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DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

S.
1937
D.M.P.

Detective Department,

Dublin, 11th November, 1915

Subject,

MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

I beg to report that on the 10th Inst.,

the undermentioned extremists were observed

moving about and associating with each other

as follows:-

With Thomas J. Clarke, 75, Parnell St.,

C. Colbert, from 12. 50 to 1 p. m. Pierce

Beasley for half an hour between 3 & 4 p. m.

Thomas Byrne for a quarter of an hour bet-

ween 5 & 6 p. m. F. J. McCabe from 8 p.m.

to 8. 30 p. m. John McGarry for close on

an hour from 10 p. m.

C. Collins and P. O'Keeffe, G. P. O. to-

gether in Sackville St. at 12. 30 p. m.

Thomas Byrne in conversation with J. J.

Walsh in shop of latter, 26 Blessington St.

at

The Chief Commissioner.

*The Under Secretary**Submitted**W. Whiston**C. C. M.**Under Secretary**Submitted**J. P. A.**11.11.15.**T. H.**11/11**C. D. W.
W. J. H.
11/11/15.*

388

at 2 p. m.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE

William Mellows arrived at Harcourt

St. from Gorey at 2 p. m.

James O'Sullivan, Organiser Irish

Volunteers, left Broadstone by 5 p. m.

train, en route to Mullingar. R. I. C.,

informed.

Arthur Griffith in Kildare Street,

between 8 & 9 p. m.

Attached is a Copy of this week's issue of The Irish Volunteer which contains the usual notes on front page by the Editor, Mr John McNeill.

Owen Brien
Superintendent.

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

Vol. 2. No. 49 (New Series).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1915.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

NOTES

Mr. Dillon at Armagh and Mr. Redmond at Westminster have been making disclosures. Mr. Dillon told his audience that King George signed the Home Rule Bill "in spite of threats." He went on to ask "how could the King forego his signature?" The Armagh audience very naturally remained silent, no doubt wondering what answer the King's threateners might give to the conundrum. This was not the only instance of threatening during the history of the Home Rule Bill. Why is it only now that the policy of threatening has been exposed, now that Mr. Dillon is on the defensive? It is not criticism that has forced Mr. Dillon to assume the defensive. Like Mr. Redmond, he has regarded Irish criticism with lofty scorn, and he has been only second to Mr. Redmond in the choice of contumelious terms to describe the critics. But there is a deepseated uneasiness in Ulster that cannot be dismissed with scorn and hard names, and which will not be altogether removed by these disclosures.

Mr. Dillon referred to "the difficulties which confronted the Irish Party in 1914." If the Irish people had been trusted, they would have been a match for those difficulties. The leaders of the Irish Party seemed to forget that there was an Irish people, and trusted to their own diplomacy to bring them through their difficulties. No English statesman is vain enough to think that Diplomacy, even of the highest order, has much hope of success without some substantial force at its back. If it is right to tell the Irish people now what some of those difficulties were, why were the difficulties hidden from them last year?

When they accepted the "temporary" exclusion proposal, Mr. Dillon says, the Irish Party "were up against the most formidable combination that ever, in his opinion, faced a body of public men." Quite so. The combination consisted of

the pressure of both English parties, of the Court, and of military and naval circles—in fact of all those elements which are so devoted to the cause of liberty and the smaller nations. But why did not Mr. Dillon come to Ireland then and tell the Irish people the truth about this most formidable combination? We have been asked to trust Mr. Asquith and to trust the British Democracy. It might be impolite to say bluntly, as Mr. Redmond said a few years ago, that our duty is "to trust no British Government, and to keep our powder dry." Is the Irish people alone to be distrusted by those who claim to be its leaders? The secret of that formidable combination was known to all the leading politicians in Great Britain, to British royalty, to British naval and military chiefs, and to the Irish Party leaders. It is now being revealed to the Irish people. Why now and not then?

* * * * *
Was it because the Irish leaders, without the help and counsel of the Irish people, felt themselves strong enough to deal with the formidable combination? Clearly not, for Mr. Dillon now tells us that he and his colleagues were compelled to submit to the formidable combination. "They did, **under great pressure**, consent to what was known as giving a temporary vote to the Ulster counties." Was that great pressure a fair and honest pressure? Was that formidable combination against Ireland a justifiable combination, formed by sincere friends of liberty and small nationalities? If it was, then Mr. Dillon has no complaint. If it was not, then Mr. Dillon should have taken the Irish people into his confidence in time.

