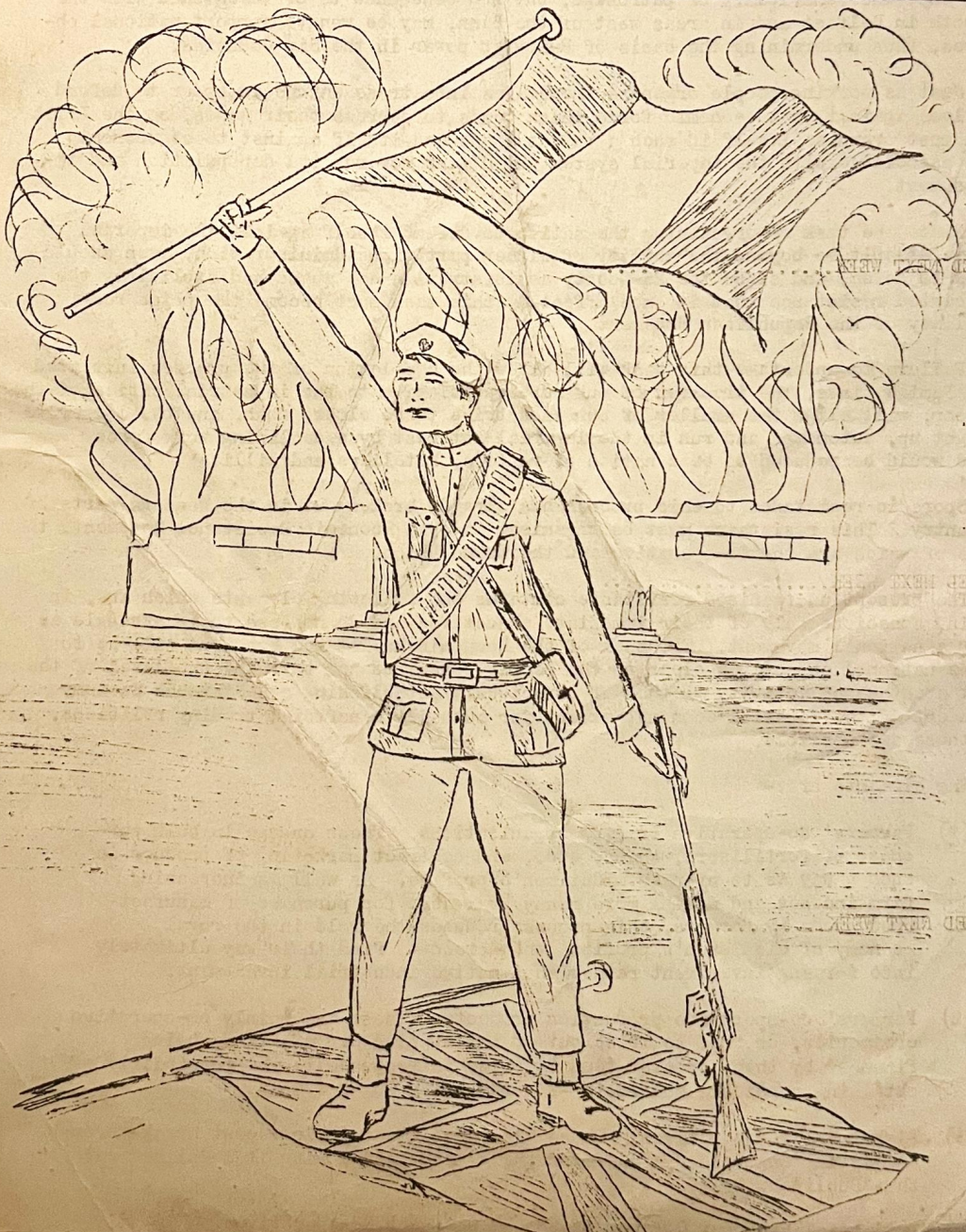
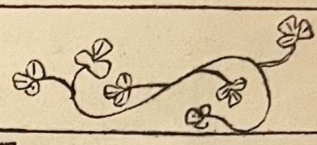


CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

ARROYNE FREEDOM FIGHTERS



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27. MODERN

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMME OF SINN FEIN

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.....

This new departure has the advantage that since the imperial economic forces apply throughout the whole country, every Republican, and indeed every Irishman can fight them on his home ground in his own area.

