

**Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
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Collection List No. 8

**Irish Transport and General Workers' Union
Papers**

(MSS 27,034-27,096)

Papers of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, 1912-1942.

Compiled by Catherine Fahy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
I. General papers 1913-42.....	5
II. Litigation, solicitors' accounts and correspondence 1912-40.....	6
III. ITGWU Conferences and Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congresses 1922-39.....	7

INTRODUCTION

The Union

The history of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union is in many senses the history of the modern Irish labour movement and was at the centre of the majority of industrial, organisational, political and personality issues involving Irish labour since its foundation at the beginning of the twentieth century. It was founded in January 1909 by James Larkin after his split with the National Union of Dock Labourers. In 1910 it was affiliated to the Irish Trades Union Congress and by 1911 it had a membership of 5,000. James Connolly was appointed as Belfast organiser in 1911. Under the Larkin leadership the ITGWU came into increasing conflict with many employers, most notably William Martin Murphy, who tried to prevent their employees joining. This led to the Dublin Lock Out (September 1913-February 1914) when Murphy and the Dublin Employers' Federation took the step of locking out trade union members from their employment. When the Lock Out ended as those temporarily unemployed resumed their jobs, the ITGWU was in financial peril and Larkin went to the United States to raise funds for it and the Labour Party. James Connolly took over the leadership in his absence. After the 1916 Rising Thomas Foran, T.D. Daly and William O'Brien attempted successfully to raise the profile of the ITGWU and attract new members, particularly in rural areas. Their success may be estimated from the fact that in 1919, the union had 350 branches with a membership of 100,000, a triumph which made the ITGWU the largest trade union in Ireland. However a dispute between Larkin and O'Brien served to undermine this success, and in 1923 Larkin left to lead the Workers' Union of Ireland. Almost 40,000 of the ITGWU members followed him in switching allegiance. This dispute led to further divisions. When Larkin affiliated with the Labour Party, O'Brien and the ITGWU left in 1945 and formed a rival National Labour Party. They also established the Congress of Irish Unions, a rival to the Irish Trade Union Congress. The breach between Larkin and O'Brien ended just twelve years after Larkin's death when the two congresses united to form the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in 1959 and later the ITGWU reaffiliated with the Labour party. In 1990 both the ITGWU and FWUI (Federated Workers' Union of Ireland) were dissolved and the Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU) was formed.

The Papers

The papers of the ITGWU have been divided into three sections. The papers relating to the union generally have been listed chronologically, as have the legal correspondence and accounts. The largest section of the collection concerns papers relating to ITGWU, Labour party and Trade Union conferences, and again have been listed and arranged chronologically. These are mainly correspondence, resolutions, lists of delegates, reports and agenda for meetings.

Bibliographical References

The Library has received a numbers of accessions of ITGWU papers, some of which are

listed in *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, vol. 2, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1965), p. 569 and *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation-First Supplement 1965-1975*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1979), pp. 358-359.

I. General papers 1913-42

- Ms. 27,034 Copy annual returns of the ITGWU to the Registrar of Friendly Societies.
1913, 1917-25
- Ms. 27,035 Bank book in names of James Larkin, William Fairclough and Thamas
Foran, with receipts for lodgements.
1915-18
- Ms. 27,036 Papers concerning compensation claim for damage done to Liberty Hall
(1 - 3) during the 1916 Rising and subsequently.
1916-32
- Ms. 27,037 Correspondence, mainly concerning industrial disputes.
(1 - 8) July 1916 - December 1917
- Ms. 27,038 Papers concerning Motor Permits strike.
1919-20.
- Ms. 27,039 Accounts of Sligo No. 5 Branch, including members' names, occupations
and subscriptions. 1919
- Ms. 27,040 Miscellaneous accounts mainly concerning repairs to Liberty Hall.
1920-23
- Ms. 27,041 Papers concerning staff of ITGWU
1920-22
(1) Staff members, working conditions, remuneration etc.
1920-22
(2) 'Strike' of four members of Finance staff.
1922
(3) File concerning appointment of office manager and insurance manager.
1922
- Ms. 27,042 Correspondence with members of the executive of the ITGWU including
(1-3) Patrick Gaffney, Michael Hill, and Thomas Foran.
August 1920 - March 1922.
- Ms. 27,043 Papers concerning the National Health Insurance Section of
ITGWU. 1922-27
(1) 1922-24
(2) 1926-27
(3) 1926-27
(4) 1927
- Ms. 27,044 Letter sent to ITGWU organizers concerning the advisability of forming a

