WAR NEWS

ISSUED BY THE REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY BUREAU DUBLIN. 9th August 1939

COERCION IN ENGLAND.

The British have always prided themselves on being a nation whose whole system of Government was based on the liberty of the subject, and restrictions on the exercise of any arbitrary power by the Government.

It is true that for several hundred years the liberty of the subject has been more jealously guarded in Britain than anywhere else in the world. Kings who have tried to infringe this fundamental principle of British law have been beheaded or dethroned. Constitutional crises have arisen over this same principle and the upholders of it have emerged victorious from them.

Though whole series of occretion acts have been passed by the British Parliament, their application has been limited to Ireland or other parts of the Empire. Since 1824-5 (Trades Disputes Acts, since repetited) no coercive legislation atall has operated in Angland, except the Defence of the Realm Act during the emergency of the war of 1914-8.

One hundred and fourteen years of freedom from any form of cocrcion, preceded by a tradition of three hundred years of resistance
to any legislation of this type. It is true that this freedom was
merely due to the fact that the sight of one or two policemen is
sufficient to overawe any attempt on the part of the English to break
any law. But even though this freedom had its origins in the cowerdice of the British, it has lasted so long that it has become perhaps
the most essential part of the British tradition. It has been one of
the mainstays of the British in their case against totalitarian states.
Any change in it has been completely unthinkable to the British.

But now they have been forced to abandon their most cherished tradition. In 1939, instead of the Farliament at Westminster peacefully proceeding, as they have so often done, to pass coercive legislation for Iroland or other countries which would not apply to themselves, they have been forced to pass a coercion Act for use in Britain itself.

And it is an Act which will prove useless to them. The English will feel reassured and safe, thinking it will mean the end of the I.R.A. Then there will be another set of explosions and the panic will be greater than ever as they realise the ineffectiveness of all their legiclation and precautions.

ABANDONMENT OF BRITISH CLAIMS.

This British Cocrcion Act has even more significance than is outlined above. It represents the abandonment of the whole position the British have so carefully upheld in regard to Ireland and Partition.

For the first time they are forced to recognise the essential unity and separateness of the Irish Nation. Till now they have maintained that all Irishmen were British subjects and could not be deported from Britain, Now they are forced to recognise that they are Irishmen, and say that they must have power to deport them.

And better still, THE "UNITED KINGDOM" IS NO LONGER UNITED. Till now they have maintained that the Six Counties were an integral part of the United Kingdom and could not be separated from it. They have

maintained that the people of the Six Counties were a different race from the people of the rest of Ireland, and could not be distinguished from the people of England. Now all this is changed.

The "United" Kingdom is divided AID THE DIVISION OF IRELAND IS IGNORED. A man from Bolfast can be doported just as well as a man from Dublin. They are forced to recognise that both are equally Irish and that both are equally dangerous to England. As long as no interests really important to Britain were at stake, they uphelf with great care the thesis that there were two distinct races in Ireland.

But now that it is a question of trying to protect themselves, they are no longer concerned with any thesis, they are forced to recognise reality. And the reality is that there can be no division of Ireland, no distinction between Bolfast and Dublin. That is a fact, and now that the British have found themselves in danger they have been forced to abandon their hypocrisy and recognise that fact. By their own legislation, they have destroyed in face of the world their whole case for maintaining partition.

HOARE'S FIGURES.

In introducing his bill in the British Parliament Sir Samuel Hoare said that I.R.A. operations since January numbered 127. On another page of this paper a list of operations carried out during this period will be seen. This list, for various reasons, is by no means complete. It will be seen, however, that the operations included in it reach a total of 189. The difference is accounted for by the efforts of the British pelice and Government to attribute fires and explosions to accident whenever it is possible for them to do so.

Only in a few cases can explosions be described as accidental, as it is usually too obvious what really happened, but fires can fairly easily be attributed to eigarette ends etc. Even when four fires occurred in or around Cannon Stree Railway Station, Lendon, during a period of 12 days (July 7-19th), it was stated that "incendiarism was not suspected". This policy has been deliberately adopted in an attempt to allay the panic in England and minimise the damage caused.

