

WITH THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS.

DUBLIN DOINGS.

A crisis has arisen in connection with the recent drapery demand owing to the refusal of the Merchant Drapers' Association to establish the principle of overtime in the trade, and as a result of their action the entire settlement has been held up. It is worthy of note that several of the larger houses already pay overtime rates to both inside and outdoor workers, and it is therefore difficult to understand why the Association should turn down this aspect of the claim, more especially in view of the fact that they agreed to the principle of overtime at the last conference with Union representatives. The whole matter was under discussion at a meeting of our drapery section last Sunday, and it was decided that no overtime would be worked after Saturday next unless time and a half rates were paid in future. This will mean that inside workers will cease work at the end of the normal day and outdoor workers not more than half an hour later. In the meantime, the Association has been apprised of this decision, and requested to give effect to the increased rates of pay this week-end, failing which another meeting of the drapery section will be convened for the purpose of deciding upon further action in the matter.

Scrap Iron Firms.

The Dublin Employers' Federation having completely turned down our recent application for improved conditions on behalf of our members in the scrap iron yards, strike notice has been served to take effect on Saturday next, unless in the meantime there is evidence forthcoming from the employers' side that they are willing to negotiate our very modest claim for improved conditions.

Auctioneers.

A conference has been held this week to discuss our recent wages application.

Carpet Planners.

The United Furniture Manufacturers' Association has been served with a demand for a further £1 a week for the members of our carpet section.

Wine.

A representative meeting of our wine section on Sunday last considered the magnanimous proposal of the Association to establish a minimum of 55s. for adult workers in the trade, together with an advance of 3s. per week to boys between 18 and 21, and eightpence to boys under 18. Needless to say, these magnificent offers were indignantly turned down, and it was decided to request the Association to immediately reopen the matter with a view to much more substantial proposals being now forthcoming on the lines of our original claim, and it has already been agreed that whatever settlement is ultimately reached, the advances will be retrospective to August 25.

Provisions.

The Wholesale Provision Merchants' Association has been approached for another £1 per week on existing rates of pay, together with the introduction of a 44 hour working week, and other improved conditions.

Candlemakers.

Messrs. John G. Rathborne, Ltd., have offered fairly substantial increases in response to our wages application, and these have been accepted by the employees concerned, and the terms of settlement have since been forwarded to other candlemakers throughout the city employing our members in the hope that similar advances will now be granted generally in the industry.

Fish and Poultry Section.

Objection has been raised by the members of the fish and poultry section to the introduction of a female assistant in the Junior Army and Navy Stores, who have now reopened their fish department. The established practice in the trade only allows a male operator belonging to this section to purchase fish in the market, and consequently, the girl in question has been refused supplies, and at a meeting of our members employed in the Junior Army and Navy Stores, it was decided to request the management to immediately dispense with the services of this girl and engage a qualified operator from our fish and poultry section in her place. This decision has been communicated to the firm and a reply is now awaited.

Mineral Water Dispute.

A conference has been held this week to consider several outstanding matters arising out of the recent strike in the mineral water trade.

Sack Merchants.

Strike action is threatened forthwith unless the firms employing our members are now disposed to improve the miserable wage conditions of both male and female workers in the industry.

Laundry Section.

A further conference with the Leinster Laundries' Association has been held this week at which representatives of the Irish Women Workers' Union will also be in attendance, and it is hoped that substantial offers will be made by the employers in order to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the workers' demands.

Gas Company.

The clerical workers in the Alliance and Dublin Consumers' Gas Co. are looking for overtime rates for all work done outside the normal day, and this claim is now having the attention of the management.

Port and Docks.

The lighthouse keepers employed by the Port and Dock's Board are seeking increased pay and other improved conditions.

Furniture Section.

We regret to announce the death of Comrade Joe Towers, for many years in the employment of Messrs. Millar and Beatty, Grafton Street. To his parents and relatives we tender our most sincere sympathy. By his death we have suffered the loss of a brave and true comrade.

CORK NOTES.

THE LAND WAR IN THE SOUTH.

Failing in our attempt to secure a County settlement of the wages and conditions of the agricultural labourers, we were compelled to prosecute the fight parochially. Despite the break of our front we met the agrarians on "many a well-fought field," and the results of our efforts have been in the main satisfactory, as the following tabular statement will show:

District.	7-day men.	6-day men.	Indoor.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rochestown and	57 6	53 6	42 6
Doughcloyne	50 6	47 6	35 6
Douglas	52 6	48 6	37 6
North Liberties	52 6	48 6	37 6
South Liberties	46 0	43 0	26 0
Fermoy	46 0	43 0	22 6
Aghada	46 0	42 6	27 6
Buttevant	43 0	40 0	28 0
Liscarroll	43 0	40 0	28 0
Carrigaline	45 6	42 0	30 0
Whitechurch	44 6	41 6	25 0

Rates for casuals vary from 16s. per day in the higher-paid districts to from 10s. to 12s. elsewhere. Harvest bonus varies between £4 and £5, and "coring" rates from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

Owing to the magnitude of the county, and the diversity of the conditions, it would not be easy to make a uniform settlement, but the county demand was generally taken as the basis of negotiation, which resulted in much more uniformity of wages than had hitherto prevailed.

