

Galway Man a Delegate?

Addressing a Labour meeting at Roscrea on his return from Russia, where he had spent six weeks as one of the delegates from the Workers' Union of Ireland to the International Trades Union Congress at Moscow, Mr. Martin Cunningham, secretary of the local branch of the Workers' Union, said that there was no interference with the free exercise of religion there. While he was there he attended Mass just the same as he would at Roscrea. It was said that the Russian workers had stolen the wealth of the capitalists. "They were right," he said, "to take it from the vermin who had dominated them in the past." It was a remarkable thing to see Red troops paraded a mile and a half long and standing to "attention" for Martin Cunningham, of Roscrea and Mick Fitzpatrick, of Galway. It would only be done for a Governor-General in this country. The residence of a former Count and his wife, comprising 140 rooms, was made a rest home for the workers, and the Count had to go to work. The President of the Republic was just the same as one of themselves. He was not wearing a silk hat, cut-away coat and gloves, but had a nice suit of clothes which cost about 50s. The Russians did not believe in an empty stomach covered with a flash suit. The orphans who were cared for in the State schools, were free to mingle with other children outside school hours, and that was a far better system than the industrial school system in Ireland. A Catholic clergyman had sent him a marked paper where it was stated that Christ was driven out of the schools, but he could tell the priest that there was as much religion in Russia as in their own country. On a table beside the speaker was a bronze statue of Lenin.