ANOTHER STRIKE.

TODD'S ASSISTANTS GO OUT.

Limerick has been aptly described as "a City of Strikes." Almost every section of the workers in the city have at some time or another gone on strike. Last year there was a change in the usual programme, and Limerick was astounded to find the drapers' assistants at Messrs M'Birney's establishment had ceased work, which they did not resume until their grievances had been remedied to their satisfaction. This morning almost similar astonishment was felt when it was learned that the employès of Messrs Todd and Co. had determined to cease work. The circumstance, which gave rise to the strike, is apparently a simple one. An assistant in the dress department had a small difference on yesterday evening, and having retorted in a hasty manner to a query addressed to him by Mr Murray, the manager, the latter sent him immediately to the office to be paid his account, which, of course, means dismissal. The other assistants in the same department immediately ceased work, and followed their comrade to the counting-house. Then the entire staff followed the example set them, and determined to cease work.

Messrs Todd are at present engaged in transferring their stock to their new premises in George-street, and are naturally inconvenienced by the cessation of work. To-day the buyers and superintendents with the porters in the employment of the firm, were engaged in removing the stock.

The men on strike (who include all the apprentices) held a meeting this afternoon, and it is said that they decided to remain out on strike until their comrade is reinstated with themselves. It is also rumoured that legal proceedings were threatened against the apprentices for breach of their indentures.

We have been informed that Mr Murray refused to meet a deputation appointed by the men at their meeting last evening, and that he stated that he would only see the men in a body. This was done to-day, and Mr Murray refused, it is alleged, to reinstate the man whose dismissal caused the regrettable dispute.

March 31 1899 A strike took place in Todd's department store in March 1899. The Leader reported on this strike and noted some interesting points. The first of these show that Todd's moved to their O'Connell Street premises that year. This building was previously owned by the Limerick Warehouse Company and Todd's was based on William Street. The second interesting point relates to the rumoured legal proceedings against the apprentices for breach of their indentures. Indentures were people who were legally contracted to work for a specific period of time in exchange for food, clothing, lodging and other necessities during the term of indenture. Both men and women, could become indentured, though it was usually those under 21. Many of these servants were the poorest on the social ladder. The lucky ones were indentured to tradesmen as apprentices, as in Todd's department store. These would have the skills at the end of their term to find their way out of poverty. A large number were used as farm labourers and domestic servants, manual labour with little or no opportunity to escape from the serving class.

ANOTHER TRADE DISPUTE.

The cart harness makers in the city have asked for an increase of wages which, it is stated, would bring their weekly wage up to £2, and have threatened to cease work unless the concession is made to them. There are not very many men employed at this branch of industry, and the employers allege that material and the cost of production generally have so increased that they cannot, save at serious handicapping to their business, entertain the application. It is to be hoped that a friendly arrangement may be reached.

April 1918 In 1918, the harness makers of the city threatened to down tools unless their weekly wages were increased to £2, this would be approximately €150 today.

CLOSING OF PREMISES.

Restricting Hours of Business.

The Lord Lieutenant has made an Order, operative from 11th Nov. 1918, to 30th March, 1919, restricting the hours in the evening during which business may be caaried on, and this Order slightly varies that made by the Lords Justices-General on October 22nd. According to the new Order, retail shops in the County Boroughs of Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, and offices connected with them, shall be closed for serving customers not later than 5.30 p m on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; not later than 7 p.m on Fridays; not later than 9 30 p.m on Saturdays But premises for temporary refreshments, hairdressing, tobacco, or newsvending may keep open to 9.30 p.m.

Shops which usually kept open until 7 p.m for the sale of food, fruit, sweets, shall be closed between 3.30 and 6, but may open from 6 to 9.30 Shops for cooked fish shall close from 3.30 to 6, but may open from 6 to 10.30 p.m. Licensed grocers in the County Boroughs mentioned shall be closed on every week-day, except Saturday, from 3.30 to 5 p m, but may be kept open from 6 to 9 30 for the sale of intoxicants and food. Licensed hotels, restaurants, and railway refreshment rooms may be kept open between 3.30 and 6 for the service of meals and refreshments, but not of intoxicants. No meals shall be cooked after 8 p.m.

Retail shops not in the Co Borough shall close not later than 7 p m on every week day except Saturday, and not later than 9.30 on Saturday. This does not apply to temperance refreshments, hair-dressing, tobacconists, and newsagents, which may keep open to 9.30. Licensed hotels and restaurants outside the Borough may keep open for meals after 7 p.m, but not for serving intoxicants. Wholesale shops shall close not later than 5.30 p.m on every day of the week. Theatres, picture-houses, and places of entertainment conducted for profit shall be closed on 5 of the 6 week days between 3 30 and 5 30 p.m and in no case shall remain open later than 10 30 p m. This regulation shall not apply from Dec. 25, to Jan. 10, inclusive, nor where special permission is obtained from the representative in Ireland of the Coal Controller. No premises shall be kept open on Sundays later than 10.30 p m, and no light shall be used while the premises are closed under this Order, except for a half hour after the closing time.

November 1918 It is interesting to see that the government dictated the opening hours of stores within the city in 1918 to try and conserve the use of coal as a result of the First World War. You could not buy new shoes or a book on after 5.30 pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, after 7pm on Friday or after 9:30pm on Saturday. You could not go shopping at all on a Sunday. Some shops that sold groceries would have to close for a period in the middle of the day to allow for a later opening. While cinemas and theatres could only open five days and not on a Sunday