Red Guards in Action.

The principal areas fought were those oldest in the organisation and the best organised, but mention should be made, too, of such young branches as Cloyne and Aghada, the latter during their strike showing a discipline, determination, and organised efficiency highly commendable. For six days the Red Guards held complete sway over this large tract of countryside, while only those commodities for which permits had been

IN THE FOUR PROVINCES.

Dungarvan's Wage de Luxe.

So the bosses term it, but the men, of course, regard their newly-won rate as far from the luxury limit. This, notwithstanding Dungarvan, so far as town workers' rates are concerned, is once again well ahead of any other Irish centre of similar size, and not a few larger towns. The 10s. offer to Organiser Nagle and his confreres brings the town rate to 55s.

Youghal Town Settlement.

Not far from Dungarvan, town labourers in Youghal accepted a 7s. 6d. advance on 40s., the settlement covering 150 men. Org. O'Donovan and local officials negotiated.

Aberlow.

The blacklegging "Black and Tans" were called off Saunders' farm immediately following H.O.'s demand on the R.I.C. Headquarters that the attempted strike-breaking should cease. Now, boys, up and at him!

Oahir.

The ranchers escaped inclusion in the 43s. farm settlement, but have now been presented with demands for same conditions and must surrender unconditionally.

Delgany.

If the Golf Club Committee is really too aristocratic to condescend an answer to our demand on the men's behalf, we shall have to show them how we "hole out in one" with a strike notice.

Moate.

Incensed by the delay of the bosses in dealing with their claims, shop assistants struck work. The employers, who at first scouted even arbitration, were tackled by Organiser Jim O'Brien and local officials, and after a three days' stoppage were glad to concede the following

SHOP STEWARDS' COMMITTEE.

No. 1 Branch, I. T. and G. W. U.

GRAND CONCERT

AND

Two One-Act Plays,

By Liberty Players.

In Queen's Theatre, Sunday, Sept. 26th,

at 7-30 p.m.

Well-known Dublin Artistes & I. T. & G. W. U. Brass & Reed Band.

Concert Organising Committee call on all Shop Stewards of Dublin to do their little bit in making this Concert a success. Proceeds to be devoted to initiation of Funds for Work of Shop Stewards' Committee.

Orchestra Conductor - Mr. DOYLE.
Gallery, 1/-; Pit, 1/6; Upper Circle, 2/-; Dress Circle 2/6; Box Seats, 3/6.

received could enter or leave the affected area.

The spectacle of unanimity shown by the Farmers' Union-Sinn Fein and the Unionists—had a most edifying effect on the proletariat of Aghada, and the Red Guards appreciated with acclamation when it was pointed out how the facetious political feuds of these people were sunk and submerged when it came to both standing shoulder to shoulder in a "staunch and manly fight" to compel the labourer to exist on the 32s. 6d. minimum wage set up under the English Corn Production Act. Such an observance of English law comes strange from some people.

Capitalistic Concept of Freedom Not Ours.

The fight in the "South Liberties" will also bear fruit in more directions than one, and here the progressive worker has been taught that freedom as shouted from the platform may "butter no parsnips." During the late war the English working class were bulldozed—by, we suppose, many very well-meaning people—about the preservation of a national unity in the face of the common enemy (the Hun), and to the tune of freedom and democracy, etc., the chains of economic slavery were firmly riveted on their limbs. Conciliation, Industrial Courts, even compulsory arbitration were all pushed forward, and the more the workers in mill, factory, and mine were enslaved, the louder the capitalist sounded the trumpet of liberty. Aye, but it was over the English wage-slaves' defeat that the trumpet sounded and not over the German enemy of the Briton. To the credit of the English miner and other English workers they refused to be so bound, and all the capitalists' shibboleths about all classes being united in a common bond of fraternity were treated as piffle. They, the workers, refused to have the wool pulled down over their eyes and did not hesitate to exert their economic power to resist the reduction of their wages by an inflated cost in the commodities of life.

We, too, shall have to be careful, as the Industrial history of England through the late war may be repeated here, and some very well-meaning people seem to-day to be anxious to emulate the actions of the bourgeoisie of England and shackle the Irish worker in economic slavery—all in the cause of Freedom.

good settlement: Charge hands, 45s.; second charge hands, 35s.; assistants with five years' service, 25s.; females 50 per cent. on present rates; hours, 9 to 7, with meal hour; two weeks' holiday with pay.

Co. Westmeath Farms.

Agricultural workers in Ballynacargy are 10s. to the good following conference between Organiser Heron and the Farmers' Association. The new terms are 40s. outdoor, 21s. indoor, and £2 H.B. Harvest bonuses were previously an unknown quantity in the district. Proletarian spirit and activities are splendidly keen in this area. In Multyfarnham a further attempt is being made to induce the farmers to confer on the demand.

Listowel.