Workers' Army.
18 January 1922

- Ms. 27,045 Papers concerning the Mallow Flour Mills dispute.
February 1922
- Ms. 27,046 ITGWU National Health Insurance scheme documentation - medical certificates, sick visitors' reports, cheques etc.
1923-25
- Ms. 27,047 Report of a speech made by James Larkin 'speaking from the windows of Liberty Hall', 23 pp.
June 1923
- Ms. 27,048 Notes concerning assaults on members of the ITGWU.
1924-25
- Ms. 27,049 Papers concerning the appeal of James Kelly, Sligo, against his expulsion from membership of the ITGWU.
1926
- Ms. 27,050 Miscellaneous notes.
c. 1931
- Ms. 27,051 Inter-union agreements between the ITGWU, the Associated Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers.
1940-42.
- Ms. 27,052 Agreement between the ITGWU and the Dublin United Tramways Co. Ltd.
1941
- Ms. 27,053 Agreement of the Belfast branch of the ITGWU to arrangements concerning Deep Sea American Military Store Ships.
1942

II. Litigation, solicitors' accounts and correspondence 1912-40

- Ms. 27,054 Solicitors' accounts from William Smyth & Son, James O'Connor & Co. and Noonan and Dowdall, concerning costs incurred on behalf of ITGWU.
1912-40
- (1) 1912-14
- (2) 1914-18
- (3) 1918-21
- (4) 1921-22

- (5) 1922-23
- (6) 1923-24
- (7) 1923-26
- (8) 1924-28
- (9) 1927-32
- (10) 1928-34
- (11) 1934-40

Ms. 27,055 Correspondence concerning ITGWU properties in Dublin and Cork, mainly concerning title deeds and tenancies.
1920-21

Ms. 27,056 Legal papers and correspondence concerning court cases.
1923-34

- (1) Patrick T. Daly V ITGWU, 1923-4.
- (2) Healy v Foran & others; Michael Conolly & others v ITGWU, 1924.
- (3) Banville v O'Rourke, 1924-25.
- (4) Supt. Burns v Hunt & others, 1925.
- (5) Healy v ITGWU, 1925.
- (6) Nelson v O'Brien, 1925
- (7) McGrath v ITGWU, 1925
- (8) Fairfax v Metropole, 1925
- (9) James Larkin, bankrupt, 1925-34.
- (10) Ruddy v Fearon & others, 1926-27.

III. ITGWU Conferences and Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congresses 1922-39

Ms. 27,057 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Special Congress, Dublin 21 February 1922: Correspondence.
February 1922

Ms. 27,058 ITGWU Conference of Organisers and Full-time Branch Secretaries, 4 April 1922: Correspondence and papers.
March-April 1922

Ms. 27,059 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Dublin, 7-10 August 1922: ITGWU correspondence and papers.
(1-2) July - August 1922

Ms. 27,060 ITGWU Annual Delegate Conference, Dublin, 11 August 1922: Correspondence and papers.
July - August 1922

Ms. 27,061 ITGWU Delegate Conference, Dublin, 24-25 April, 14 May 1923.
April-May 1923

