
★ ★

A LABOUR
HISTORY
OF WATERFORD



emmet
o'connor

331.88



PN 7204
LIBRARY

Biographical note:
After an abysmal academic career in Waterford Regional Technical College, and undistinguished service in the 11/64 branch, ATGWU, the author read History and Politics at UCG and now lectures in Political Science at Magee College, University of Ulster. He has written *Syndicalism in Ireland, 1917-23* (Cork University Press, 1988), co-edits *Saothar*, and is currently preparing a labour history of Ireland.

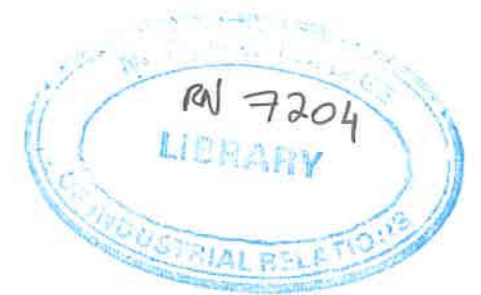
This book is due for return on or before the last date shown below.

-6 FEB 1991	6-4-99
	12 MAY 2000
	28 FEB 2001
15 JUL 1991	5 MAR 2001
-9 FEB 1998	
01 FEB 1999	30 APR 2001
	10 DEC 2002
22 FEB 1999	
15 MAR 1999	

Biographi
After an
career in
Technical
tinguished
11/64 bra
author rea
ties at UC
in Politic
College, U
He has w
in *Irelan*
University
edits 5
currently
history of

A Labour History of Waterford

Emmet O'Connor



Biograph
After an
career in
Technical
tinguished
11/64 by
author re
tics at UC
in Politic
College,
He has
in *Irela*
Universit
edits
currently
history o

A Labour History of Waterford

EMMET O'CONNOR



WATERFORD TRADES COUNCIL

Biogr
After
career
Techn
tingui
11/64
autho
tics at
in Pol
Colleg
He ha
in Ire
Unive
edits
curren
histor

First Published 1989
by Waterford Trades Council

Copyright © Waterford Trades Council

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

O'Connor, Emmet
A Labour history of Waterford.
1. Ireland, (Republic). Trade Unions, History
I. Title
331.88*09417

ISBN Hbk. 0 9515034 0 5
Pbk. 0 9515034 1 3

Printed in Ireland by the Leinster Leader Ltd., Naas, Co. Kildare



Contents

Maps and Illustrations.....	ix
List of Tables.....	xi
Abbreviations and Notes on Terms.....	xiii
Foreword.....	xv
Preface.....	xvii
Introduction.....	xxi
Prologue.....	xxv

CHAPTER 1: THE ROOTS OF CLASS PROTEST, 1700-1823.....	1
Combinations and urban protest -	11
Rural protest -	21

CHAPTER 2: THE EMERGENCE OF TRADE UNIONS, 1824-1849	31
Economic change -	33
Social distress: social change -	39
Out of the shadows -	45
Into politics -	50
Forty-eight -	54

CHAPTER 3: EVOLUTION IN DECLINE, 1850-1888.....	62
Undevelopment -	63
Social improvement -	69
Towards a new model -	75
Rural labour -	81

Biographic
 After an a
 career in W
 Technical C
 tinguished
 11/64 bra
 author rea
 ties at UCG
 in Political
 College, U
 He has wr
 in Ireland
 University
 edits Sa
 currently
 history of

CHAPTER 4: NEW UNIONISM AND OLD, 1889-1907.....88
 New unionism - 90
 Labour consciousness - 95
 Trades Council and Trades Congress - 99
 The Ballybricken pig buyers' dispute, 1892-97 - 103
 The local elections, 1899 - 107
 Old unionism - 109

CHAPTER 5: LARKINISM, WAR, AND REBELLION, 1908-1916.116
 Larkin comes to Waterford - 117
 A new trades council - 119
 Industrial conflict - 121
 Labour politics - 126
 1913 - 127
 War - 128
 1916 - 131
 The tide turns - 133

CHAPTER 6: FROM TRADES COUNCIL TO SOVIET, 1917-1920.139
 The food supply crisis - 140
 The conscription crisis - 142
 The rise of trade unionism in agriculture - 143
 The revival of general unionism in the towns - 148
 Craft and clerical unions - 152
 Industrial conflict - 153
 Labour and politics - 154
 The Waterford Soviet - 158
 Workers and the armed struggle - 159

CHAPTER 7: THE SLUMP, 1921-1923.....165
 The railway crisis - 166
 The 1922 farm strike - 167
 The 1922 general election - 172
 Defeat in the west - 173
 Unrest in the city - 175
 The gasworks' soviet - 177
 Public policy and trade unionism in agriculture - 180
 The 1923 farm strike - 181
 The autumn crisis - 192
 The 1923 general election - 194

"The Red Flag will be trampled on . . ." - 196
 "That ended that . . ." - 200

CHAPTER 8: FREE TRADE AND THE ECONOMIC WAR, 1924-38 208
 Trade unions in decline - 209
 Labour politics - 215
 At the front in the Economic War - 222
 Trade union recovery - 225
 Drovers and druids - 232

CHAPTER 9: LABOUR'S EMERGENCY, 1939-1945.....248
 Preparing for wartime - 249
 The impact of wartime - 251
 Emergency life - 254
 Labour politics - 259

CHAPTER 10: NIHIL OBSTAT, 1946-1959.....269
 Post war trade unionism: expansion and stagnation - 271
 Divided councils - 279
 The Cold War - 285
 Labour politics - 289
 Unemployed protest - 296

CHAPTER 11: SOWING THE WIND, 1960-1972.....304
 Factory town - 306
 Trade union advance - 310
 The sixties strike wave - 312
 The New Republic - 320

CHAPTER 12: REAPING THE WHIRLWIND, 1973-88.....331
 Into Europe, out of work - 336
 Industrial relations - 338
 Industrial politics:
 Under pressure - 346
 Under protest - 349
 Under construction - 355
 Radical politics - 358

CONCLUSION.....369
 BIBLIOGRAPHY 376
 INDEX..... 388

Biographic
After an
career in W
Technical
tinguished
11/64 bra
author rea
tics at UCC
in Politica
College, U
He has w
in Ireland
University
edits Sa
currently
history of

Waterford Council of Trade Unions wishes to thank the following without whose generous financial backing this publication would not have been possible:

Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union

Communications Union of Ireland

Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union

Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union

Irish Transport and General Workers' Union
Waterford District Committee

Local Government and Public Services Union
Waterford City Branch

Teachers Union of Ireland
Waterford City Branch

City of Waterford V.E.C.

30th October 1989

Maps and Illustrations

1. Waterford City, 1764 (Richards and Scale).
Courtesy Waterford Municipal Library.
2. Waterford City, 1834 (P. Leahy of Clonmel).
Courtesy Waterford Municipal Library.
3. Waterford City, 1984.
Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government (permit No. 5162).
4. County Waterford.
Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government (permit No. 5162).
5. Romantic Depiction of Waterford Farm labourer, by Clayton, c. 1850.
Courtesy of National Library.
6. Fish Women on the Quay, c. 1890.
Poole Collection - Courtesy National Library.
7. The Applemarket, c. 1890.
Poole Collection - Courtesy National Library.
8. The Quay, c. 1890.
Poole Collection - Courtesy National Library.
9. Broad Street, c. 1890.
Poole Collection - Courtesy National Library.
10. Escorting the Pigs across "Timbertoes", c. 1896.
Courtesy Waterford City Library.
11. Carters in Denny's, c. 1918.
Poole Collection - Courtesy National Library.