* * * * *
"They had two main motives," said Mr. Dillon, "in conceding what he did not for a single moment disguise from them was a very painful and very serious concession. It became perfectly manifest that their sincerest friends in Great Britain were considerably shaken at the prospect of coercing the Protestants of Ulster." No doubt! They "coerced" the British element in South Africa to

accept the rule of the Africander majority. But Ireland is Ireland, and there are limits to the sincerity of our sincerest friends in Great Britain when the Irish Nation is in question. So much for main motive number one.

* * * * *
Main motive number two: "Meanwhile they had arrayed against them this terrible combination and, if there had been the smallest break in Ulster, for the moment the cause was lost; and he certainly would never live to see again the position which Home Rule then occupied." What? Are the parties to this terrible combination, those who were ready, and may again be ready, to take advantage of the smallest break in Ulster, are these the same who, we are asked to believe, are the champions of European liberty? They are prepared, as we are now told, to let massacre loose upon Ulster, and thereby to terrorise and dominate Ireland for the remainder of Mr. Dillon's lifetime. Does Mr. Dillon still say that these same parties to the terrible combination are the friends of liberty and civilisation? But why was not the terrible combination exposed at the time when its great pressure compelled the Irish Party leaders to pass under the yoke? Why was not Ireland trusted?

* * * * *
Mr. Dillon declares that "when the Irish Party did consent to the voting out, they had the support and approval of all the leading Nationalists in Ulster." I do not think that Mr. Dillon intends to make a misstatement, but it would be better if he were to say exactly what took place, since it is so widely known in Ulster. Mr. Dillon's words might be taken to imply that "the leading Nationalists in Ulster" were implicated in the partition surrender. I ask, were they consulted beforehand, or were they privately interviewed after the forced decision and induced to accept it as inevitable?

* * * * *
It is a pity that men who seem to live on votes of confidence will themselves show so little confidence in the people of

Ireland and so much confidence in "their sincerest friends in Great Britain," who hold that a Catholic majority means coercion. The Irish Party leaders acquiesced in the unlawful Arms Proclamation which the English Privy Council enforced against Nationalist Ireland. They disconcerted and discouraged the Irish Volunteers, until the Partition surrender placed them on their defence before the people of Ireland. Their attitude retarded and prevented the provision of funds for the arming of the Volunteers. It was timidity and distrust towards Ireland that left them in March, 1914, at the mercy of that "terrible combination." If they go on distrusting Ireland and hoping for anything but contempt from that terrible combination, they will get just what they deserve.

* * *

There were some good points in Mr. Dillon's pronouncement. He spoke against conscription, though he could not refrain from insulting the Irish Volunteers, who, he intimated, are indebted to the Irish Party for not being wiped out of existence by the champions of European liberty and small nationalities! He spoke about Irish troops in the British service being "badly handled." Why did he not tell the whole story? He pledged himself "always to continue to resist in every way in his power any form of pressure—conscription or any pressure by employers—to compel men to enlist." His audience endorsed this declaration by their applause. If Mr. Dillon takes the trouble to inquire what has been going on in Dublin and elsewhere, he will find ample opportunity for redeeming this pledge. Mr. Dillon spoke of a conspiracy in England to enslave the democracy. It might be well to examine how far this conspiracy has got a foothold in Ireland. Obsta principis, "resist the beginnings," is an older and a safer maxim than "wait and see."

* * *

"The Irish Party had protected them from unfair taxation. The burden of the war tax was very terrible, and he was afraid that they were not at the end of it. If it had not been for the Irish Party being on the watch when the Budgets were introduced, they would be suffering under a much heavier burden than they were, and they would have to be continually on the watch to secure that nothing more was laid on Ireland than **her reasonable and fair proportion.**" These are fine-sounding generalities, but they are so far from what the Irish people understand to be the facts that Mr. Dillon, if he thinks it prudent, might condescend to give more exact particulars. And what exactly is meant by "Ireland's reasonable and fair proportion?" Does it depend, like other things, on the amount of pressure laid on by the formidable combination? Does

it depend on the resisting capacity of the Irish Party leaders? Is it known and calculable? Has it ever been stated in the recent Budget discussions? Or is it a thing that varies with the convenience and the courage of the Party leaders, and therefore a worthless test that can never be applied? What is Ireland's reasonable and fair proportion?

* * *

The most remarkable of Mr. Dillon's disclosures was that "many men in the House of Commons thought for several days that the Army might come down, turn them out of the House, and lock the doors," in order to defeat Home Rule. This was one of the considerations that forced the Partition surrender. Surely a gross libel on the defenders of liberty, justice, civilisation, and small nationalities against the danger of Prussian domination! When Mr. Devlin declared at the protected Mansion House meeting that "the Prussian fist would never be allowed to close on the throat of Ireland," my comment in this paper was that there was only room for one fist on the throat of Ireland, and Mr. Dillon seems to be of the same mind in a hazy sort of way.