It also has the advantage that it suggests means whereby the Protestant working class, once the beneficiary of patronage, but now condemned to or threatened with the dole both in Belfast and in areas west of the Bann, may be won to support national objectives, thus undermining the basis of Unionist power in the Six Counties.

Just as working people organise themselves into trade unions in order to defend themselves against that economic force which tends to depress their wages, so the Irish Nation must organise itself in such a way as to defend itself against those economic forces associated with the imperial system which tend towards its depopulation and impoverishment.

Since the task of organising the nation to defend itself against the imperial economic assault is beyond the ability of either partition administration, even should it wish to do so, and since the 26-County administration has abandoned explicitly the half-hearted resistance that it once affected, this task must become the prime responsibility of the Republican Movement.

Failure to undertake this task will allow the completion of the process initiated in the Famine times, the transfer of our rural population to the industrial cities of the oppressor, will allow the smaller of our industries to be closed down, and the larger to be bought up, automated and run in the imperial interest by a declining work force. Ireland would be reduced to be a nation of renters, hoteliers and gillies.

Sporadic resistance to this process has already broken out in the Western parts of the country. This resistance must be organised into an Economic Resistance Movement, the weapons of which are the Co-operative and the Trade Union.

The present unorganised resistance contains the following elements which are, in the main, conscious only of their immediate objectives and do not see their struggle as part of a national movement. The task of the Economic Resistance Movement will be to make the national objectives clear to the people concerned and to raise the level of the present spontaneous activity to that of consciously establishing a Resistance Economy independent of the imperial economy, except for mutually beneficial trading relations, where these are possible.

The elements are:-

- (1) Farmers' co-operative trading organisations. These engage in bulk purchase of fertilisers, seeds, etc., and contract marketing of produce in such a way as to by-pass middlemen's profits. As well as increasing farm incomes and making more money available for purchase of manufactured goods by farmers, this process reduces the role in the rural economy of middlemen's profits, which tend to find their way ultimately into foreign investment rather than native industrial investment.
- (2) Farmers' co-operative production projects. These are mainly co-operative creameries, or tend to arise out of the trading organisations being financed by them, or else tend to arise in response to the possibility of obtaining vegetable contracts with the Irish Sugar Company.
- (3) Fishermens co-operatives. These also have based their recent break-through on getting control of a share of their trade and making it localised rather than Dublin-centred.
- (4) Industrial Producer Co-operatives and Consumer Co-operatives.

ARMAGH.....THE FACTS.

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ARMAGH.....THE FACTS.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS THAT LEAD TO THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES BY REMAND PRISONERS IN ARMAGH JAIL LAST WEEK. THE TREATMENT THAT WAS DEALT OUT TO THESE BRAVE MEN WAS NOT PUBLISHED IN THE PAPERS. WE LEAVE YOU TO JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES, DID THESE PRISONERS OF WAR DESERVE TO BE TORTURED IN THIS VILE MANNER? AS PRISONERS OF WAR, WAS IT NOT THEIR DUTY TO TRY AND ESCAPE FROM THIS PRISON SO AS THEY COULD CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

(STATEMENT)

On Thursday, 20th April, 1972, 10 Remand Prisoners in Armagh Prison took 2 Prison Officers and 1 Policeman as hostages in an attempt to obtain safe passage to the border a few miles away. The hostages were released when the British Army fired 8 consisters of C.S. Gas into the building and the Remand Prisoners were taken into custody again.

This is the account of the unreported events during and after the seige.

The policeman was overpowered when his Sergeant left to check on some papers that were left behind at the Courthouse and minimum of force was used to take his revolver from him. He was hit once on the face with a closed fist and no other force was needed to subdue him for the next five hours. Immediately, on seeing that he was nervous, one of the prisoners gave him a drink of water and the Prison Officers were provided with cigarettes when they were awaiting the decision of the Governor as to the provision of a van, a promise the Governor was to grant at the outset when he was himself held hostage, but which he withdrew when he was released to hurry up the arrival of the van. The two Prison Officers were in no way harmed and indeed fully co-operated with the attempt in that they did all that was asked of them.

On the C.S. Gas being fired into the area the hostages were released by the Remand Prisoners to prevent them from receiving any injuries. The British Army then went through the now classical treatment they dish out to the Prisoners of war in Northern Ireland, methods their fathers probably learned from experience in Concentration Camps during World War 2, methods which caused an outcry at the time in Britain and which were subjected of numerous War Trials in the late 1940's.