- (1) Circulars
 - (2) Correspondence, mainly with branches
 - (3) List of delegates, papers presented to conference, etc.
- Ms. 27,062 Correspondence with ITGWU branches re submitting Larkin dispute to a Delegate Conference.
(1-3) June - July 1923.
- Ms. 27,063 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Dublin, 6-9 August 1923.
July - August 1923.
- (1) Correspondence, mainly with ITGWU branches.
 - (2) List of ITGWU delegates, report of speech etc.
- Ms. 27,064 ITGWU Delegate Conference, Dublin, 31 Aug. 1923, concerning Larkin dispute.
August - September 1923
- (1) Correspondence.
 - (2) Miscellaneous notes, resolutions etc. of conference.
 - (3) Correspondence with Investigative Committee set up by Conference.
- Ms. 27,065 ITGWU Delegate Conference, Dublin, October 1923.
October 1923
- (1) Correspondence mainly with branches.
 - (2) List of delegates, details of branches, etc.
 - (3) Credential cards of delegates, some with names filled in.
- Ms. 27,066 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress: Special Congress, Dublin, 14-15 March, 1924: Correspondence.
February - March 1924.
- Ms. 27,067 ITGWU Annual Delegate Conference, Dublin, 17-18 June 1924.
March - May 1924.
- (1) Financial membership.
 - (2) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (3) Election of delegates.
 - (4) Election of delegates
 - (5) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (6) Reports and correspondence of Standing Orders Committee.
 - (7) Agenda, list of delegates, accounts etc.
 - (8) Ballot papers for election of National Executive Council and Executive Committee.
 - (9) Minutes.
- Ms. 27,068 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Cork, 4 - 7 August 1924: ITGWU correspondence and papers.
May - August 1924.

- Ms. 27,069 ITGWU Special Conference, Cork, 8 - 9 August 1924.
June - Aug. 1924
- (1) Circulars and correspondence.
 - (2) Resolutions and amendments to rules, proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (3) Lists of delegates.
 - (4) Agendas.
 - (5) Minutes and notes.
 - (6) Report of Special Delegate Conference.
 - (7) Rules as amended by Special Delegate Conference.
- Ms. 27,070 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, 3 - 6 August 1925:
ITGWU correspondence and papers.
May - August 1925.
- Ms. 27,071 ITGWU Annual Conference, Newry, 6 August 1925.
June - August 1925.
- (1) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (2) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (3) Election of delegates.
 - (4) Miscellaneous correspondence.
 - (5) Conference literature - agendas, credential cards, annual report for 1924.
 - (6) Standing Orders Cmmittee Report and correspondence.
 - (7) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
 - (8) Notes for report on conference by W. Carney.
 - (9) Delegates expenses.
- Ms. 27,072 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress: Special Trade Union
Congress concerning Shannon scheme dispute, Dublin, 30 November
1925: Correspondence and papers.
November 1925
- Ms. 27,073 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Galway, 2-5 August 1926:
Correspondence and papers.
April - August 1926.
- Ms. 27,074 ITGWU Annual Conference, Galway, 5 - 6 August 1926.
March - August 1926
- (1) Miscellaneous correspondence.
 - (2) Financial membership.
 - (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (4) Preliminary agenda.
 - (5) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (6) Selection of delegates.
 - (7) Selection of delegates
 - (8) Conference Literature - agenda, annual report for 1925.

- (9) Standing Orders Committee report and correspondence.
 - (10) N.E.C. election.
 - (11) Press release on proceedings of ITGWU Annual Conference.
- Ms. 27,075 ITGWU Annual Conference, Dublin, 4-5 August 1927.
April - August 1927.
- (1) Circulars, correspondence etc.
 - (2) Financial membership, 1926.
 - (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (4) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (5) Election of delegates.
 - (6) Election of delegates
 - (7) List of delegates and claims for expenses.
 - (8) Conference Literature - agendas, report 1925-26, rules, proofs, etc.
 - (9) Report and correspondence of Standing Orders Committee.
 - (10) Minutes.
- Ms. 27,076 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Belfast, 6-9 August 1928:
Correspondence and papers.
April - July 1928.
- Ms. 27,077 ITGWU: Annual and Special Conferences, Belfast, 9-10 August 1928.
March - August 1928.
- (1) Financial membership, 1927.
 - (2) Circulars.
 - (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules, proposed by ITGWU branches
 - (4) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (5) Election of delegates.
 - (6) Election of delegates
 - (7) Delegates expenses, travel arrangements etc.
 - (8) Conference Literature - agenda, annual report 1927, rules.
 - (9) Standing Orders Committee correspondence.
 - (10) National Health Insurance Section Report for 1927.
 - (11) Minutes, report of proceedings, press release.
- Ms. 27,078 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Limerick, 31 July-3 August 1929: Correspondence and papers.
April-July 1929.
- Ms. 27,079 ITGWU Annual Conference, Limerick, 29-30 July 1929.
February - July 1929.
- (1) Financial membership, 1928.
 - (2) Circulars.
 - (3) General correspondence.
 - (4) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by IIGWU branches.
 - (5) National Executive Council nominations.

