

POOR-LAW OFFICIALS AS SUPER-PATRIOTS.

Shameless Eye-Wash.

An Irish clerical worker correspondent writes:—

Wonderful indeed the number of old party hacks who, in recent weeks, have utilised the sufferings of one of Ireland's noblest sons to curry for themselves a little cheap notoriety and to try to ingratiate their miserable selves with the popular forces.

From D.S.O. to Dublin Union.

From Redmond Howard, D.S.O., down to the wirepullers of the Dublin Union, this dirty, filthy game went on. When will these gentlemen realise that the Ireland of to-day can never again be fooled by such men or methods, and that such attempts as the eye-wash engineered by Messrs. Judd, Blackburn, Leon, Logue and Co. at the recent meeting of Poor Law officials, stink in the nostrils of every decent Republican who knows them and their precious record?

The Murphy Press.

Posing as Labour men (bless the mark!) these gentlemen find a very worthy organ to carry on their game of sheer bluff and hypocrisy. The Independent—beloved by all Labour men—gives them full scope to play its game, just as a few months ago it gave them (the Poor Law Officials' Association) equal facilities to publish their resolutions thanking Mr. John Dillon, ex-M.P., and his colleagues for the great work done by them for the Poor Law officers. Now, of course, these boys change their coats to suit their needs, and under pseudo-Labour camouflage hope to save their bacon, but they will find their tricks to be like those of the wily fox who was caught at last.

The Bluffers' Brigade.

The editor of the Independent knows only too well that there is no such thing as an Irish Clerical Workers' Union at 47, Parnell Square, and that it is helping the greatest bluffers in Dublin in a lost cause, viz.—to rehabilitate D. Logue and Co., and thus keep genuine Labour fooled as long as possible. Irish Labour, however, is not likely to forget the organ that called for the blood of James Connolly, Sean McDermott and their comrades. Its day of reckoning is also approaching.

The present stunt is on a par with the march of the rump of the Dublin Trades Council to the graves of the men who fell in Easter week. Amongst the Poor Law officials there are some very decent men and women, but they are not to be found amongst the above-mentioned play-actors, whose greatest feats consist of wire-pulling in its most subtle ramifications. With D. Logue they are worthy disciples of the arch-apostle of the dirty game.

Cancers?

The super-patriotism of these gentlemen (when there is no danger to themselves except the fear of their jobs) is verily a study in psychology, and the cheap declaration of Mr. Judd, that the Poor Law system was a cancer eating into the life of the country, leaves him open to the retort that a cancer is a dirty thing, but what lives by and on a cancer must necessarily be even a still more filthy thing. Why not resign your job, Judd, as an example and a protest? That would be a little more to the point than a mere repetition of words used by John Mitchel over half a century ago. A cancer is indeed a parasite naked and unashamed, but—

We want no more resolutions or votes of sympathy, and neither do the men and women who are risking their all that not only Ireland but honesty and truth should live.

No Compromise and No Quarter.

Ireland does not want the Redmond Howard type of appeal to King George or Lloyd George, nor does it want useless resolutions. "We will have no compromise and ask for no mercy." The men who would serve the cause for which Terence MacSwiney offers his young life must be prepared to take the consequences, and, after all, such men never die but only find a new life which can never again be taken away.

Before the battle is much older Labour will certainly be called upon to pay its share of freedom's price, and let there be no mistake about it Labour will gladly provide the holocaust, and no doubt there will still be gentlemen ready to admire and applaud—at a respectable distance from the danger zone.

A Testing Time.

This is a time for men willing and ready to step into the trenches. And from experience we know that the gentlemen now trying to fool labour, and the public generally, are not made of the stern stuff necessary for such ordeals.

The report on the administration of the Dublin Union which is published herewith makes curious reading when contrasted with the lofty tone of Messrs. Judd, Blackburn, and Co., who must have known of the glaring incompetency and downright trickery which went on for years.

Decent men would have resigned their jobs & draw attention to the bungling, but no! It is much easier to give off harmless gas."

Our correspondent encloses a cutting from the Independent. This cutting refers, of course to the administration of the Dublin Union before the June Poor Law elections. Before June the Dublin Union was controlled by the Old Gang of Imperialists. Since June it is controlled by the Republican and Labour groups, against which there is no reflection whatever in the English Local Government

Board auditor's report. The Independent's report reads:—

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DUBLIN UNION.

Grave Allegations.

AUDITOR'S STRICTURES.

Mr. C. E. Browns, L.G. Board Auditor, in a report submitted to the Dublin Guardians yesterday for the half-years ending March and September, 1919, stated that the general expenditure £511,783, marked an increase of £63,382 over the combined expenditure of the old North and South Unions in the previous year.

He alleged falsification of the inventory account, and passed severe strictures on the control of finance generally.

While there were, said Mr. Browne, exceptional liabilities involved by amalgamation, as well as high prices and constantly increasing rates of wages and salaries, an examination of the accounts failed to furnish evidence of any serious attempt to minimise the burden by any systematic control over expenditure.

Under the head of "establishment and other expenses," which included all miscellaneous work-house expenses, payments amounted to £23,373 on the requisition book, and requisitions were apparently passed perfunctorily. Salaries, fees, and emoluments paid to permanent or temporary officials amounted to upwards of £70,000. There were, at the date of audit, 225 permanent and 121 temporary officers on the pay roll, including 19 permanent and 32 temporary tradesmen. There was no scale for the supply of fuel to the several dispensaries.

The Inventory Book.

Further, Mr. Browne said he had received an objection to the effect that luncheons provided for guardians and officials were supplied at a loss, and found that the account was duly debited with the actual cost of provisions consumed, but not with the cost of fuel, utensils, or attendance.

