

LABOUR'S RAILWAY A TRIBUTE TO IRISH BILL CIVILISATION

COMPREHENSIVE MEASURE SENATOR YEATS' PRIZE

The text of the Labour Party's Transport and Communications Bill, which has been published, is a comprehensive measure of fifty sections.

The Bill provides for the acquisition by the State of the railway undertakings in the Republic of Ireland and the operation of the railways under a Minister of Transport and Communications.

Section 1 specifies that the appointed day for the taking over of the railways wholly within the present area of the jurisdiction of the Saorstát be the first day of the seventh month after the passing of the Act, and in relation to the companies and the Railway Clearing House such dates as may be fixed by order of the Executive Council.

Sections 2 to 5 provide for the establishment of the Ministry. The Minister will not be a member of the Executive Council, but will be appointed under Articles 45 and 46 of the Constitution.

Section 6 provides that all the property of the Railway Companies and the Railway Clearing House shall vest in the Minister, and that any revenue arising from the railways shall be paid to the Minister.

Section 7 provides that the purchase price shall not exceed 15 times the average profits of the undertakings during the five years ending 31st December, 1914.

The Companies may submit schemes for the acquisition of their undertakings, and evidence in support of their proposals.

COMPENSATION PROVISIONS. The consideration will be satisfied by the issue by the State of Railway Stock which will take the form of Redeemable Amortisation Certificates.

The Redeemable Stock Certificates will entitle the holder to receive an annual payment of 4 per cent. interest on the amount of the stock until the stock is redeemed.

Provision is made for redemption during the first five years, as expenditure might be necessary for renewals, new equipment and development.

THE FINANCIAL EFFECT OF THE TRANSMISSION OF THE RAILWAYS. The Bill is practically the same as far as the State would be concerned.

RAILWAYS TRIBUNAL. The annual charges for the service of the Railway Stock will be repayable out of the Railway Fund, into and out of which all the receipts and payments will flow.

Section 11 constitutes a Railways Tribunal, to consist of three persons, who will determine the terms of the contracts to be entered into by the Railway Companies.

Sections 12 to 15 provide for the establishment of a separate Railway Fund and provide for the accounts relating to the property vested in the Minister, together with Profit and Loss Accounts and a separate account for the annual contribution to the Oireachtas for inclusion in the Budget.

Sections 16 to 24 provide for the establishment of a Rates Tribunal to settle rates and charges for the conveyance of passengers and goods and incidental questions.

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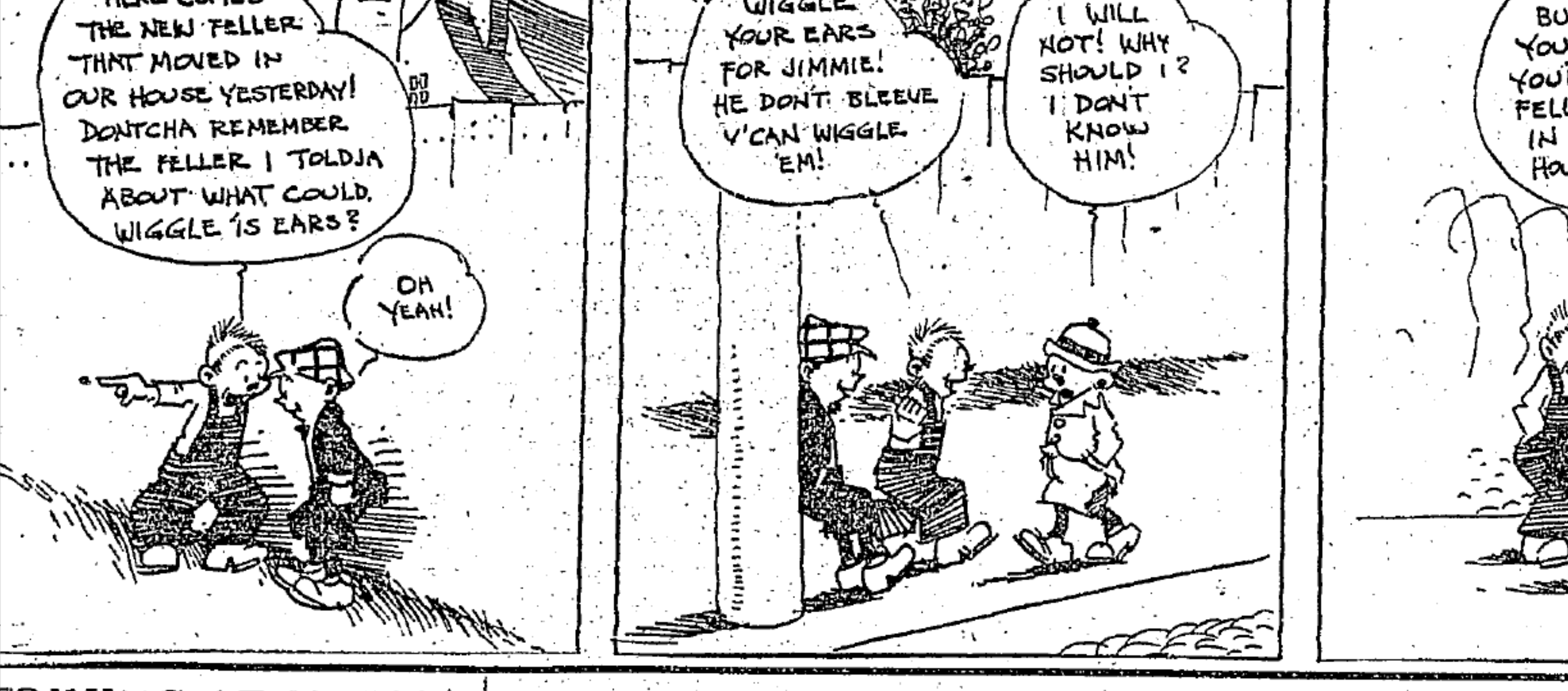
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REGULAR FELLERS

