

# Elections In The North

To-day, Saturday 21st, January, Sinn Fein opens its election campaign in support of the Republican candidates in the North. We have deliberately chosen this date for the opening of our campaign because of its historic connections. On the 21st January, 1919, Dail Eireann, the Government of the Republic, was first established. It had been brought into existence as a result of the sweeping victory of the Sinn Fein Movement in the general election of 1918. The Government of the Republic, Dail Eireann, continued to administer the affairs of the country in spite of all the efforts of terror and brutality exercised by the British enemy. It weathered the Black-and-Tan storm for three hectic years and by doing so it crystallised in itself the nation's urge to freedom, and set the standard by which future generations should work. It is on this basis that Sinn Fein is now going forward and no more auspicious date could be found for the launching of our campaign than the 21st January.

Why is Sinn Fein contesting this particular election ?

In the Six Counties, any candidate going forward for Stormont must give a prior guarantee that, if elected, he will take his seat. No such guarantee is required for the Westminster elections. We have therefore decided to avail ourselves of the opportunity now offered, as it will not arise again for another five years.

Why go forward as abstentionists ?

The main objection to taking seats is that all sitting representatives must take an oath of loyalty to the King of England, and also by taking his seat, a representative gives his tacit consent to the claim of England to rule Ireland. Therefore no Irishman willing to sit in Westminster can truthfully claim to be a Republican, or even an Anti-Partitionist.

What is the attitude to the Anti-Partition League, etc.?

We hold that the term "anti-partition" is a very definite **understatement** of the National demand. At best an anti-partition campaign is only a negative policy. We demand that the Republican Parliament for the Thirty-Two Counties must be re-assembled and that it alone has the right to rule Ireland. This is a positive aim as apart from mere talk about doing away with the Border, and it is to emphasise this aim that we are choosing Republican prisoner candidates. These men, by their service to the Republican cause and more particularly by their long suffering for it, personify the will to resist British aggression. They symbolise the national demand for freedom and, for that reason, are the best possible standard-bearers for our cause.

Statement issued by Sinn Fein, on January 21st.

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**VOTE FOR**  
**STEELE AND McATEER**  
**THE SINN FEIN CANDIDATES**  
**WHO STAND FOR AN**  
**IRISH REPUBLIC**