-word of Socialism, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need" might well be applied not only to the individuals composing a nation, but to the community of nations itself. It is not that state which can put to sea the largest number of fighting ships, but that people which can send across the sea the greatest number of stalwart pioneers ready to make the desert bloom, and to carry the civilisation of Europe into the fastnesses of the jungle and the forest, which has the truest right to the largest share of the territories of the new worlds.

At this time of day it would be useless and unpractical to talk of the partitioning of the self-governing dominions of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada; their future hope lies in the direction of entire independence, achieved peacefully and not by war as in the case of the United States. As free nations, not bound by ties of government or commerce to any one European power, they will play in the future the part which America sustains at the present time.

But it is emphatically not too late to consider the re-partition of Africa on lines less favourable to the "all-red" fanatics and the land monopolists. Germany certainly ought to have more of Africa than she had even before the war and the loss of her chief colonies. Possibly Austria-Hungary and some of the Balkan and Scandinavian peoples should also be admitted as holders of African land.

The Congo Conference, held 30 years or so ago, saved much of Central Africa from the clutches of British concession hunters. After the war a similar international conference needs to be convened, to decide upon the fair and proportionate division of Rhodesia, South West Africa (late German) East Africa (both British and German) the Soudan, etc. Much of these territories are at present barren deserts, but with scientific irrigation it would be presumptuous to set a limit to the economic value which they may one day possess, nor to the white populations which they may then be capable of sustaining.

The legend that people of British birth make, for some mysterious and occult reason, "better colonists" than the men and women of other nations, and that therefore England enjoys a sort of divine right to the entire colonisable and exploitable surface of the globe will probably die hard.

Even if the British did excel all other peoples in the art of colonization the fact would scarcely give them such a right. It would be unfair and anti-social to allow a specially successful former to monopolise the land of an entire country, while other less skilled but equally worthy men died of starvation.

But it has never yet been satisfactorily proved that British colonies are on the whole better managed than those of other European states. Experience naturally counts for a great deal; that is to say races like the British, French, Dutch or Portuguese which have owned possessions overseas for centuries are more likely to understand and live on good terms with aboriginal populations than a race which is new to the business.

For this reason many comparisons have been made between British and German methods—always, of course, to the disadvantage of the

* In the present day the children of Britain are made to sing on the 24th May—

"Strength forth! stretch forth! from South to the North,
From the East to the West, stretch forth!
Stretch forth!
O strengthen thy stakes, and strengthen thy cords,
The world is a tent for the world's true lords."

latter. Seeing that none of the German colonies are more than 30 years old, their development has been remarkable.

If the Germans are kept out of Africa in the future it will be a greater misfortune to the cause of civilisation in that continent than if the British, French, Belgians, or Portuguese were to be kept out—not that any reasonable person would wish to see the people of any country deprived of their rightful share of a prize which is the common heritage of all Europe.

Even English observers admit that in German East Africa "an admirable type of official has been evolved." The Karl Peters case was unique; and England with her Warren Hastings in India should be the last to throw stones. Such instances of cruelty on the part of colonial governors are almost inevitable at the beginning of any kind of European rule over a coloured population. It is impossible always to get the right type of man on a workable system at first. Increased democratic control of such matters in all countries having possessions abroad would no doubt effect a vast improvement in the lot of the native all over the world.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE EDITOR WORKERS' REPUBLIC.

Dear Sir,—

In recent issues of your paper correspondents have, with timely foresight, dealt with the analogy which exists more or less between Grattan's Volunteers and the Irish Volunteers of the present day. One in the issue of the 8th inst., sums up the comparison in two well known verses.

What I would like to say on this, and what I have proved by experience, I am prevented from saying publicly, by the fact that your paper as well as all others of a national tendency are permitted to exist solely as a barometer, by which the trend of public affairs can be gauged by Dublin Castle.

However I hope I am perfectly clear when I say that up to the present we have "mustered and paraded" a good deal. And with "patient endeavour" as the goal there is no doubt but we will be able to complete the analogy.

Whether in the end we shall have a repetition of history I am not going to express an opinion for the reasons already given. I am confident of the sincerity and determination of the rank and file, and am in complete accord with the Editor that they cannot nor will not be deflected from their obvious duty at the present moment.

Their immediate concern should be watchfulness and preparation to be on the alert against those who may desire to postpone action, and to provide as much arms and ammunition as they can.

The present day leaders do undoubtedly hold allegiance to Ireland as their most sacred duty, but what that really means has not been defined with absolute precision, and having close connection with many of them, both prior to and since the formation of the Volunteers, a private exchange of views would I believe lead to good results. If the Editor would arrange for a short conference with his two correspondents "B. F.," "J. J. B." and myself the outlook may be more clearly defined.

Our opportunity has arrived, if we have but the will and the courage to use it. We are strong enough to rid ourselves for ever of English domination, if we strike at the proper moment. If we wait till the war is over, the task of crushing a hostile armed force will be an easy one for the English. Any resistance we may then make will be of no avail, and we can have no redress.

With apologies, I remain sir, respectfully
yours,
M. O'R.