* * *

Mr. Redmond in the House of Commons has also been making disclosures. He had something to say about what Mr. Dillon calls the "bad handling" of Irish battalions and the ominous official silence on the subject. No doubt the British Democracy and "our sincerest friends in England" are boiling with indignation, and will insist on a complete disclosure of the facts. Wait and see! Mr. Redmond also revealed that, a few days after his Bright Spot speech, he opened negotiations with the War Office about the Irish Volunteers. Not one syllable of this was ever disclosed to the Committee of the Irish Volunteers, which was constituted in accordance with his demands and included twenty-five of his nominees. Mr. Redmond's part in this affair was withheld from the Committee as completely as the £6,000 collected for the Volunteers was withheld. It is another instance of the fatal policy of confidence in English statesmen and the War Office, and distrust of Ireland.

* * *

While Irishmen who will not submit to being controlled by an English combination working through Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon will exercise their right of criticising men who, as elected representatives, owe all their duty to Ireland, let us again and always bear in mind that the real adversaries with whom we have to contend are the Formidable Combination whose treatment of the Irish Parliamentary Party is in accordance with the historical attitude of British statesmanship towards Irish nationality. The Irish Party was deliberately fooled

in March, 1914, fooled in August, 1914, is being fooled at present, and there is yet no sign that it will not be fooled until the end of the chapter. It is a primary blunder, which only the extreme of foolish vanity could explain, to imagine that the Irish Party is stronger than the Irish people or that it can possess an atom of strength to resist formidable combinations in British politics except the strength which it derives from the intelligent and instructed backing and co-operation of the active forces of Irish nationality. Votes of blind confidence may bolster up the sick man in his bed, they bring no strength to him in the fighting line.

* * *

Reverting to Mr. Dillon's statement that he would resist in every way he could the coercion of men by their employers, and his reference to a conspiracy to bring the democracy under the control of a certain few, it is to be hoped that Irishmen will everywhere stand up for their own rights, and if they get Mr. Dillon's help, so much the better. If I believed that the Irish Party was standing as an earthwork between the English military power and the Irish Volunteers, I should no more think of despising that earthwork than of refusing the help of a real earthwork in real military operations. But it is up to the men to defend themselves at the same time. Employment, except in a state of slavery, is a free contract between employer and employed. If the employer seeks to go beyond the understood and expressed terms of the contract, he is invading the employee's rights. If he seeks, by any threat, open or implied, of dismissal or disfavour, to force the employee to make any sort of declaration or undertaking not included or understood in the terms of employment, he is making an inroad on the employee's rights, and any such inroad is especially dangerous at a time when, as Mr. Dillon says, there is a conspiracy afoot to enable a few to dominate the whole working community. The individual worker who submits to such an invasion is endangering not only his own rights, but the rights of all his fellow-workers.

* * *

From the police report of Desmond Fitzgerald's speech, produced in evidence at Bray Petty Sessions on Saturday, the 30th October:

Although England may seek to seize the manhood of Ireland **forcibly** to fight her wars, we have no intention of doing so.—
"Evening Mail" (Tory), Oct. 30.

Though England may seek the manhood of Ireland to fight her war, we have no intention of doing so.—
"Irish Daily Independent" (Imperialist), Monday, November 1.

The passage in the "Independent" was picked out and printed in special type, the words before and after "the manhood of Ireland" being deliberately cut out of the report, in order to justify

Saturday, November 13, 1915.

the maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment imposed.

* * *

One of the main features of the present state of Ireland is the extraordinary vigour and earnestness of the Irish Language movement. I can remember how, in the height of the "Parnell crisis," those who joined a year or two later in the establishment of the Gaelic League thought it wise to make no decided move until the political excitement of that time had calmed down a little, and waited anxiously through the years of 1890, 1891, and 1892, until they thought the favourable moment had come. The nation is now passing through a still greater crisis and a harder trial. If the situation seems less strained, it is because the nation is stronger and more confident, and no small part of that strength and confidence is due to the work of the Gaelic League and the other forces of Irish-Ireland. I remember acquiring, in the early days of the Gaelic League, when people of fiercely diverse views on Irish politics were working together, that the cause of the national language created a common ground which was itself a security against the effects of political disruption. That is now proved. Amid the storms and fogs of politics, the language movement is riding the waves securely. "Language Week" in Dublin has been a triumphant success. The dominant feeling and purpose among Irish language workers is "We will do better still, le cuidiu' De."