The 10 Prisoners were batoned and beaten into a shed within the Prison Walls, and although overcome with the C.S. Gas were kicked, stripped of all their clothing and made to stand against a wall in the open yard. When lying spreadeagled face down in the shed Joseph Rafter had his hand smashed by the butt of a rifle and on seeing the blood coming from it the soldiers proceeded to stamp on his damaged hand with comments like "How do you like that you Fenian Bastard" and "Is your little hand sore Paddy". Rafter was severely beaten about the head and face and has damage to one of his eyes. Francis Lowery has a burst vessel in his leg due to a kick while lying on the ground. David Morley was hit on the head with a rifle and needed several stitches to curb the loss of blood from the wound. Joseph McNeill had his belongings rifled and a new radio in his belongings was destroyed under an Army Boot. Other Prisoners were brutally beaten by both the army and certain Members of the Prison Staff.

Money was stolen by the army and watches were stamped into the ground. Personal photos were torn and destroyed and Religious medals and beads were ripped from the Prisoners' necks and thrown away.

These actions were in full view of the Prison Governor, who was quick to say when interviewed by the Press that if the Prisoners were release the hostages they would be escorted to their cells with no interference from the Army. It was a different story where the Press could not record the brutally.

TO THE POLITICAL PRISONERS MEN AND WOMEN IN ARMAGH WE SAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR THE STAND YOU HAVE TAKEN. WE ARE SOLIDARITY BEHIND YOU IN WHAT EVER ACTION YOU TAKE TO AGAIN YOUR FREEDOM.

ANONYMOUS LETTER.

Mr. O'Kane read out this letter he received from a resident of Ardoyne in the Jim Saunders club on Saturday last. The letter reads:-

Mr. O'Kane,

On Wednesday night I was at the Social Evening in the James Saunders Republican Club. During the course of the evening someone sang the Ardoyne Song. You said it was written by a Mr. Rodgers. To write such a song about our troubles in '69 this gentleman must really have his heart in Ardoyne.

I think it would be only right if some small public token of appreciation was made to him at one of your social evenings. He really captured the spirit of Ardoyne with his words and I think it would be proper and fitting if the Republican minded people of the Area showed their appreciation.

YOURS,

A LONGED-HAIRED ONE'S PROUD
MOTHER.

P.S. My husband is a member of your club and I know how highly he speaks of you all.

The majority of the people of Ardoyne are sure to agree with what the writer has to say about the Historic and courageous happen-
-ing in '69, so why then when this song and also "The men behind the Wire" was being played in certain club in the Area on Friday night, did a few people get up on the floor and degrade them by doing an English dance have they listened to the words? Do they understand the story these songs have to tell? To these people we say. In '69 boys and men risked their lives to maintain your continuing safety. It was carried through up to Internment. These men, in the concentration camps and prisons would not be heartened by the fact that you thought so little of them when you got up on that floor and danced when they should have been singing their praise.

Remember Paddy McAdorey, Gerard McDade David McAuley. Pay tribute to the living the way you pay tribute to the Dead.

MURDERED

Joe McCann.....Yet another Irishman has died at the hand of the, Mr. Heath's Murder Squad The Paratroopers.

Not contented with wounding Joe, they finished their foul deed by shooting him dead as he lay mortally wounded.

Is this part of Heath's Peace Proposals? Will Woman Together come out and protest against the Brutal Murder of this man who leaves a wife and 4 children? This is the kind of treatment we can expect at the hands of any member of the Crown Forces.

A young boy, Sean McConville was murdered while walking on the Crumlin Road. We tender our Deepest Sympathy to his Parents and relatives.

Be warned. Do not be lured by strange cars. Stay off the Crumlin Road during the hours of darkness and please keep your children in your house at night. When you are told to clear the streets do so immediately. Take these precautions for your own safety and the safety of your families.

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BUY SELL AND EXCHANGE

Starting next week, the Freedom Fighter will include a page of exchange, sell and buy.

Anyone who has anything to sell or would like to exchange goods "example" EXCHANGE A CARPET FOR A BABY'S PRAM.

If you have any advertisements would you please hand them to the sellers of the Republican News or the distributors of the Freedom Fighter.

COME DANCING

THERE IS A DANCE AND BAR EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT HOLYROOD HALL. COME AND BE ENTERTAINED BY GOOD GROUPS AND LOCAL TALENT.

THE MEN WHO ORGANIZE AND WORK AT THE DANCE DO SO VOLUNTARILY. THEY GIVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT BY COMING TO TONIGHT'S ON FRIDAY NIGHT.