B E W A R E !

AN IRISHMAN'S ADVICE TO THOSE THINKING OF ACCEPTING GOVERNMENT WORK IN GREAT BRITAIN.

An Irishman who accepted labouring work through the Labour Exchange on a Government job at *Inverkeating*, Scotland, gives an interesting account of conditions there which should be a special warning to Irishmen to adopt the old English motto, "No Irish Need Apply."

After detailing the long and wearisome journey, he said on arrival late at night of the party he was in there was nobody to meet them. After a time they made out the works which were four miles from the railway station. They were then brought to the Huts, and after some argument one of the Paymasters gave 2/- to each man to buy food. They were then told to come down the following morning at 9 o'clock. The following morning the Travelling Ganger took charge of us, and divided the men up into gangs. Our gang went to work making a foundation in soft slob land for fortification purposes, as the place is a Naval Base. We were only working two hours when it began to rain, and had to knock off and go to our huts, each hut holding about 35 men. There was neither fire nor coal in the hut which was quite damp. I had to get up the next morning at 5 o'clock, put on my wet clothes and go to work on the same spot as the previous day. The morning was very cold, with a fierce north-westerly wind blowing.

We had to be at work at 6 sharp in the morning; half an hour for breakfast, 8.30 to 9; dinner 1 to 2 and break off at 5.30; that is 10 hours a day. The work was of a very dangerous nature. My gang was working three-quarters of a mile away from the huts, and we had to make off our work in the darkness of the morning which was rather difficult and dangerous on account of the numerous death-traps to be met with, such as foundations, man holes, some of which were 50 feet in depth. We had to cross railway tracks in different places while trains and steam cranes were running at great speed and shunting. It was very hard to dodge these trains and escape being injured or killed. The trains were running all day, and the same difficulty arose at meal hours and when returning from work in the evening. Accidents were quite common, often resulting in men being killed; no notice whatever was taken of these happenings. One morning three men lost their way going from the huts to their work, and were for three hours astray. Were it not for a Travelling Ganger meeting them it is unknown what would happen to them.

Another morning it commenced raining at 11 o'clock and continued until 1 o'clock. We worked all the time, although we were wet to the skin. When we resumed after dinner the weather was dry, and the strong northerly wind dried the clothes on our backs.

Every man had to provide his own meals, and some money was given for that purpose called "sub. money." There is what is known as a Dry Canteen near the Huts where food, such as breadstuffs and provisions are procurable. The prices charged were double the ordinary prices, and the foodstuffs were of an inferior quality. Food of a far better description could be obtained in the nearest town, some 3 miles away, for half the price charged in the Canteen.

The men work 10 hours a day provided the weather is favourable; 6½ on Saturday, that is 56½ hours a week, at 8d. an hour, £1 17s. 8d. From this is deducted 1/- for wear and tare of tools; 4/6 for lodging and washing; 6d. for National Insurance, leaving £1 11s. 8d., from which is stopped the 15/- or 20/- received during the week for sub. money. Of course the amount coming to a man at the end of the week depends altogether on the weather being

favourable, so that he could work. This £1 11s. 8d. is calculated on the weather being favourable and a man working the full week. For the past two months I learned there was no such thing as a full week's pay for any man, the weather was so bad. Therefore any man, single or married, could not afford to send anything home for the support of his family.

First-class tradesmen like Painters and Plasterers had to do the very same work in the mud as the labourers and there was no respect whatever for an Irishman, he was treated with disrespect and contempt.

How I managed to get away and come home was almost a miracle. I am more than delighted to be back in Ireland again. I thank God for it and my advice to Irishmen is "For God's sake don't accept Government work in Scotland."

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GERMANY, 1915.

(By W. P. TRENT, in *Literary Digest*.)

Fronting the world, she stands erect,
In valour, strength, and self-respect.
The threats and insults of her foes
She answers grim, with scorn and blows.
In peace, a wisely ordered State;
In war, she shows herself as great;
Witness the drenching blood that stains
Polonian, Gallic, Belgian plains.
While Britain's coasts at spectres stare
That leap from sea, or drop from air.
The world ere now such marvel saw
Never, and halt 'twixt rage and awe.
Vain rage! This stark, consummate might
Is girt with adamantine right—
The right to live beneath the sun.
The right to hold what has been won
By toil and science, thrift and art,
In camp and farm, in school and mart—
A right which still without avail
Revenge and greed and cant assail.
Before such prowess rage must sink,
And generous minds be bold to think,
Hypocrisy hath here no place;
Barbarian?—that imperial race?
By Heaven, yon Germany, to-day
Holding so splendidly at bay
Those variegated tribes of men,
Is not a thing to hunt and pen;
Enough of blind, hysteric fear,
Enough of menace, vaunt, and sneer,
Enough of ghastly tales untrue;
Give the heroic State her due;
Strength to her arm and to her brow
All glory that the gods allow!

THE PASSENGER-TROOPSHIP "PERSIA."