* * *

This confident spirit manifests itself in many ways. I welcome this week the appearance in print of Piaras Beaslaoi's play, "Fear na Milliun Punt" (price 6d., printed by Cahill, Dublin), which comes as the first of a series of dramatic publications by the Aisteoiri. This play was successfully staged during the week. I welcome also one new book from the hand of J. P. Craig, whose valuable work for the spread of the Irish language, especially in Ulster, needs no testimonial. The books are "Clann Lir" (price 1s., D. J. Craig and Co., Derry), "Studies in Irish Composition" (1s. 6d., Browne and Nolan, Dublin), and "A New-Method Course of Irish Composition" (1s. 6d., Browne and Nolan). All these books will be found extremely helpful to teachers and students. I note one very valuable factor in an appendix to "Clann Lir," the explanation of Irish phrases by other Irish phrases conveying the same meaning, e.g., thainic aithreachas oirthe = thainic dolas croidhe oirthi; o nach bfeudaim = o nach dtig liom; feasta = seo amach. This sort of equation helps to give a distinctive grasp of idiom and a larger mastery of the language, even to native speakers.

* * *

I am glad to notice the publication in

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

English of a little comedy, "The Pope in Killybuck," by Louis J. Walsh. This play scored a great success in Belfast some time ago. Its racy Ulster dialogue is the real thing. The play is one of those that are saving the fed-up folly of certain Ulster people from making them the mockery of the world by teaching themselves to laugh at it. "What it Feels Like" is the title given by "A Newman" to his impressions of arrest, prosecution and imprisonment for the crime of organising Irish Volunteers. His account has already been printed in "Nationality," and is now published as one of the Tracts for the Times, price 1d.

* * *

The Gaelic League has announced a series of lectures on Irish History for the coming session in the Hall, 25 Parnell Square, Dublin. Four of the lectures are by Captain O'Connell, of the Irish Volunteers, and they are certain to be valuable to Volunteer officers. The subjects and dates are: Dec. 12, the Battle of Aughrim; Feb. 13, the Battle of Killiecrankie; March 26, the Battle of Benburb; May 14, Humbert's Campaign. Each lecture is to begin at 8 p.m. The syllabus promises that "efforts will be made to have Captain O'Connell's Battle Surveys suitably illustrated by magic lantern."

* * *

All those who take active part in the government of Ireland against the national will are punished by their own self-degradation. They know well in their hearts that the whole thing is wrong, and that it cannot be sustained by just, honest, and honourable means. I am now referring in particular to the recent prosecutions of Alfred Monahan and Desmond Fitzgerald. Denis McCullough has been released from jail, but the Government is still awaiting sentence. Some further contributions to the Irish Volunteer Prisoners' Defence Fund are still requested.

EIN MAC NEILL

PRISONERS' DEFENCE FUND.

We have received from the Tralee Branch Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish-American Alliance) 26s. in aid of the Irish Volunteer Prisoners' Defence Fund. This amount has been handed over to the Treasurer of the Fund.

C. COY. 2nd BATT. CONCERT.

On Sunday next, in 41 Parnell Square, what promises to be the finest concert of the season takes place. The presence of Eoin Mac Neill and the number of high-class artistes who are assisting is ample guarantee of this. The tickets are to be had in all I.V. drill halls and at 41 Parnell Square.

MANCHESTER MARTYRS' COMMEMORATION CONCERT.

Professor Eoin Mac Neill will preside at the Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration at the Mansion House on Monday, 22nd November. The oration will be delivered by Mr. Bulmer Hobson, Chief of Staff—Fianna Eireann.

The musical side of the program will be contributed by artistes of first rate quality, including Miss Joan Burke (contralto), Mr. William Sheehan (baritone), Miss Teresa McCormack (harpist), Cathal O'Byrne (Belfast), Miss M. Byrne (soprano), Sean Connolly, Sean Neeson, Proinnsias O'Suilleabhain, Misses Maeve O'Ryan and Florrie Ryan, Commandant Eamonn Ceannt (Uilleann Pipes), Mrs. Fay Sergeant, Capt. Ffrench-Mullen, Mr. Kerry Reddin.

This year's commemoration is being organised by the Headquarters Staff of Na Fianna Eireann, and the proceeds will be devoted to the spreading of the boys' movement throughout the country.

By purchasing a ticket from the Boy Scouts or at Volunteer Headquarters you can feel an honest pride in having contributed to the permanent success of the most interesting military organisation for Irish boys—the future defenders of our national rights.

PRIZES FOR INVENTORS.