Dealing with the inventory book, he stated that, although all broken or worn-out stock should be written off half-yearly, no cancellation had been authorised since September, 1915, and in the period now under review an accumulation of three years' entries of condemned articles was written off. The results evidently disclosed serious discrepancies, and in order to hide this fact a systematic falsification of the account was deliberately undertaken, with the object of bringing the final stock into approximate agreement with the stockholders' returns.

In at least 150 instances (the report proceeds) wrong totals were carried forward from page to page or to the summary in the "cancels book." He mentioned:—186 plates carried forward as 498, 88 mugs as 888, 192 cups and saucers as 492, 700 knives and forks as 900.

Then there were innumerable entries of articles as cancelled, which, on examination of the store-keeper's books, proved not to have been cancelled in fact. For example, by means of 17 distinct false entries, 852 knives and forks were written off, when in fact 20 only had been cancelled; by 16 false entries 1,784 spoons were written off, against 96 actually cancelled, and so on. A further serious feature was the deliberate omission of a quantity of new articles purchased. It was difficult to decide definitely whether there had been positive fraud or a mere desire to cloak irregularity, carelessness, and extravagance, but Mr. Browne inclined to the latter explanation of a most discreditable episode. Although the account was kept by one of his subordinates, the master was, he held, morally, as well as technically, responsible, and must share responsibility with the guardians.

On cost of maintenance, £113,347. Mr. Browne recommended a return to the contract system of purchase of supplies, and as to the alarming increase in cost of outdoor relief—£41,943, or nearly 122 per cent.—he had little doubt it could not be justified.

Chairman's Admission.

Mr. Scully (chairman) admitted the relief was not properly looked after, and said thirteen R.O.'s were giving out a fixed sum, and the consideration in committee was simply a farce. The report did not alarm him, because he had been warning them all along with regard to what would happen. When the matter came on it would be considered by the new board. "Evidently the new board will have something to do," said Mr. Goole. It was decided to print and circulate the report.

It was remarked that there were only about a dozen present at the Guardians' meeting as against 101 last week, and the Clerk said he had orders amounting to £3,000 awaiting payment, but he mentioned also that £6,000 had been lodged by the County Council, and that there was a balance of £927 odd to credit.

Mr. Scully resented criticism by Mrs. Evans which suggested "scandals." "You are afraid to go up at the pending elections," said Mrs. Evans, who had alluded to a £1,000 order for sheeting. "I was never afraid of anything—man, woman, or beast," retorted Mr. Scully. "You are afraid this time," retorted Mrs. Evans, who advised that the chairman should "have a sporting try anyhow." Mr. Richardson said he anticipated difficulty in getting contractors in future in view of the difficulty of paying them. That was what was being done by the economists. "It will be all right even if they vote in Irish," observed the Clerk, amid laughter.

As is common knowledge now, the small group connected with Mr. D. Logue at 47, Parnell Square is not the Irish Clerical and Allied Workers' Union, and is not recognised in the Trade Union movement by the Irish Trade Union Congress and its National Executive. It is thus in the position of a small seceding group from the recognised Union, the I.C. and A.W.U., at 1, College Street, and was refused representation by Congress at Cork last month.—Ed., W. of L.

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'TWIXT CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM. (Continued from Page 5.)

branch. They partially retain some of the means of production, they still have money, they still have considerable social influence. The energy of their resistance has increased, just because of their defeat, a hundred and a thousandfold.

The Strength of the Exploiters.

Their "experience" in the spheres of state administration, of the army, of political economy, gives them a very considerable advantage, with the result that their importance is incomparably greater than the numerical proportion they bear to the rest of the population. The class struggle carried on by the defeated exploiters against the victorious advance guard of the exploited—in other words, against the proletariat—has become infinitely more violent. And it cannot be otherwise, if one is really considering a revolution, and if one does not comprehend under that term (as do all the heroes of the Second Internationale) mere reformist illusions.

The Peasants in Centre Position.

Finally, the peasant class, like all the petite bourgeois generally, also occupies under the dictatorship of the proletariat, a middle, intermediate position. On the one hand, it represents a very considerable (and, in backward Russia, an enormous) mass of the workers united by the interests, common to all workers, of emancipating themselves from the great landed proprietor and the capitalist; on the other hand, it comprises small farmers, peasant-proprietors and traders. Such an economic situation inevitably provokes a tendency to oscillate between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. And in the intensified struggle between the latter classes, in the extraordinarily violent subversion of all social relations, when we take into consideration the strength of the habits acquired during the previous epoch of class society—a routine which is particularly noticeable precisely amongst the peasants and the lower middle-class generally—it is quite natural that we should witness amongst the latter desertions from one camp to the other; hesitations, waverings, uncertainty, etc.

As far as this class, as far as these social elements are concerned, the task of the proletariat consists in guiding them, and in struggling for a position of leadership over them. To rally behind it the hesitating and the uncertain: such has had to be the rôle of the proletariat.—From *Soviet Russia*.

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REPUBLICAN POLICE.

The special correspondent in Ireland of the London Daily Mail states the following with regard to the work of the Republican police in one of the twenty-seven Irish counties in which these police are now operating: "I have just returned from a tour in Wicklow and can speak with knowledge of the admirable work of the Irish Volunteers in keeping law and order. In scores of miles I never saw a policeman, a constable, or a drunken man. At Bray, which used to be the scene of disorderly revels caused by the Sunday traveller in search of drink, the Volunteers control the licensed houses, and yesterday Bray was a study of Sabbath peace."