He Has Been Promoted By Gene Byrnes



CEOL NA g-CLOG IN ARDMACHA AGUS AN CEOLTOIR

THREE IMPORTANT PHASES LATE HUNGER-STRIKE

STATEMENT BY MOST REV. DR. COHALAN

In a statement in the "Cork Examiner," written in connection with his refusal to allow religious exercises which constitute a Christian burial, to take place at the interment of Denis Barry, Most Rev. Dr. Cohalan deals with three phases.

(1) The general political situation, and (2) The Republicans and the Church, and (3) The question of Christian burial.

In the first phase he writes: "Two classes of persons have a heavy responsibility for the troubles of the last twelve months in Ireland. There are persons who have not been Republicans at all, whose plans had miscarried, who had suffered a serious loss in the miscarriage of their plans, and who then discovered in themselves a theory that they had been always the most extreme of the extremes, HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY.

"Another class who have a heavy responsibility for our recent troubles," continues his lordship, writing upon the same phases, "are all those prominent men, who at first declared for the Treaty and then changed about through fear of the gunmen. When the deputies were leaving Cork for Dublin to join in the discussion on the Treaty, they were served with a notice by an L.R.A. officer that if they voted for the Treaty they would do so at their peril.

"Two of them who had been avowed supporters of the Treaty voted against it, and in public life had declared for the Treaty, and who allowed themselves to be intimidated, and then at their conversion they became the most extreme, the most uncompromising, the most undaunted Republicans.

On the subject of "Republicans" and the Church, his Lordship says: "The Church in Ireland for the last twelve months has been a wicked insidious attack on the Church and on the souls of the faithful committed to the Church."

APPEAL TO ROME

Dealing with the appeal of the Republicans to Rome, his Lordship explains the difference between an "appeal" to Rome and "recourse" to Rome. "Sometimes an appeal suspends the force of the act appealed from until the final decision is given. Sometimes an appeal does not suspend the force of the act appealed from."

"The aggrieved person must observe the sentence imposed until, perchance, it be reversed by a higher tribunal." On the same phase he says: "The pernicious activities of the Republican leaders were directed against the Government of Finance. It was an unscrupulous campaign against the souls of the prisoners for the purpose of forwarding a political campaign."

In conclusion his Lordship, dealing with the "Hunger-strike who abandons the strike, of course, gives sufficient sign of repentance, even though he may die of the effects of the strike." By the law of the Church anyone who deliberately takes his own life is deprived of a Christian burial. I shall interpret the law of the Church and refuse a Christian burial. I feel bound to do it."

It is a blessing that the hunger-strike is over. In its last stages it was becoming exceedingly irreverent and even blasphemous. I am very sorry that Denis Barry should have died. But may the Lord have mercy on his soul."

A REPLY TO THE BISHOP

Replying to the letter of the Bishop of Cork, published in the "Cork Examiner," yesterday morning, Miss Mary MacSwiney writes to the "Cork Examiner."

"Every charge, without exception, made against me in this statement is false, from the charge that I was not a Republican in 1916 to the charge that money was taken from my house to Clifton Court. The money, his lordship writes of was never in my house, and he has made no attempt to prove that it was. I cannot have offered him proof of the facts."

"Other statements of his in connection with this matter are equally false, but I am dealing here only with what concerns me."