Headquarters offers prizes to Volunteers for suitable suggestions, inventions or contrivances which might be of military value to the Irish Volunteers. The humblest private in the ranks may devise a weapon of attack or defence or make a suggestion which Headquarters may consider worthy of adoption. As an example of what is meant, a Volunteer may be able to devise a wall-climber or light portable scaling-ladder. Such a contrivance if easily and cheaply made might be of real service. An improved pike would be another useful asset. All Volunteers, particularly those having mechanical or scientific knowledge, should endeavour to win a prize. Suggestions, with drawings and full particulars, should be forwarded by hand to Headquarters and addressed to the Director of Organisation.

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Saturday, November 13, 1915.



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made payable to the Manager, IRISH VOLUNTEER.

The Irish Volunteer
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1915.

Headquarters Bulletin

To tionólaodh an Dara Comhdáil Óiliadán-
tarach o'fíannais fáil i náimhreacainn na
mainistreach i mbaire Áta Cliat, O.
Domhnaigh an 31ú lá de'n mí ro caitte,
agus an tOire Eoin Mac Neill, Uachtarán,
ina ceannur.

To craobh ríaoileadh tuairiscibhail o'fis-
eáin air imteachtais na Comhdála ceana.

To minneadh an céad tionól de'n Comh-
dála. Síolta nua i nDúnphort na Féinne
tráchtóna. O Céadaoimh an 3ú lá de'n mí
ro agur an tUachtarán ina ceannur.

To hat-toigádha na Circeoirí agur an
Rúnaidhe agur do hat-toigádha an Óuirdean
Ceannuir go ceann reacmhaine.

To rochruisgeadh a lán ceirteann do báin
le himteachtais timéiri agur muinteoíri na
Comáiple.

To minneadh agallamh le torghairibh tainig
ó Cumann na mBan.

To minneadh tagairt do'n éigin atá luct
maisaltair Saran ag curt de luct tráctála
na hÉireann d'imirt ar Saeoilealaib cum a
cúp o'fíascáib ortha dul i n-áitín Saran ina
n-áitítheoin agur do bítear ar aon aigne
ná ceart do Saeoilealaib gilleadh ran
níod ro, agur do haontúiseadh ná mór a
cúpinn-iúl go roiléim do'n pobal ná bhuil ré
o'ibhlisáid ar éinne a ainm do cúp le
ruipim ar bith o'ra roiltar cuige 'gá fíarainse
óe an nácaid, ré ran airm.

Dúnphort na Féinne,

Áta Cliat, 3 Samh, 1915.

[TRANSLATION.]

The Second Annual Convention of the
Irish Volunteers met in the Abbey Theatre,
Dublin, on Sunday, 31st ult.,
under the presidency of Professor Eoin
Mac Neill. An official report of the pro-
ceedings of the Committee has already
been published.

The first meeting of the new Central
Executive took place at Headquarters on
Wednesday evening, 3rd inst., the Presi-
dent in the chair.

The Treasurers and Secretary were re-
appointed, and the General Staff was re-
appointed provisionally.

Various arrangements were made with
regard to the movements of the Head-
quarters organisers and organising in-
structors.

A deputation was received from
Cumann na mBan.

A discussion took place as to the
coercion which is being exercised by
British Government Departments and by
certain commercial houses in Ireland
with a view to forcing their employees
to enlist, and it was unanimously agreed
that a firm stand must be made in re-
sistance of such tyranny; and in connec-
tion with this that it should be made
generally clear that no one is under any
obligation to sign any form which asks
information as to his willingness to enlist.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 3rd November, 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

An Comhdáil.

To bí an comhdáil ro na Féinne an
Comhdáil ba lúga cainnítear támh tionól 1
nóimíneann mar, aict do minneadh a lán oibre
ann. Ní ait an gComhdáil réin do minneadh
an curt ba mór agur ba tábactaige de'n
obair, ám, aict ait na tálait do bí ag na
hoifigeácais i rit na dtír lá do caiteadar
i mbaire Áta Cliat. Ní bhéas a rád go
mbéidh rian oibre na dtír lá rian ait imteach-
tais na Féinne go ceann i bprao.

Áit CUR AITNE AR A CÉILE.

To cur na hoifisiú ar gac cearto de'n
tír aitne ar a céile i nádail comáiple órúib.
Ir móide a mear ar a céile ag muinsí ar a
céile an tamall do caiteadar i bprócair a
céile. Ir beag níodh bainear le horrougád
ná le hoileamain ná le hármaíl na Féinne

nád nádearmad a ríomhduineadh agur comáiple
do ghlacadh ina taoibh. Ní raibh éinne ann
nád náibh beagán éigin le roghaim aige. Ní
ní raibh éinne ann nád náibh beagán éigin
eolair aige le tábairt do báinib eile.
Béid a leitíeoí ro te ólálaib agaínn go
minic pearta, agur béid a tóraíd rin ar an
obair.

