

WITH THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS.

(FROM THE UNION'S OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

IN THE FOUR PROVINCES.

Two Farm Strikes Won in Winter!

Farm workers in Cloneygowan (Offaly) whirlwinded to victory, following a few days' stoppage during which the agriculturists got no respite from Organiser Hayes and the men. The terms, which benefit some 90 men, are a 35s. wage (5s. increase) and other concessions on the lines of the Leix settlement.

Rathdrum.

The land strike here, which involved over 100 workers, endured longer than that in Cloneygowan, but only last week did the men, under Organiser Metcalfe and Secretary Enbank, make their big effort. As a result they have hustled the farmers into a settlement somewhat similar to above.

One More Gone East.

Manager Heyward, whose nosiness and bitterness against the I.T. & G.W.U. men in Clonmel Brewery resulted in the lengthy and stubborn strike of some time ago, has got cold feet and quit the town for his native England. (Rough luck on England!) He leaves behind him in the Brewery the man whom he tried to victimise and an ever-growing branch of the Union. A local poet has mutilated the Rubaiyat thus:

Heyward indeed is gone with all his Nose . . . But still the Transport by the Suir-side grows.

"Gentlemen" Scabs.

Willington, of Rathcabbin, Birr, who is held up owing to a strike of Union men, recently mustered his son, the agent's son, and the minister's son at his potato digging, and when directed to call off the scabs, replied: "They're not scabs, but young gentlemen." A skunk by any other name would smell as foul!

Dromina.

The Deputy Surveyor in this Co. Cork district would do better in attending to his own than in butting in on other people's jobs. He is said to be responsible for the attempted flotation of a Gangers' Union, the *raison d'être* of which is the notorious Ganger Donegan's objection to join the O.B.U. on account of his disagreement with the political views of its members. We can promise the D.S. that he'll crack no bottles of champagne over the launching of his little craft, for her flag will not be recognised anywhere in Ireland.

Maynooth.

The woodmen spared no trees in connection with their demand on the Carton Demesne owner for H.B., and, as a consequence of their activities, the boss caved in and gave both them and the gardeners full demand. A stoppage in the College is threatened on a similar question.

Castleconnell.

A series of mishaps prevented the hearing of the Fisheries Dispute and the wily "Tony" seized the chance to try a wriggle-out by pleading that "everything had been settled," but the refixture, now being arranged for, will fix him.

Lucan.

Fifteen weeks old and still going strong is the record of the strike at Hill's woollen mills. Not a gap has occurred in the workers' phalanx, not a whimper raised by any one of the 200 girls and 100 men. With such splendid spirit victory cannot be long withheld. The blockade on Hill is being tightened still further this week.

Tralee.

With the other townfolk, branch members are suffering from, but not a whit dispirited by, the White Terror which has of late been rampant. The Hotel proprietors actually talk of appealing against the terms of the Award to which they were assenting parties. One can imagine their protesting howl if the men kicked against an Arbitrator's ruling.

Clara.

Local officials and Organiser Hayes fixed up the Tubber farm disputes, obtaining £20 compensation for two men dismissed in March.

Three Sequels to October 29.

Newbridge branch, which has reverted to the Irish form of the name—*An Droicheadh Nuadh*—records one of the three only cases of penalisation of O.B.U. members in connection with the Day of National Mourning for the late Lord Mayor of Cork. The culprit was the laundry management, who refused to start the members on the Saturday following, but were forced to restart on Monday and to pay the workers for the Saturday. Mallick's mineral water carters settled at 48s., with back pay to September 10.

Glorroche.

A farmer in this Co. Wexford area attempted the same victimisation as the Newbridge laundry, but was compelled by H.Q. to withdraw the notices of dismissal served on the workers.

Shillelagh.

In this district Organiser Metcalfe secured the reinstatement of a big number of workers on Coolatin Demesne, who also had been victimised for taking part in the tribute paid to Cork's dead hero.

Castlebar.

Tho' handicapped by slackness of trade, local officials won out on the strike at Kilroy's, coach builders, increases of 7s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. being obtained. New rates are 70s., helpers 52s. 6d., apprentices 5s. weekly after 12 months.