The Conciliation Board found as follows in the dispute with the U.D.C.: Roadmen, 48s.; Surfmen, 53s.; stone-breakers, 4s. 6d. per yard; rate collectors, 10d. in £; town clerk, 72s. 6d.; surveyor, 40s. (part time); all increases retrospective as from date of demand, July 1. The general town rate in Listowel is now 48s., an 8s. increase on previous wage.

Flour Mills.

The voting on the Association's offers takes place this week in all centres.

Burncourt.

Shanbally estate workers have accepted offer, but the Co-op. demand still hangs fire.

New Ross.

Gas workers' dispute is going to Dail arbitration.

Mountrath.

Several employers have settled on 40s., and 5s. for Sunday work. Organiser Hayes is to attend to the outlanders and also to the hours question.

Ballyneety.

Farm workers on strike for 42s. have secured it.

Leix Farm and Road Workers.

A conference of men's delegates has been held in order to put the road workers' case on a clear footing and also to decide regarding combined action against farmers not observing the County Agreement.

Athy.

The farm strike at Ballybrian was fixed up after conference at H.O. between representatives of each side.

Ballyhay.

Leslie estate workers will likely reject 4s. offer on present rate.

Baldoyle.

Sandpit men's stoppages was fixed up at a 55s. wage, which it is hoped to apply through County Dublin.

Newbridge.

Hecton's coal carters secured the 48s. rate obtained by Wallace's men.

DUBLIN.

Kinema Renters' Arbitration.

The result of this is the establishment of following rates: Dispatch men, 54s. 6d.; men messengers, 45s.; boy messengers, 24s.; girl film repairers, beginners 20s., after 6 months 25s., after 12 months 28s. The increases, which are retrospective from July 17, are 7s. 6d. to men and from 1s. 6d. up to 7s. in the other cases.

IRELAND'S ROOT TROUBLE.

(From the Ottawa Citizen, July 17, 1920.)

The method of the Sinn Fein in regard to domestic control is perhaps the most difficult aspect of the Irish problem confronting the British Government. Already the Republicans are assuming control of Courts, and the King's writ no longer runs in many parts of Ireland. Offences against the law as interpreted by the Sinn Fein are punished by that organisation, and the Republicans are credited with having done much towards stamping out the illicit distillation of liquor in the country. Now they have taken up the land question, showing scant regard for the claims of a small proportion of people to the ownership of land on which all the people of Ireland must live. The Sinn Feiners claim that every man is entitled to land if he wishes it. Measures that imply an attempt at enforcement of this principle are reported as follows:

"At a special Sinn Fein conference of seventy delegates at Roscommon it was decided that where land is not reasonably occupied it should be taken from the owner, by force, if necessary; that reasonable compensation should be offered, the amount, if necessary, to be decided by arbitration; that the Sinn Fein county organisation take over the control of the land agitation in the county, and that no claims be allowed for land outside the organisation, a supreme commission of five to decide all matters in dispute; that the Congested Districts Board be asked to hand over to the organisation lands they are not prepared immediately to divide; that all further action in regard to lands driven be regulated by the commission, and that from now to the end of 1920 they should concentrate upon holders of 500 acres and upwards."

From this it would seem that the Republicans held that when the landlord does not make reasonable use of his land he should be compelled to get out of the way and make room for those who do wish to use it. The method may be unsound, but the test of use, at least, is fundamental. Land is a free gift of nature, and the equal right of all to its use is essential to the equal right of all to life. Private monopoly of land cannot be justified by the reasoning that justifies property in general. In compensating the dispossessed owner the commission should pay the full value of the improvements since these, being products of human labour, are rightfully the property of the producer or the one to whom the producer has passed title. But the land itself is not a product of human labour, and has little value, aside from the value of improvements, that is not due to the efforts of others beside the owner.

It is reported that dispossession is not confined to owners of 500 acres and upwards, but applied to many smaller owners. Some irresponsible individuals have seized land on their own initiative, but these, the dispatches say, have been brought to justice by the Sinn Fein Courts. This shows a disposition to tackle the land question peacefully and equitably.

After years of effort and the expenditure of vast sums of money the British Government has managed to create a small percentage of landowners. The attempt was made in all good faith, but it overlooked some basic principles of economics, and as a result, only six per cent. of the people of Ireland, after all these years, own their own land. The fact that 94 per cent. of the people of Ireland are not entitled to the land they must live on, and which must support them and their families in reasonable comfort, may serve to shed light on the economic causes of trouble in that country. Kindred causes inspired the revolution in Russia, and have been at the bottom of most of the great political convulsions in Europe for centuries. Yet years ago Michael Davitt and Bishop Nulty, of Meath, pointed out the solution. "No one," said these gentlemen, "will hold more land than he can use if he is required to pay its rental value into the public treasury."

BELFAST EXPELLED WORKERS' FUND.

Refugees, victims of the Pogrom, are pouring into Belfast. They are for the most part penniless and all are homeless. We are doing our best for them.

BUT WE NEED FUNDS.

Each week finds our resources practically exhausted.

Please send your subscriptions at once to: Very Rev. P. Connery, P.P., V.G.; Mr. P. Finnegan, Dr. J. O'Doherty, Mr. William Carruthers, Hon. Treasurers. Central Offices, St. Mary's Hall, Bank Street, Belfast.