THE CONVENTION.

The proceedings in the Abbey Theatre
represented only a side, and perhaps the
less important side, of the work of the
Convention week-end. The conferences
on organisation and training were the
other side. There were three such con-
ferences. The first was held on Saturday
evening, and was attended by Command-
ants and other senior officers. Various
branches of training were dealt with in
lectures which had been specially pre-
pared for the occasion, the subjects
selected being for the most part subjects
which, while of vital interest to such a
force as the Irish Volunteers, are dealt
with imperfectly or not at all in the
military handbooks. On Sunday evening
a conference of somewhat wider scope
was held. Nearly every item of our
training syllabus was travelled over, and
there was a very free and useful inter-
change of ideas. Several really valuable
suggestions emerged and will be at-
tended to immediately by Headquar-
ters. On Monday morning, the Satur-
day's lectures were resumed, and there
was a further interchange of ideas
on points of organisation and arming.
Finally, it was arranged for the systematic
continuation of such conferences and
lectures. It is felt on all sides that a
great step forward has been taken in the
most practical side of our work.

COMRADES IN ARMS.

One of the most useful things about
conferences of the kind is that they bring
officers from every part of the country
into immediate touch with one another
and with Headquarters. Apart from the
interchange of ideas on technical matters,
there is a great gain in the feeling of
solidarity and comradeship which the
bringing together of workers in a common
cause naturally engenders. Every man
who came up to the Convention has gone
home with a higher regard for his com-
rades and with a new pride in the Irish
Volunteers. The whole movement has
been braced and invigorated.

MILITARISM.

The Convention differed in many re-
spects from the Convention of 1914. The
outstanding difference was that this was
an assembly of the delegates of an orga-
nised, disciplined, and trained body.
The Irish Volunteers are to-day no longer
merely a potential military force. They
are an actual military force. The very
speeches at the Convention—if such short
and unadorned statements as were made
can be called speeches—show that we are

Saturday, November 13, 1915.

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

5

A MILITARY CAUSERIE

BELLONA'S FIANCES.

On some Volunteer manoeuvres recently, at which I was acting as umpire, I had to give a decision in an isolated action where a half-company in fours marched into an ambush of eight men. My decision was that ten of the column were permanently out of action, while the remainder were to retreat a certain distance. As the defeated column marched back along the road the commander of the ambush looked at me with a pathetic light in his eye, as who should say, "Ce n'est pas la guerre." Probably he was aggrieved that I had not annihilated the enemy. I know that the umpires' decisions on many occasions were considered too mild; nothing but wholesale slaughter will satisfy some of our warriors. They do not take into account the natural human impulse to run away which distinguishes war from manoeuvres.

* * *

War is really much more like chess than draughts. In the former game success depends not on the number of pieces taken, but on the positions into which the player manoeuvres his men. The capture of pieces is generally incidental to the occupation of positions. It is the same in war. The important thing is to occupy the necessary positions. The slaughter is incidental. War wears out more shoe leather than anything else.

* * *

Therefore the unreality of umpires' decisions on field days is only apparent. It is often impossible, as in the case quoted above, to estimate the number who might have been killed in a particular action, and if the ambushees repulse their foes they should be content.

* * *

Bellona is not so red as she is painted, and when you come to know her you will find that she has grown dull in her old age. She is getting more and more inclined to desert her chariot and creep quietly along the roadside. Her tastes are quite changed. Bellona's bride-

now thinking in terms of soldiership rather than in terms of politics. No man spoke at the Convention as representative of a district. Each man spoke as a member of a body of men, large or small, which is undergoing military training and which is interested primarily in military problems. There was an amazing economy of words and an amazing tolerance and courtesy. This new Irish "militarism" is one of the finest things that have ever been in Ireland.

CUMANN NA MBAN.

The ladies of Cumann na mBan invited the delegates to a Ceilidhe on the Sunday

groom is no longer to be the dashing cavalier with flashing sabre; she will prefer a tough footman who knows how to use his rifle-butt.

* * *

This is merely a way of saying that the Section Commanders are the most important people in the army. They are, in fact, indispensable, and they ought all to realise this. A Volunteer need have no higher ambition than to become an efficient Section Commander. In his dreams he may fancy himself a general entering a captured city on a magnificent charger, with the sun flashing from his wheeled crosses and old gold. Or in weak moments he might picture himself a captain, sword in air, leading his company to the charge. But the men who are going to set Ireland free are those who can push their dozen men over hedges and ditches, walls and wires, and bring them intact into action.