Just now, while the newspapers are indulging in wrathful denunciations of the sinking of the "Persia," and calling on the world to witness that the act was "a diabolical outrage on helpless non-combatants," reflection on the following facts culled from the *Daily Mail* of 3rd inst., may serve to steady readers who have been excited by scare-headings. These facts speak volumes when taken in connection with rumoured troubles in India, and with the coming German blow against British Power in the East.

The "Persia" carried:—

From London to Bombay, 17 British officers.
From Marseilles to Bombay, 12 British officers.
From Marseilles to Port Said, 2 British officers.

She had therefore on board over 30 officers—all non-combatants of course—presumably for service in the East. The *Evening Mail* of the same date announces that there was bitter indignation in India. No doubt—very probably military circles there were much perturbed.

The officers who embarked at Marseilles were likely withdrawn from service in France or Flanders. Things must be lively in India when officers are taken from the all-important West Front to attend to matters in that "Small Nationality."

The loss of so many really innocent lives is to be deplored. The greater part of the blame must however be at the door of the power that

persists in using ordinary passenger-vessels as troop-ships. If, as she loudly proclaimed, Britain rules the seas, why do her soldiers travel depending for protection, not on the invincible sea-power of their country, but on the presence of helpless non-combatants.

England literally attacks from behind a screen of women, children and American citizens.

What will America say?

ORAM.

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

ADVISE THAT WAGES BE KEPT DOWN BUT ALLOW PROFITS TO GO UP.

We are informed by the Press that the National Advisory Committee on War Output, which works in connection with the Ministry of Munitions, and wonderful to relate, consists entirely of Trade Union leaders, has delivered itself of the following pronouncement:

"His Majesty's Government have given earnest attention to the financial position of the country, to the great and increasing demands which will still be made upon its resources to meet the needs of the war, and to the imperative need for economy in all forms of expenditure and consumption, both public and private. They have also had regard to the general advance of wages that have already been given since the beginning of the war, and to the measures already taken to tax or limit the profits of undertakings. His Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that, in view of the pressing emergency, any further advance in wages (other than advances following automatically from existing agreements) should be strictly confined to the adjustment of local conditions where such adjustments are proved to be necessary."

"The above announcement" (says *The Times*) "is a corollary to the appeal made by the Prime Minister to the wage-earning classes at the Labour Conference on December 1, to abstain in the interests of the conservation of the national resources from pressing demands for anything like a general increase in wages. In support of the appeal the Prime Minister mentioned that since the beginning of the war 4,500,000 work-people had obtained a rise, on the average, of about 3/6 a week on their rates of wages, as distinct from their total earnings."

We see from the periodicals run by and in the interests of shipowners that freights are still on the up grade (Government and Advisory Committee please note.) Before the war the cost of bringing a ton of grain from the Argentine stood at 10/-. In January of last year these freights touched 67/6. In October, 1915, ship-owners were taking 90/-. At the end of Nov. 105/- was paid. In the middle of December the remarkable freight of 120/- was asked and paid. In January, 1916, the fabulous amount of 140/- was paid to bring grain home to Britain to feed wage workers and the dependents of soldiers and sailors who are on active service. And the 4lb. loaf is up to 9d.

The price for carrying coal to France and Italy to warm the blood of working-class families in the Allied Countries has risen in the case of Italy (from South Wales) from 7/6 per ton to 65/-; and from the Tyne Ports from 8/- to 67/-. Similarly with the French Ports. Prices have risen 600 per cent.

Weekly Record.—Transport Workers' Federation.

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LECTURE BY FR. LAURENCE, O.S.F.C.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue, the Rev. Father Laurence, O.S.F.C., will lecture under the auspices of the Dublin Trades Council, in the Trades Hall, on Tuesday next, Jan. 25th. We feel sure he will have a large and sympathetic audience. Father Laurence's reputation as a Lecturer stands very high, and his sympathy with the workers is well known. All who had the pleasure of listening to his inspiring speech at the Housing Demonstration in the Mansion House a few weeks ago, and his warm tribute to the propaganda work of the Dublin Trades Council, will look forward with the greatest of pleasure to giving him a hearty welcome to the Trades Hall. Mr. Thomas Farren, President of the Council, will preside, and a vote of thanks to the Rev. Lecturer will be proposed by Mr. James Connolly and seconded by Mr. George Leahy.

MUNITIONS TRIBUNALS

RESULT OF SIX MONTHS' WORKING.

A White Paper issued last week furnishes returns of cases dealt with by Munitions Tribunals since their inception until November 27th. The number of cases on account of offences was 900, defendants numbering 3,766, convictions 2,479, and fines imposed £2,527.

Strike prosecutions numbered 22, and covered 489 defendants, 407 of whom were fined. For breaches of rules 786 cases were brought against 3,074 defendants, 2,012 being fined. There were four cases of breaches of rules relating to voluntary undertakings to work, war service, badge rules, etc., there being four defendants all convicted or fined.

Complaints against employers totalled 85 against 93 defendants, of whom 56 were fined.

Applications for leaving certificates numbered 3,014, of which 782 were granted, 1,343 refused, 770 withdrawn, and 119 in which certificates were deemed unnecessary.

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