"I am taking the necessary steps to make the Bishop of Cork substantiate these charges and to insist on reparation and satisfaction as public as the libel which he fails to do so. His slander of my dear brother, the attempt to prove that his great sacrifice was an unwilling sacrifice, and his attempt to prove that the death of my brother was a result of the death of my brother, I am taking the necessary steps to make the Bishop of Cork substantiate these charges and to insist on reparation and satisfaction as public as the libel which he fails to do so."

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ON SALE NOW. A Record Christmas Number.

"BREAKING OUT OF MOUNTJOY."

Authentic account of hair-raising adventure by one of a band who dashed out in disguise.

HOW GAELIC SAVED A SOUL.

Remarkable experience of Irish priest in England, who tells a touching story.

"WAKE UP! WAKE UP!"

True tale of how a dog saved a young squad of I.R.A. from destruction by Black and Tans.

Above are amongst strange personal experiences of Irish people who relate the facts in the CHRISTMAS NUMBER, "IRISH WEEKLY INDEPENDENT," published DECEMBER 1.

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CHURCH ROBBERY JEWELS FROM STATUE OF BLESSED VIRGIN

(By Special Arrangement with "Daily Chronicle") Rome, Wednesday.

The islanders of Sardinia are to-day bemoaning their great loss. Last night the celebrated shrine of Our Lady (La Debonaire), at Cagliari, was robbed. Thieves entered the church while the town slept and stole all the "jewels" off the statue of the Blessed Virgin. Valued at £300,000, including the crown, sceptre, and pearls and diamonds given as offerings.

Evidently the thieves intended much wider operations. They had also entered the church of the Madonna della Vittoria, and were about to rob the great safe, but it would appear that they were scared by some noise, as there were signs that they had left hastily.

LAND ACT AND ARREARS

MR. GOREY, T.D., AND NON-PAYMENT

Over 90 per cent. of unpurchased tenants in Co. Kilkenny, at a meeting in Kilkenny Courthouse, resolved not to pay the arrears demanded under the new Land Act.

Mr. D. Gorey, T.D., opposing the resolution and if they wanted to live in a fool's paradise they would do so, but they were against this question of defaulting on their rents, as well as making up their minds at once.

If they were asking the Government not to collect their rents they were asking the rest of the country to pay instead, because the Government, once the Bill became law must discharge its liabilities.

Did they think they were going to get sympathy out of their own ranks. "I may tell you," said Mr. Gorey, "from what I can see you are not going to get sympathy, and from the tone of the Government you will pay it or the machinery of the law will be put to force."

"The Government has been elected by the people of this country and if the Unpurchased Tenants are going to fight them they had better take off their gloves. If they were going to come out in open rebellion, they had better be prepared to take the consequences."

Mr. John Hughes said the Government created all these scenes and made it impossible for the people to find a market for their produce. He said that the farmers had to suffer financially. The farmers of the nation were let loose on the Unpurchased Tenants. They were told in the old days that the country was over-run with Boards. There were 48 Boards then, and now there are 48 more.

THE LAND LEAGUE CASE. Mr. P. Belton, Secretary of the Land League, in a reply to the letter of the Minister for Agriculture of 21st inst. on the terms of the Land Act and the payment of arrears, wrote the following reply: "The Government has been elected by the people of this country and if the Unpurchased Tenants are going to fight them they had better take off their gloves. If they were going to come out in open rebellion, they had better be prepared to take the consequences."

Continuing, Mr. Belton says: "The so-called judicial review was a mere device to keep the followers of the landlords purchasing through the Land Commission. It is upon this rotten economic and anti-irish system that the Land Act of 1923 is founded."

Arguing that there is unnecessary and senseless delay in the application of certain provisions of the Act, Mr. Belton says: "The proposal to pay the arrears of 75 p. c. of the old rent, 'if as is laid down in the Act the tenants are entitled to a reduction of 25 p. c. of the old rent, why does that reduction not operate from the first day of 1923?'"

In conclusion, he argued that it is impossible to secure a better price for the goods the farmer has to sell, and a reduction in what he has to buy until a sound agricultural market is created. He said that the proposal to pay the arrears of 75 p. c. of the old rent, 'if as is laid down in the Act the tenants are entitled to a reduction of 25 p. c. of the old rent, why does that reduction not operate from the first day of 1923?'"

RECENT DEATHS

Major Robert D. Griffin, R.A.D., retired, son of the late Lieut. Gen. Griffin, R.E., died at Brighton, aged 50.

Mr. Tom McNaughton died at St. Anne's, Dublin, aged 50. He was the husband of the late Mrs. McNaughton.

Rev. M. Cronin, C.S.C., O'Connell, Dublin, died at the age of 85. He was a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Dublin and was a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Dublin.

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