

1/- and 6/-, and entrance fees increased to new entrants. Your committee made a personal canvass of non-providents in the city and succeeded in procuring many transfers, but the figure fell short of their expectations, and to those who did not then transfer I specially recommend the paragraph in the report dealing with same, because I am convinced that all should be in the provident scale. It would give them a greater security and deeper interest in the Union. Again their contributions would be paid more punctually and, further, it would eventually eliminate the arrearist. After all, fellow-members, the difference is so small—18/- per annum, or a little over 4d. per week—and one should consider what a boon the benefits are during periods of unemployment and sickness.

EXTENSIVE ORGANISING CAMPAIGN.

About the same time an extensive organising campaign was launched, and our efforts met with wonderful success inasmuch as we penetrated into one of the strongest and largest citadels of non-union labour. It can be seen by the report that we secured 23 new members, and after admission it was discovered that the salaries paid by this warehouse was much below the standard wage operating in similar houses. Eventually it was decided that a wage demand would be served on this firm to have salaries adjusted, but our just claim at first was denied, inasmuch as they would not allow outside interference, and after protracted correspondence it was agreed by all that a threatened strike backed up by the organised workers of Limerick, was the only way to bring this matter to a successful issue. Here again major difficulties presented themselves, such as the ignoring of our Union, and their refusal to meet us in conference, notwithstanding the influential representations that had been made to the Directors by the then Mayor and Chairman of the Trades and Labour Council. This in effect was a deliberate negation of the universally accepted principles of collective bargaining and settlements by negotiation between employers and trade unions. At the last moment, however, commonsense prevailed, for they realised how futile it was to pursue their attitude. There and then they intimated their desire to discuss the matter with us, but we would only meet them in conference on three conditions (as set out in the report), and after parleys lasting six hours, we secured advances from £10 to £30 for our 23 members, which meant in some cases increases of 12/- to 13/- per week.

It was further agreed that we should meet again early in the new year when an agreement covering wages and conditions would be drawn up to cover the entire staff. I am happy to say that those of the staff who remained outside have since joined our ranks, and at this juncture I think the best thanks of our members is due to the Trades Council and the organised workers who supported your officers in bringing this matter to a very satisfactory conclusion.

During the year there was an influx of non-trade unionists, which caused your committee grave concern, and to stem this tide the 1931 resolution had to be applied and rigidly enforced, because we have no room in Limerick for slackers. We believe this resolution should be more availed of by the large branches in Dublin and Cork, because from correspondence received from other branches it would appear to have had a wonderful effect on recruiting, and moreover it has made these people realise their duty to

was sure the new secretary would fully justify his selection for the responsible position which he now filled, and he also felt sure that the members would give Mr. Collins their whole-hearted co-operation.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The next item on the agenda was to decide whether or not the Limerick delegates should support a proposal to initiate a political fund when they attend the annual council in Dublin.

This question was deferred until Mr. Druingole would be addressing the meeting, when he would explain the proposal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The next business was the election of officers. There were several nominations received for some of the offices, but Mr. C. J. McClean (President) and Mr. John Danagher, Assistant Secretary, were returned unopposed.

Glowing tributes were paid to these gentlemen for their great efforts on behalf of the Organisation, and the President and Assistant Secretary returned thanks for their re-election in suitable terms.

Nominations for other offices were received as follows:—

Vice-President—Messrs. D. Herbert, J. Quillinan, D. Miller.

Treasurer—Messrs. John O'Dwyer and Hugh Smith.

It was decided that an election by ballot should take place on Monday, February 25th, at 54 O'Connell Street.

The President was nominated for the Vice-Presidency of the Executive Committee, and the following were nominated for membership of the Executive Committee—Messrs. M. J. Lynch, J. Quillinan, J. Flanagan, D. Herbert, J. O'Dwyer, and Michael Kearney.

IN FAVOUR OF CONSTITUENT COLLEGE.

A resolution calling on the Government to set up a constituent college of the National University of Ireland in Limerick was unanimously adopted, on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. M. J. Lynch.

Mr. John O'Dwyer moved, and Mr. J. O'Kelly seconded—"That we, as a body, representing 700 workers and dependents, approve of the present campaign for cleaner films, inaugurated by the "Irish Press," and ask all Trades and Labour bodies in this city to endorse our action.

The Chairman said he thought the attitude of certain cinemas in Dublin in this matter was uncalled for. He had read the article in the "Irish Press" initiating the campaign, and he did not think it offended any particular people or cinema. He was glad to see that the attempt to muzzle the Press had proved unsuccessful.

The resolution was also supported by the General President and passed unanimously.

