

## **“Provisional” Authority Proclaimed.**

Roscrea had an experience of a workers' revolt yesterday, and for a while at least Soviet power was demonstrated.

At a meeting of Roscrea No. 2 District Council, Mr. Quinlan presiding, Mr. P. O'Neill, Organising Secretary of Birr Transport Union, and Mr. M. Cunningham, Roscrea Transport Union, attended to support the roadmen's application for an increase of wages. This the Council rejected.

Messrs. P. O'Neill and Cunningham then left but returned soon after with a large number of men. They entered the Council Chamber and seized the minute book, correspondence, and other papers.

Mr. O'Neill declared, in the name of the "Workers' Republic," that the Council meeting was at an end, and ordered the Councillors to clear out, saying "You have done for us, and you are going to get it."

He said that Labour, having taken the place of the Council, would decide the question themselves.

"They walked on us too long," said Mr. Spencer (one of the party), "but by ——— they won't do it any longer."

Mr. O'Neill then took the chair, and the party having accommodated themselves in the Councillors' seats, he addressed them as follows:

"You see it is absolutely necessary for us, and our duty—they (the Council) have failed in their duty to the people and to the working classes—that we take their places. We establish a Provisional Council here to transact the business, and our first and last duty here to-day is to put the resolution to the meeting that this increase asked for be granted to the roadmen, that they receive—the gangers 49s. per week and the roadmen 45s. I now ask some member to propose that this be done."

Mr. Spencer then proposed and Mr. Martin Cunningham seconded, that the increase be granted.

Mr. O'Neill declared the proposal carried unanimously.

The workers then left amidst much excitement.