* * *

The recognition of the importance of Section Commanders has led to the formation of special classes for their instruction in Dublin, which all section and squad commanders are ordered to attend. The same plan ought to be adopted in other centres, and meanwhile captains ought to pay special attention to training their Section Commanders themselves, putting them in command of independent units at one time, and making them act together at another. As we have said before in these columns, co-ordination in attack or defence depends largely on these officers. If a directing section is named on one or other flank, and the frontage to be attacked is of reasonable size, they should not find it hard to keep their units in touch.

* * *

In Dublin the Captains are asked to send promising men to attend the classes, with a view to preparing them for promotion. The kind of man who makes a good Section Commander is easily recognised. I have heard him described by a competent military authority (one of our

evening, and a very enjoyable reunion was the result.

RECRUITING.

The Convention has overshadowed a small but important conference held by the Director of Recruiting on the previous Sunday. A number of country Volunteers put in claims for organisers for their respective districts. Cries for organisers indeed are coming from all sides, and it is impossible to answer half of them. The country **wants** the Irish Volunteers. It feels that they will be its sword and buckler in the stresses that lie ahead.

own) as "hard-bitten." I don't know why this word should describe the type, but somehow it does. Bodily he is a tough man, and he has a cool head and a steady eye. He is useful with his hands, and is often an excellent cook. He is respectful to his officers (whatever his opinion of them), and exacts corresponding respect from his men. The men are the best judges. They know a good section commander instinctively, and they feel they are safe in his hands.

* * *

A good section commander will know personally every man in his section, and will thus be able to handle them with ease and rapidity in action. Such a section will be a formidable fighting machine whether acting independently or in combination. So seek out your hard-bitten men, captains, and get them working. But above all things remember this: a man who is not respectful to you will not get respect from his men, and is not fit to be a section-commander, whatever other qualities he may possess.

* * *

A poster has been asking plaintively throughout the week: "How long, O Lord, how long?" Answer: Till the section-commanders are trained.

* * *

Cacography was probably responsible for a misprint in my notes of the week before last. "Sir John Lamee" should have been "Sir John Lanier."

E. O'D.

Hedge-Fighting for Small Units

The following chapters have been specially prepared with a view to establishing sound tactical principles for the peculiar conditions of fighting to be expected in the hedge-intersected Irish country. They do not pretend to be exhaustive or to lay down iron regulations: they are meant for general guidance, and should be applied to local conditions intelligently. No two cases in Ireland would be the same. These directions have been prepared after careful study of Irish Military History and accounts of operations in other similar theatres of war, and many most valuable lessons have been derived from the great struggle in Belgium and France. The theories put forward have been tested as far as possible in Volunteer manoeuvres in different parts of the country and have stood the tests satisfactorily.

CHAPTER I.—THE NATURE AND VARIETIES OF COVER.

To realise fully the different problems of attack and defence in Ireland one of the first conditions necessary is a clear grasp of the nature of the different kinds of fences met with. For differences in these mean different degrees and kinds of cover, different methods of approach, different defensive precautions to be

taken—in short, all the operations would be minutely affected by the details of the ground. In the close, intersected Irish country troops without a certain considerable amount of specialised knowledge would be practically at the mercy of a much smaller force possessing that knowledge and training.

The different kinds of fences met with in Ireland may be divided into (1) Walls, (2) Banks, (3) Hedges. These do not all occur in equal proportions all over the country, but in every district there are a certain number of each.

(1) WALLS.

(a) First and foremost there is the ordinary solid masonry wall of very varying heights and generally about one foot thick. Such a wall is of course entirely bullet-proof—the bullet-stopping thickness in stone being only 6 inches. A wall of this kind is shelter from fire as far as it goes, but it is open to one serious objection—there is no head cover. Many of the Irish walls have a top layer of large undressed rough stones. By taking out one of these at suitable intervals a certain rough loop-holing can be effected. But of course the most effective way of loop-holing any wall is by topping with sand-bags, sacks of gravel, etc., and this should be done wherever possible.

(b) The other kind of wall met with is simply built roughly of loose stones. This cannot be regarded as very effective cover, although, of course, it hides from view. The impact of the bullets will speedily tumble such a wall unless very heavily constructed. Occasionally these walls are thick, being built on several rows of stones, and then they are effective—but not otherwise. When throwing up a wall of this kind—a sangar, as it is called—it should be about 2 feet thick at the top, and built of the largest stones that can be handled conveniently.

(c) There is a third type of wall intermediate between these which is made of roughly-hewn stones, but without mortar. This type is rare, and as protection ranks about half-way between the other two.