THE SHOPS ACT.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. Flanagan, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That we call upon the Government to enact legislation amending the Shops Act, 1912,—1, A 40 hour week for all shopworkers and clerks; 2, adequate heating, sanitation and ventilation of shops and offices; 3, the inclusion of rural as well as urban areas within the scope of the legislation; 4, recognition of the rights of the workers to have a voice in the administration of the Act; 5, enforcement of provisions by a Central Government authority; 6, adequate inspectorship similar to that provided

Trespass By Boat

—oo—

Lough Gur

INTERESTING ACTION

—oo—

BEFORE LIMERICK CIRCUIT JUDGE

An interesting case with relation to the right to use boats on Lough Gur, County Limerick, came before Judge E. J. McElligott, K.C., at Limerick Circuit Court on Wednesday, when John Francis Charles Count de Salis, Beechwood, Loughgur, brought an action for £5 damages against Edmund Treacy, Grange, Holycross, in respect of alleged wrongful trespass on Lough Gur, and sought an injunction to prevent such trespass.

Mr. D. McD. Downing, B.L. (instructed by Mr. Blood-Smyth, solicitor), appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. G. C. Power, B.L. (instructed by Mr. J. J. Power, State Solicitor), appeared for the defendant.

Mr. D. McD. Downing said that it was a question of title involved, and the plaintiff's case was that the defendant wrongfully entered upon Lough Gur in the years 1932, 1933 and 1934, using boats on the lake and refused to desist from such trespass, and claimed to have a right to put boats on the lake. The lake was in the possession of the Salis family for generations.

His Lordship—It is a most interesting piece of water and a great number of articles of antiquarian interest have been found there.

Mr. McD. Downing—Yes, and it closes a fort which was occupied by Cromwell.

SALE OF PROPERTY.

Continuing, counsel said that after the Land Act of 1903 Count Salis sold his property to the Land Commission and entered into a purchase agreement with the defendant, who reserved the soil and bed of the lake himself. Subsequently the defendant was registered as owner of a farm adjoining the lake, but it was stated that he had no title with regard to the lake itself, so there was no question as to the plaintiff's title. This was a wonderful lake for birds and Count de Salis was to preserve it as a bird sanctuary. In 1932 the defendant for the first time put a boat on the lake. "We wrote to him but his attitude was one of defiance," he claimed to have a right to put a boat there and also that he had as much right to the lake as Count de Salis and would continue to use the lake. He also referred to powers other than the power of the court. Count de Salis did not take action then because he was intending to buy Beechwood House, which he did buy subsequently, and lived there from time to time, and wanted to have amicable relations with the other owners of lands in the locality. He thought that he would be able to settle matters when he came to live at Beechwood House. He bought the house in 1934 but in July and August of that year the defendant put a water boat on the lake and advertised trips at 6d. a head on the "Limerick Leader." This was an interference with the Count's rights. A number of letters were written to the defendant, but he again took up an attitude of defiance and threatened the plaintiff with all sorts of pains and penalties. The plaintiff had, therefore, to bring this action. It was understood, however, that the defendant

disposed of, with the extreme point which at the moment was the subject of correspondence.

CASUAL LABOUR AND APPRENTICES.

The matter of casual labour your committee have on several occasions expressed the view that this practice should be discontinued. The reason they advanced for doing so is because they are convinced that as long as such continues our redundant members have absolutely no chance of being absorbed in the trade. I specially recommend to the incoming committee to give this matter their serious attention.

Speaking of apprentices or learners, I fear there is a tendency of late by certain employers to abuse this question. The underlying idea, as far as I can gather, is the introduction of a system known as cheap labour. Knowing from experience the many abuses that exist in this direction, we should not hesitate to reaffirm the decision of the last annual meeting, calling on the Government to have this trade designated under the terms of the Apprenticeship Act. While the Act itself may not be all we require, it certainly will be the means of stamping out a lot of such practices, which, I am sorry to state, are only too common in our trade to-day.

During the year the closing hours in some grocery houses have been most irregular and unsatisfactory. Despite the many interviews and much correspondence with these people they will continue to remain open after the recognised closing hours. I take this opportunity of warning them that on and after Saturday night next we will not stand any more of their nonsense. I trust that this reminder will be sufficient to prevent the continuance of this practice.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS.

Towards the close of the year the chemists' assistants approached the Union with a view to reforming a section within the branch, believing the time to be opportune to have their many outstanding grievances rectified and their noble profession put on its proper level.

At this initial meeting it was further agreed that failing a response to the Society's circular the officers be deputed to make a personal canvass of the absentees. Meanwhile correspondence was entered into with the Dublin chemists' branch, who are 300 strong or 100 per cent. organised. Seeking information to enable the new section to run concurrently with theirs, resulted in the receiving of a telegram from their secretary asking a conference to be arranged on yesterday (Sunday) to enable him to explain the many anomalies that exist in their trade to-day, and the necessity of their being members of an organisation such as this. After deliberations lasting three hours, at which Mr. Murphy very ably and lucidly dealt with the matters under consideration, it was unanimously decided that in view of recent developments the formation of a chemists' section was desirable and worthy of support. On behalf of the Union I offer them the support of the Limerick branch to see this matter to a successful issue, because having heard the leader of the delegation I am convinced that matters such as wages, conditions, early closing, apprenticeship and new openings demand the immediate attention of the local branch.