Monaghan.

Organiser Houston ran one of the flax mill owners to earth for a good settlement, and hopes to fix up with the outstanding eight in his revisit to the area this week.

Co. Westmeath Farms.

Secured some weeks ago, details are now to hand of the settlement in Multy, for which Secretary Farrell was largely responsible, viz., 38s. for a nine-hour day or 37s. for eight hours, one and a half overtime and Sunday work, and £2 H.B. That in Taghmon for practically similar terms was negotiated by D. Hyndman, Mullingar.

Waterford Building Trade Settlement.

This, just fixed up after several weeks' strike, gives the labourers 3d. per hour increase, and a further 1d. in January, previous rate being 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. The dispute over the dismissal of fitters at the gas works is being dealt with by a joint committee.

Dun Laoghaire.

Tom Crimmins has jolted some local dairymen for increases, and also has movements on hand for Irish lights men and carters at Kill-o'-the-Grange.

Carrick-on-Shannon.

Shop assistants accepted improved offer.

Grist Milling Position.

Practically all employers, save those in Belfast, have agreed to be parties to the suggested conference on the demand, and the Ministry of Labour has been asked to make arrangements for the immediate holding of same.

Derry.

In an atmosphere none too favourable to O.B.U.-ism, this branch makes pleasing progress. Grist workers are due for early improvements at the National Conference. Distillery men will make the pace hot shortly.

Bray.

Maltings men got 6s. increase from date of employment, this being superior to the terms of the All-Ireland Settlement.

Naas.

The 5s. offer to Sallins' mill workers will, it is expected, be improved upon.

Balbriggan.

Just as the wages dispute at Smyth's hosiery factory has been settled, the dismissal of a clerk with 30 years' service, and an active Union man, occasioned an unqualified protest from the workers. His reinstatement has been demanded.

Bacon Factories.

Workers at Cork, Waterford, Tralee, and Limerick have rejected 5s. offer and demanded a betterment as well as concession of holiday and overtime claims.

Tipperary.

After many moons the celebrated case of P. Coffey has been ended by his reinstatement in Cleeves' factory. The workers there are pressing for Lansdowne rates, and gas company men are also demanding immediate settlement of their claims.

Wicklow.

The Manure Co. workers have rejected 8s. offer (on 62s. 6d.), but will accept 10s.

Clonmel.

A 7s. increase was gained by Secretary Lennon for O'Neill's saw mill workers, previous rates running from 43s. to 54s. 6d. Dalton is bluffing a shut-down of his concern in an endeavour to evade demand, but if the shut-down comes it won't be Dalton who'll bring it off. All town bakers got 10s. advance and a week's holiday, while vanmen got 7s. and boys 6s.

Cashel.

At least as good terms as above are likely for the bakers and van drivers here and at Cahir, to whose case Organiser Nagle is attending. In the latter centre the organiser is also taking up the cudgels for the workers in the town and district.

East Meath Organisation.

Mick Connor, the new East Meath delegate, made a very successful opening tour in the new reorganising campaign on Sunday last. Well attended meetings were held in Ardath, Clonalvey, and Bellewstown, and were addressed by the delegate, E. Mullen (Drogheda), and E. Rooney, and excellent work was done in each of these sections. The campaign will be continued each Sunday until it is thoroughly completed.

Drogheda.

The claim against saw miller Kirkpatrick has at last been settled on satisfactory terms. A stiff ultimatum proved more effective than polite peace overtures. Last week's contributions to the branch broke the record. Fifty-one pounds odd was collected.

Drogheda Perjuror Convicted.

Pat Woods, the victim of the Smythe perjurer, was released on Sunday morning after serving three or four months of his two years' sentence. Our protest in a recent issue of the WATCHWORD against this unjustifiable conviction of one of our members, together with the storm raised by the boycott of "the Smythe ladies," concentrated public attention on the case, and the military authorities, after a reconsideration of the evidence, have apparently agreed with our characterisation of the Crown witness's testimony as perjury. Woods' class enemy has been baffled and beaten.

DUBLIN DOINGS.

Auctioneering.

