

PRESS AND PERCEPTION

Both sides recognised the power of the press during the Lockout with the dispute fought in print as bitterly as on the picket line. The Irish Worker and People's Advocate was 'Larkin's oratory congealed in print'. Up to 20,000 copies were published weekly, but as copies were passed hand to hand or read in groups, its Dublin readership rivalled that of the Irish Independent Newspapers group, owned by William Martin Murphy.

Murphy's newspaper titles made use of the Irish Catholic establishment to attack the 'strike monster', as embodied by Larkin. The Liberator and The Toiler attacked Larkin remorselessly and were probably financed by Murphy. Meanwhile, The Irish Worker published a series of hard-hitting cartoons which portrayed Murphy as a sinister, murderous presence and the brutality of the DMP.

Other publications, such as The Lepracaun and Irish Life took a more detached view in which all parties were parodied and criticised.

D'aithin an dá thaobh cumhacht an Phreasa le linn an Fhrithdhúnta, agus bhí an díospóid a troideadh i gcló chomh nimhneach mar an ceann a troideadh ar an líne phicéid. 'Rinne The Irish Worker and People's Advocate ionadaíocht do 'reitic Larkin i gcló'. Foilsíodh suas le 20,000 cóip gach seachtain ach, de réir mar a scaipeadh cóipeanna de ó lámh go lámh nó i measc grúpaí, d'éirigh méid a lucht léitheoireachta i mBaile Átha Cliath ar aon dul le grúpa nuachtáin Irish Independent, a bhí faoi úinéireacht William Martin Murphy.

Bhain nuachtáin Murphy leas as Bunaíocht Chaitliceach na hÉireann chun ionsaí a dhéanamh ar an 'torathar stailce' a bhí i Larkin. Rinne The Liberator agus Toiler ionsaí neamhthrócaireach ar Larkin agus is dóigh gur thug Murphy maoiniú dóibh chun é sin a dhéanamh. Idir an dá linn, d'fhoilsigh The Irish Worker sraith cartúin gharbha inar léiríodh Murphy mar dhuine drochthuarach marfach agus inar leagadh béim ar bhrúidiúlacht Phóilíní Chathair Átha Cliath (DMP).

Ghlac foilseacháin eile, ar nós the Leprachaun and Irish Life, le cur chuige níos neodraí a úsáideadh chun scigaithe agus cáineadh a dhéanamh ar na páirtithe uile.