(2) BANKS.

Another very common kind of fence is the bank and drains which, sometimes is planted on top with a hedge, which is a case for separate consideration. The thickness of earthen bank required to stop a rifle bullet with certainty is $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet. Very few Irish banks are this thickness at the top, but, on the other hand, they are very likely to contain stones, which means that a smaller thickness will suffice. If it is required to make the bank bullet-proof this may be done either by cutting off all that top portion which is too thin and leaving the part of bullet-proof thickness standing, or by revetting with corrugated iron or planks, or wicker-work, and filling the extra space between the original bank

and the revetment with earth and stones. Some of the Irish banks are practically all stone faced with grass-grown earth; these are, of course, first-rate cover, as the sods prevent splintering of the stone.

O'C.

Before the Last Battle

I.

God, we enter our last fight;
Thou dost see our cause is right;
Make us march now in Thy sight
On to victory.
Let us not Thy wrath deserve
In the sacred cause we serve;
Let us not from danger swerve:
Teach us how to die.
Death for some is in reserve
Before our flag can fly.

II.

All the agony of years,
All the horrors, all the fears,
Martyrs' blood, survivors' tears,
Now we offer Thee
As an endless holocaust
For the freedom we have lost.
God, restore it tho' the cost
Greater still must be:
Let Thy grace attend our host;
Give us victory.

III.

See, we open our own hearts.
Every wrong that in them smarts;
Every secret pain that starts,
We, too, offer Thee;
Every dearest hope's decease,
Every fear that rocks our peace,
Every cross with pain's increase,
Burthened tho' we be;
Sacrifice that shall not cease
Till our land be free.

IV.

Thou holdst freedom in Thy Hand;
Thou canst liberate our land;
Hear us; yield our one demand—
Ireland's liberty.
We ask not her chains to rive
And the sacred deed survive,
That we may rejoice alive
In her victory:
We but ask that she shall thrive,
And rest our fate with Thee.

V.

We know not what must befall
Marching at our country's call;
Make us strong who must yield all
That she may not die.
Those who will survive the fight,
Still attend them with Thy light,
Thou, our hope in darkest night,
Then their guardian be,
And hold our dear land in Thy sight
Erect and firm and free.
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Training by Co-operation

Wherever there exists a solidly established and well-trained Volunteer Corps it bears a grave responsibility. This is neither more nor less than the duty of training such neighbouring corps as are less advanced. But the fact of doing this is also of the highest value to itself, because it affords the junior officers and N.C.O.'s of the Central corps opportunities of exercising independent command which they could not otherwise obtain.

For example, we will suppose that an old corps arranges for a field exercise with a recently-formed one. The latter have no trained men of their own, and will be very glad for a couple of good subordinate officers from the other corps to take charge of them. These officers will be put on their mettle to beat if possible—or at least to escape a heavy defeat at the hands of—their commanding officer. He, for his part, will take every possible precaution to avoid losing the day to one of his own lieutenants commanding a crowd of raw recruits. In a lesser degree this kind of spirit will animate the men also, and really creditable work will be performed.

Absolutely raw men need a little elementary training in field work just as much as in close order drill. In fact, if men are very sincere, persevering and intelligent they can learn close order drill from a text-book that is illustrated by good plates. It is simply a case of pounding away at something quite definite and unchanging. On the other hand, the field work is never the same twice running, and a practical demonstration is necessary. The great thing is to point out the need of cover—a good instructor will bring this home to the men in one lesson, but they will, unless unusually apt, require a lesson.

Another point to be borne in mind is this. "A prophet is without honour in his own country." The new men will be readier to obey an outsider at first. Later on they will obey their own commander as smartly as any, but to begin with they will have more confidence in another. Of course, this is really nonsense, but all the same the men have the feeling, and it must be taken into account.

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12/12/15—The Battle of Aughrim. Capt. 6 Connall.

9/1/16—The Celtic Social System in Ireland. Eoin mac Néill.

23/1/16—The Council of Drumore. Cú ulad.

6/2/16—The Bruce Invasion. Árt 6 Síofóid.

13/2/16—The Battle of Kinsale. Capt. 6 Connall.

20/2/16—Celtic and Irish Law and its Administration. Eoin mac Néill.

5/3/16—The Leinster Tribute. Cú ulad.

19/3/16—Ireland and the Spanish Armada. Árt 6 Síofóid.

26/3/16—The Battle of Benburb. Capt. 6 Connall.

2/4/16—Irish Military Organisation. Eoin mac Néill.

16/4/16—Irish Schools.—Cú ulad.

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