The auction porters' claim is now within measurable distance of a settlement, and three of the firms have already agreed to the 60s. minimum, with retrospective adjustment to the date of the application, as a result of conferences last week with Union representatives. Casual workers are seeking 12s. per day, irrespective of the number of days worked, as against an offer of 12s. daily for four days' employment, and it is expected that this slight modification will be conceded. Immediate steps are being taken to enforce the 60s. minimum in all auction rooms, and the co-operation of all our members involved is invited in this connection, as there is every likelihood of "breakers ahead."

Provisions.

Messrs. E. and D. Carton are now giving careful consideration to our demand, and although there has been some little delay in effecting a settlement, the employees concerned are assured of a reasonable amount of back money.

The Wholesale Provision Merchants' Association has declined to amend the original offer, and in view of this attitude a meeting of the section will be held this week, when the matter will be fully dealt with.

Port and Docks.

The case of the lamplighters was discussed with the Engineer last week, when an assurance was given that the question at issue would be again brought before the Board for sympathetic consideration, and a definite decision will be communicated to us at an early date.

We also had an exchange of views with the Engineer enant our recent claim on behalf of the lighthouse keepers, and the difficulties that had presented themselves were carefully gone into. However, the employees concerned may rest assured that they have an excellent case for favourable treatment, and in the settlement eventually arrived at the retrospective aspect of our claim will not be lost sight of.

Mill Carters.

The adjourned conference in connection with the mill carters' claim took place at the offices of the Ministry of Labour last week. At the previous conference an offer of 10s. was made by the milling employers to date from the pay day following service of the men's application, viz., September 7, but at a representative meeting of the employees concerned the advance, after mature consideration, was deemed inadequate. Counter-proposals were, however, formulated by those present at the meeting, and these were laid before the employers at the adjourned conference. A lengthy discussion took place on what the men's alternative claim meant to the industry, having regard to the fact that the inside hands elected to effect a settlement on the basis of a 10s. increase on and from July 24, 1920. In reply the Union representatives pointed out that the mill carters based their claim in its modified form on the grounds that their war advances were not commensurate with the enormous rise in the cost of living, bearing in mind the pre-war earnings of the grade of workers under discussion. This contention had the effect of inducing the employers to improve their offer by an additional 2s. 6d., making the advance 12s. 6d. The situation being somewhat eased as a result of the better spirit thus shown by the employers, it was, nevertheless, urged by the Union representatives that the amended offer would still hardly find favour in the ranks of the men. Beyond the 12s. 6d. the employers stated they would not go, and all the persuasive eloquence of the delegation could not move them into a better frame of mind. Seeing, therefore, that it was unlikely to improve matters further, and seeing that sinister signs were at once manifesting themselves in the direction of a deadlock, as a Parthian shot, the Union delegates suggested that instead of the advance dating from pay day following September 7, the revised rate should be made operative on and from July 24, 1920, the precise period from which the all-Ireland milling agreement became effective. This suggestion led to a further animated exchange of views, and eventually it was agreed by the employers to adopt the course indicated by the Union delegates. The men have since ratified the terms of settlement.

D.W.D.

On behalf of the miller employed by the D.W.D., application has been made for the last increase in the milling industry to be now granted in his case.

Concerning the question of holidays, about which we have been in communication with the firm, it has been agreed that a week's holidays will be given next year to all employees.

A special meeting of our members in this concern has been called for Sunday morning next to consider grievances of certain employees, and a full attendance is requested.

Drapery.

We believe that practically all outstanding matters have now been amicably adjusted, except in one or two instances, and these will be dealt with this week.

It has been reported that some firms are not adhering to the clause in our agreement specifying that deliveries are to be dispatched at least one hour before closing time. In such circumstances complaints should be lodged with the Section Committee, and we will then bring them before the Association for immediate redress.

Balbriggan Relief Fund.

All members in sections where advances have been secured recently, are expected to subscribe to the Balbriggan Relief Fund an amount covering at least the first week's increase. The Fund should appeal in an especial manner to members of

this Union, in view of the fact it is mostly fellow members and their dependents in Balbriggan who have been affected by the Black-and-Tan terror. In the list published in this issue, it will be seen that the response to our appeal has been generous, and also the names of those who have not subscribed will be conspicuous by their absence. Shop stewards and members in the concerns mentioned are asked to carefully scrutinise the list, and bring defaulters into line immediately. Details of contributions will be published weekly in the WATCHWORD, and all those who obtain increases will be called upon to subscribe to the Fund.