- (6) Election of delegates.
 - (7) Election of delegates
 - (8) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1928, rules etc.
 - (9) N.E.C. election ballot and results sheet.
 - (10) National Health Insurance department report for 1928.
 - (11) Delegates attendance roll, miscellaneous notes.
- Ms. 27,080 ITGWU Annual Conference, Dublin, 27-28 July 1930.
February - July 1930.
- (1) Financial membership, 1929.
 - (2) Circulars.
 - (3) Letter from D. O'Connor & Co., Chartered Accountants, concerning annual accounts.
 - (4) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (5) Election of delegates.
 - (6) Election of 10 delegates to Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, 1931. National Executive Council.
 - (7) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (8) Delegates expenses.
 - (9) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1929 - and notes.
 - (10) N.E.C. election ballot papers and results sheet.
 - (11) Standing Orders Committee report.
 - (12) National Health Insurance division report for 1929.
 - (13) Minutes, report of proceedings, press release and list of delegates.
- Ms. 27,081 ITGWU Annual Conference, Dublin, 27-28 July 1931.
April - July 1931.
- (1) Circulars.
 - (2) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (3) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (4) Election of delegates.
 - (5) Election of 10 delegates to attend Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, 1931.
 - (6) Conference literature - agenda.
 - (7) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
 - (8) National Health Insurance Section report for 1930.
 - (9) Reports on Superannuation.
 - (10) Minutes and attendance sheet.
- Ms. 27,082 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Cork, 27-30 July, 1932: ITGWU correspondence and papers.
April - July 1932.
- Ms. 27,083 ITGWU Annual Conference, Cork, 25-26 July 1932.
April - July 1932.
- (1) Circulars.

- (2) Financial membership 1931.
- (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
- (4) Election of delegates.
- (5) National Executive Council nominations.
- (6) Election of 10 delegates to attend Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Cork, July, 1932.
- (7) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1931.
- (8) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
- (9) Standing Orders Committee reports.
- (10) National Health Insurance Department report for 1931.
- (11) Attendance sheet, summary of proceedings and minutes.

Ms. 27,084 ITGWU Annual Conference, Galway, 31 July - 1 August 1933.
February - August 1933

- (1) Circulars
- (2) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches½.
- (3) Financial membership 1932.
- (4) National Executive Council nominations.
- (5) Election of delegates.
- (6) Election of 10 delegates to Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Galway, July 1933.
- (7) Miscellaneous correspondence.
- (8) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1932 etc.
- (9) Standing Orders Committee report.
- (10) National Health Insurance Department reports for 1932.
- (11) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
- (12) Attendance sheet, reports of proceedings, etc.

Ms. 27,085 ITGWU Annual Conference, Wicklow, 26-27 May 1934.
February - May 1934

- (1) Circulars.
- (2) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
- (3) National Executive Council nominations.
- (4) General correspondence.
- (5) Election of delegates.
- (6) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1933.
- (7) Standing Orders Committee report.
- (8) National Health Insurance Department report and accounts, July 1934.
- (9) Accounts for year ended 1 December 1933, per D. O' Connor & Co., Chartered Accountants.
- (10) Attendance sheet, minutes, report of proceedings and news clippings.

Ms. 27,086 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress,
Galway, 8-11 Aug. 1934.
April - August 1934.

- (1) ITGWU correspondence and papers.

