

Things That Matter

IT was stated recently in a broadcast from the B.B.C. that while in one industry in England 30,000 more are employed now than before the war the total output is far lower. Commenting on this extraordinary state of affairs the speaker said that unless there was a big change in the right direction the time would come when there would be no work at all! Not merely in Britain, but in other parts of the world as well, there has in recent years been a tendency to do as little as possible for as much wages as can be secured.

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Hours of employment are not always the same thing as hours of work. This is really the explanation of the unhealthy fact that in many instances production has declined while remuneration has gone up. The "go slow" policy in industry is ruinous and deplorable from several standpoints. Not only is it directly immoral in itself but it hinders economic development and growth of employment and inevitably puts up the cost of living.

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Speaking at the opening of a staff welfare centre at a factory in Dublin some time ago, Mr. William McMullen, General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, made some pertinent and useful remarks bearing on this question. He was paying a tribute to the particular firm concerned and which, he said, believed "in giving its customers good service at reasonable prices and securing its profit from a large turn-over in trade." These words emphasise a truth that is all too often ignored—that without a decent output in industry really reasonable prices will not be possible and any increase in wages will put up the cost of living on those who receive it and on the rest of the community as well.

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A fair day's work for a fair day's pay is a sound arrangement, and if the principle were fully observed by both employers and employees economic development would be assured and conditions of employment would in time become better. The spirit between capital and labour is in general not what it should be. There ought to be more

A GREAT PRIEST

Father William Close

AN APPRECIATION

(BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM).

THE recent death of Rev. Father William Close, Parish Priest of Hamilton, Australia, removed one who, apart from his ecclesiastical duties, was a fine personality and a gentleman.

Born in Limerick 73 years ago, he studied for the priesthood, his early training being carried out at Mungret College. He was ordained at All Hallows, Dublin, and went on the Australian Mission in 1901. He was attached to Ballarat Diocese, and on arrival was stationed in the Cathedral Parish. On the outbreak of the 1914-'18 war he offered his services and enlisted as a chaplain, serving for four years with distinction, and winning a decoration.

INTERESTED IN PUBLIC MATTERS.

When he returned he was stationed at Ararat as assistant priest, later being transferred to Terang, where he served for some years before his appointment as parish priest of Inglewood. Then he went to Stawell in 1932, and was there for ten years, leaving in September, 1942, to take charge of Hamilton, where he had remained ever since.

His practical interests extended far beyond the limits of his parochial duties (which he discharged with painstaking care and with no regard for his personal convenience), and he was keenly interested in public matters—particularly as they affected the community in which he lived.

He was essentially a priest and for that task his equipment was remarkable and complete—a fine intellect, a studious scholarship, with a profound theological knowledge, an impressive speaker with a depth of human interest that was enhanced by a whimsical humour. His argument was close, reasoned and logical, and his judgment essentially calm and judicial and rarely at fault.

A FRAGRANT MEMORY.

His personal integrity was unassailable, and his loyalty to those whom he served, or who served him, never failed. He showed a magnanimity that endeared him to all sections of the community, and he enjoyed a sincere popularity with all who knew him. His dignity was perfect and restrained, and his character and spirit will long illuminate the paths of those under his direction. He leaves behind to his friends a very fragrant memory.

His bearing was a fine example of tact, ease and dignity, and warm human kindness was of the very substance of the man. The misfortune or unhappiness of anyone he knew caused him real discomfort and he would do anything in his power to relieve it. The genuineness of his own feelings commanded respect and admiration.

BISHOP PREACHES THE PANEGYRIC.

Over 40 priests attended the Requiem Mass and funeral, and the Bishop of Ballarat preached the panegyric.

Deepest sympathy is expressed with his surviving relatives, Messrs. M. A. and M. Close, Clare Street; Mr. Ed. Close, Castleconnell, and Mr. J. Close, late of Ranks, Limerick.

Father Close was brother of the late P. Close, Cardiff.

HEIRS WANTED

BURY HATCHET

Justice's Sound Advice

THOMONDGATE NEIGHBOURS IN COURT

TO-DAY at the Limerick District Court, before Justice D. Gleeson.

Christopher Gough, 61 Sexton Street North, Thomondgate, summoned his neighbour, George McInerney, for abusive language. Mr. D. G. O'Donovan, solicitor, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. M. B. O'Malley, solicitor, defended.

Gough stated that he was living for 64 years in Thomondgate and never had a "word" with a neighbour until the present incident when McInerney and his wife called at his (plaintiff's) door and indulged in abusive language.

Mr. O'Donovan—Did McInerney's cows trespass on your garden? Yes. I had gone out to hunt the cows out of my garden when McInerney and his wife called at my door. They used abusive language and McInerney attempted to assault me.

Mr. O'Donovan—Did McInerney pick up a brick? Yes, and I said to him—"If you fire that it will be serious for you."

"EVEN IN CHURCH"

Mr. O'Donovan—Did McInerney actually strike you? No. He said that he would get me, even in church (laughter).

Cross-examined by Mr. O'Malley Gough admitted that he had a hatchet in his hand.

Mr. O'Malley—What were doing with the hatchet?—I was removing a board off the frame of a bed.

Did you threaten McInerney with it?—I said that if he fired the brick it would be serious for him.

Meaning that you would use the hatchet?—Yes, to defend myself.

Mr. O'Donovan—Good defensive tactics (laughter).

The defendant, in evidence, admitted calling at Gough's house because of insulting remarks used by Gough towards McInerney's wife.

Mr. O'Malley—You were indignant at the remarks passed by Gough towards your wife?—I was.

Justice—Did your cows trespass on Gough's garden?—Yes, for a few minutes.

Justice—That can be very annoying. Are you and Gough on good terms?

Defendant—I never spoke to the man.

Justice—That is not so good (laughter).

Mr. O'Donovan (to McInerney)—Wasn't Mr. Gough lucky to have the hatchet in his hand when you arrived?—He was.

Otherwise you would have finished him off with the brick?—I might.

But neither could get at each other?—No.

BURY THE HATCHET

"My advice to these people is to bury the hatchet," said the Justice. "These people should live as neighbours and not resort to bricks and hatchets for the settlement of their disputes. I have no evidence that Gough abused Mrs. McInerney—she should have come here to give evidence. McInerney should take precautions to prevent further trespass on Gough's garden. I will dismiss the summons on McInerney giving an undertaking not to interfere with Gough again.

This undertaking was given and the Justice allowed Gough one guinea costs.