Carters' Banner Fund.

Below is published a further list of subscriptions, from which it will be seen that the Fund is making slow but steady progress:

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	46	15	6
Farriers (per M. Murphy)	5	0	0
Tom Caffrey	0	10	0
M. Nolan	0	1	0
Rogers's Men (per M. Lyons)	1	6	6
Total	£53	13	0

NOW, GREENWOOD, ANOTHER LIE!

Transport Branches' Books and Money Illegally and Officials Hunted.

The Black and Tan marauders descended upon the quiet little town of Ardee one night last week and wrecked the business establishment of Mr. Jos. T. Dolan, in which the secretary of the local branch of the I.T. & G.W.U. was employed.

Before the wrecking commenced they searched the establishment for the branch secretary, but the latter managed to effect a narrow escape by the rear in his night attire. The premises were looted, large quantities of intoxicants being removed to the lorries outside. The windows were smashed, and after the raiders left it was noticed that all Transport Union correspondence, roll books, etc., were missing. The secretary is now "on the run," but arrangements are being made for the appointment of a temporary official and for the provision of new branch equipment.

In North-West Kildare.

On Sunday week the Union rooms at Cloncurry, Co. Kildare, were raided, the members "hands-untied" and searched, and the branch records and £33 10s. in cash stolen.

The terror in Tullamore has already received some publicity in the daily Press. In this town the Army of Occupation did not stop at larceny and their other mild pleasures, but burnt the Union rooms to the ground. They then sought the branch president and secretary, whose fate can be guessed at had they been apprehended.

Would-be Murderers Foiled.

The former was at home when called for and was ordered out in the road, the Black and Tans leading the way, with their intended victim walking behind. When the last of the Black and Tans had passed the threshold of the front door the president's wife banged the door and her husband effected his escape by the back, clad only in his shirt and trousers. The secretary also was lucky enough to evade his pursuers. Both officials are unable to return to the town, in fact, the secretary's landlady has been notified that if he returns her house will be burnt.

If questioned on these matters Hamar Greenwood will doubtless work off the Government needer's excuse for the murder of Mrs. Quinn, viz., "a precautionary safeguard against an ambush." Come along, Sir Hamar, thou worthy descendant and stoutest limb on the genealogical tree of Ananias and Sapphira.

AT WORK ON DAY OF GENERAL MOURNING.

An occasional correspondent writes:

On Thursday, October 23, the Irish Labour Party issued an order to all trade unionists (except in certain specified branches) to cease work as a token of respect to the murdered Lord Mayor of Cork.

The stoppage was to take place on Friday, October 29.

Contrary to this order, employees of Jas. Walkers, printers, Rathmines, turned into work at 8 a.m. on Friday.

The men members of the Transport Union employed by this firm loyally abstained from work.

The following are the societies whose members in the firm went to work: Dublin Typographical Provident Society; Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Printers; Irish Women Workers; girl members of the Irish Transport Union, but not the men members. A few honourable trade unionists abstained.

What have the Executive Councils of the above Unions to say? Now is your time.

If the statement made above is not correct the members of the societies mentioned will be glad to hear through the columns of the WATCHWORD.

W. R. and T.U.

"ANOTHER WORKER REPUBLICAN" asks.

Is it true that the confectionery employees in a well-known Republican establishment on the South Side were required to go to work on the day of the general stoppage in honour of Terry MacSwiney's sacrifice?

While bakers were quite legitimately exempted from the stoppage because bread is essential, the manufacture of confectionery cannot, under any circumstances, be considered an essential service.

In any case, did the Labour Party exempt confectioners? If not, why were these confectioners required to work, why did they go to work, and what has their union to say to them? Or are they just blacklegs?

[We understand that the women's section of the Transport Union is taking suitable steps to deal with those of its girl members against whom the above charge is made. — Rev. "W. of L."]