- (2) Ballot papers for election of ITGWU delegates to congress.
- Ms. 27,087 ITGWU Annual Conference, Wicklow, 25-26 May 1935.
February - May 1935.
- (1) Circulars.
- (2) General correspondence and papers.
- (3) General correspondence and papers.
- (4) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches
- (5) National Executive Council nominations.
- (6) Election of delegates.
- (7) Election of delegates
- (8) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1934.
- (9) Standing Orders Committee reports.
- (10) Attendance sheet, list of delegates, and delegates' expenses.
- (11) Minutes, accounts of speeches, newsclippings.
- Ms. 27,088 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress, Derry, 31 July - 3 August
1935.
March - August 1935.
- (1) Correspondence and papers.
- (2) Ballot papers for election of ITGWU delegates to Congress.
- Ms. 27,089 ITGWU Annual Conference, Dublin, 23-24 May 1936.
February - July 1936.
- (1) Circulars.
- (2) General correspondence and papers.
- (3) General correspondence and papers
- (4) Financial membership 1935.
- (5) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
- (6) National Executive Council nominations.
- (7) Election of delegates.
- (8) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1935.
- (9) Standing Orders Committee reports.
- (10) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
- (11) Attendance sheet, list of delegates and delegates' expenses.
- (12) Minutes, newsclippings and reports of speeches.
- Ms. 27,090 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Tralee, 5-8 August
1936.
March - August 1936.
- (1) Correspondence and papers.
- (2) Ballot papers for election of 15 ITGWU delegates to Congress.
- Ms. 27,091 ITGWU Annual Conference, Cork, 5-6 June 1937.
February - June 1937.
- (1) Financial membership, 1936.

- (2) Circulars.
 - (3) Correspondence and papers proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (4) Resolutions and amendments to rules.
 - (5) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (6) Election of delegates.
 - (7) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1936.
 - (8) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
 - (9) ITGWU accounts for year ended 1 December 1936, per D. O' Connor & Co., Chartered Accountants.
 - (10) Attendance sheet and delegates expenses sheet.
 - (11) Account of speech of General President, Sen. Thomas Foran, and newsclippings.
- Ms. 27,092 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Dundalk, 4-7 August 1937.
March - August 1937.
- (1) Correspondence and papers
 - (2) Ballot papers etc. for election of 15 ITGWU delegates to Congress.
- Ms. 27,093 ITGWU Annual Conference, Waterford, 18-19 June 1938.
February - June 1938.
- (1) Circulars.
 - (2) Correspondence.
 - (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - (4) National Executive Council nominations.
 - (5) Election of delegates.
 - (6) Conference literature - agenda, annual report for 1937.
 - (7) Standing Orders Committee reports.
 - (8) N.E.C. election papers.
 - (9) Accounts for year ended 31 December 1937, per D. O' Connor & Co., Chartered Accountants.
 - (10) Attendance sheet and list of delegates.
 - (11) Minutes, reports of proceedings and speeches, press release.
- Ms. 27,094 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Bangor, 3-6 August 1938.
June - Aug. 1938.
- (1) Correspondence and papers.
 - (2) Ballot papers for election of 18 fl~U delegates to Congress.
- Ms. 27,095 ITGWU Annual Conference, Bray.17-19 June 1939.
February - June 1939.
- (1) Circulars.
 - (2) Correspondence and papers.
 - (3) Resolutions and amendments to rules proposed by ITGWU branches.
 - 4) National Executive Council nominations.

- (5) Election of delegates.
- (6) Annual reports for 1937, 1938.
- (7) Accounts for year ended 31 Dec. 1938 per D. O'Connor & Co., Chartered Accountants.
- (8) N.E.C. election ballot papers.
- (9) Attendance sheet and list of delegates.
- (10) Newspaper clippings.

Ms. 27,096 Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Annual Congress, Waterford, 2-5 August, 1939.

April - August 1939.

- (1) Correspondence and papers.
- (2) Ballot papers for election of 14 ITGWU delegates to attend Congress.