In conclusion I would respectfully refer all members to the last paragraph of the report, which asks them to appreciate the committee's difficulties. Continue to give them your loyalty, and above all have implicit confidence in the latter—our greatest asset—and with this spirit prevailing their efforts will be crowned with success and your interests fully

In the course of his address, Mr. Nolan said he was very glad to be amongst the members of the Limerick Branch that night, to see the great work they were doing and the onward march of their branch. He congratulated the Chairman, the Secretary and the other officers concerned for the comprehensive and neat report presented to the meeting. It was a credit to those responsible for it. But he was not altogether surprised at the record of progress read out that night, for Limerick had always taken a lead in every movement, both national and otherwise. On every stand they had taken up the people of Limerick had been successful. The members of the Limerick Distributive Workers' Union should be proud of their branch, for it was one of the best in the country and was sound and successful in every respect.

Reviewing the activities of the organisation in general during the past year, Mr. Nolan said that the National Health Insurance system had been taken from them but he believed that the system which had superseded it would prove more satisfactory. Five or six new branches had affiliated to the organisation, and he was also pleased to see the chemists' assistants in their ranks. The most important matter was a big strike in Dublin, which had resulted in a victory for their organisation. As a result of that he did not think they would have much trouble with strikes in the future. But the burning question was the minimum wage, and as long as employees would be employees that would always be the burning question. However, he did not think that any society had to be as well as the Distributive Workers in regard to that question, for they had actually secured increases ranging up to 20/-.

Generally speaking they had gained many advantages, but everybody should remember that there was still a wider field at their disposal and, therefore, unity and self-reliance were essential.

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

An attempt should be made to have all travellers become members of the organisation, because he knew that many of these gentlemen were going around spreading false propaganda about the workers' side of the case during strikes. Referring to the Shops Act, Mr. Nolan said he was glad to see the Limerick branch agitating for its amendment. At present it was far from being satisfactory. It appeared to him that local councils were afraid to do their duty in this respect, and many inspectors seemed to have their eyes closed too often. The conditions in some shops were a disgrace to such a Christian country, and every effort should be made to have the Act amended with all possible speed.

Concluding, the General President observed that there were far too many chain shops of British combines in Ireland, and travelling shops and hawkers should not be permitted at all. Local traders had to maintain the local public services, and it was surprising to find that these people were allowed to operate in the various towns to the detriment of the business of the local traders. He also appealed to the members to support Irish industry, and particularly the manufacturers who advertised in their own official journal.

Mr. Drumgoole then addressed the meeting, and in the course of his address said it was a revelation to him to see the manner in which the members of the Limerick Branch did their business, and he was glad to see the splendid democratic spirit underlying their work. The Distributive Workers' Union was primarily and solely a democratic organisation, and for that reason it was worthy of the support of all Irishmen. It

WILLING TO GIVE CONSENT.
"I have been approached," continued Counsel, "and asked if the defendant takes this course would I, on behalf of the count, consent to give him a decision to put this boat on the lake, consent to be removable at any time, the privilege was misused." The count was willing to give his consent to the arrangement, as he did not want any relations existing between his boat and the other tenants of the lake.

His Lordship asked to see the letter written to the Counsel's letter of the letter was not read in court.

Mr. McD. Downing said that that date the letters were stronger, stronger.

His Lordship—Is it provided that defendant will not shoot birds on the lake?

Mr. Cullinan—The defendant does not ask for that.

His Lordship said that the count would have to be reduced to what it was because it would be subject to variations on future occasions as to the things it contained. "I think," added His Lordship, "that the count has been made with great generosity. Does he ask for an injunction?"

Mr. McD. Downing—We must have everything we apply for.

Mr. Cullinan—My client does not ask for an injunction.

When deciding the question of Count de Salis, in reply to his Lordship, said that he was not pressing for an injunction.

His Lordship—Had you any other interests in Ireland which induced you to come here from Switzerland, or from this action?

Count de Salis—A visit to this country would be a pleasure at any time.

An injunction, to be lodged by Counsel, was granted with costs and expenses.

ANOTHER SWEEP BAN

The French Cabinet decided on Tuesday to forbid the sale of foreign lottery tickets in France.

At present the members were merely asked to approve of the proposal, and they could decide afterwards whether they wished to contribute to it or not. A political fund was badly wanted, because the shop workers of Ireland were one hundred years behind the times. In every other country shop workers had secured legislation to ensure that they would not be open to any abuses, or unscrupulous employers might have in mind. In Ireland they had 70,000 workers to speak for, some of whom could not be at the Limerick meeting that night because they were behind shop counters trying to sell goods. The status of these people would have to be raised to a decent level, they should have decent hours and decent wages. That was the objective of their organisation, and they would be doing a great national right if they secured it. They could not make any progress, however, without legislative action. By having a political fund it did not mean that they were tied to any political party, but they would be in a position to financially support those who would fight for their cause in local councils and in the Dail. At present they could only give those people their sympathy, but that did not mean anything.

The meeting then decided that the Limerick delegates to the general meeting in Dublin approve of the proposal to set up a political fund.

The proceedings were then brought to a conclusion with a vote of thanks to Messrs. Nolan and Drumgoole for their