On the other hand, when it suits their own purposes, the British will attribute to the I.R.A. incidents with which they have no connection. Thus, on July 24th, unsuccessful attempts were made to set fire to five shops in Stirling, Scotland. It should be clearly understood that no operations are being carried out by the I.R.A. in either Scotland or Wales, as both of these countries possess Nationalist movements working for their emancipation from British rule. Accordingly their noutrality is respected. It is possible that incidents such as that quoted above are the work of English agents provocatours, trying to stir up trouble between Ireland and those countries.

HELD OVER

We regret that owing to lack of space a number of articles including those on Economics and International Affairs have to be held over. Gabhamuid ar leithsgeal faci'n aiste Gaedhilge beith ar iarraidh. Tuigfear a dheacracht is ta se duinn gach 's ar mhian linn a chur isteach.

HOW THE WAR IN ENGLAND WAS STARTED.

In our last issue we briefly gave a few of the reasons why the Army Council of Ogleigh na heliveans decided on the carrying out of the present Campaign in England. At this stage, now that the campaign has been in force over a period of six months, it may be well to repeat the manner in which it was started and to give some details as to its progress.

At the time of the first explosions many people in Iroland did not fully understand what was happening, failing to realize that those explosions were not merely isolated acts, but were part of a campaign which will be carried on until Iroland is finally separated from the British Empire. In the absence of such understanding much matter which, though published in the newspapers at the time, did not receive the importance its importance warranted, passed unnoticed by many people. These are the reasons which lead us to devote some of our limited space to the repetition of matter already published elsewhere.

When the Army Council decided that the only possible policy at the present time was one of active hostilities in England, their first step was to send a formal UITIMATUM to the British Foreign Secretary, demanding the evacuation of British troops from Ireland and outlining the measures that would be taken in the case of Tailure to comply with the terms of this Ultimatum. A copy of this historic document is given below.

Oglaigh na h-Eireann. (Irish Republican Army)

General Headquarters, Dublin. January 12th, 1939.

To: His Excellency, The Rt. Hon. Viscount Halifax, G.C.B.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Irish Fepublic, having as its first duty towards its people the establishment and maintenance of peace and order here, demand the withdrawal of all British armed forces stationed in Ireland.

These forces are an active incitement to burmoil and civil strife, not alone in being a symbol of hostile occupation, but in their effect and potentialities as an invading army.

It is secondly the duty of the Government to establish relations of friendship between the Irish and all other peoples and to achieve this we must insist upon the withdrawal of British troops from our country and a declaration from your Covernment renouncing all claim to interfere in its demestic policy or internal affairs.

The Irish people have no cause of hostility to any European nation, even those nations whose natural divelopment may bring them into conflict with British interests, and we are desirous of making it 'clear' that we shall in no event tast part in a war of aggression against any people or permit the nation to be regarded as having any community or identity of interest with Britain that would make us liable to attack by British enomies.

The occupation of our territory by troops of another nation and the persistent and vention here of activities directly against the expressed national will and in the interests of a foreign power, prevent the expansion and development of our institutions in consonance with our social needs and purposes - and must cease.

Neither the Government of the Irish Republic nor the Irish people are actuated by any feelings of hostility to the people of Britain. Rather would we welcome a better understanding, but this can be brought about only on the basis that each of the two peoples is absolutely free to pursue its own course unhampered by the other. We shall regret if this fundamental condition is ignored and we are compelled to intervene actively in the military or commercial life of your country as your Government are now intervening in ours.

The Government of the Irish Republic beleive that a period of four days is sufficient notice for your Government to signify its intentions in the matter of the military evacuation and for the issue of your Declaration of Abdication in respect of our country. Our Government reserves the right of appropriate action without further notice if, upon the expiration of this period of grace, those conditions romain unfulfilled.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMY COUNCIL OF OGLAIGH NA h-EIREANN (Irish Republican Army) (signed) Patrick Floming Secretary.

This ultimatum was sent to Viscount Halifax, as Foreign Secretary of the British Government (communications from the Free State Government go merely to the Dominions Secretary), and copies were sent in addition to all foreign Legations and Consulates in Dublin, to the P resident of the United States etc., etc.

It will be noticed that this Ultimatum was couched in such language as to make it as easy as possible for the British Government to accede to the demands contained in it, and that it was made clear that the Irish people have no feelings of hostility to Britain except insofar as Britain violates Irish territory and sovereignty.

The four days notice allowed to the British Government having expired at midnight on January 15th, and no reply having been received from them, the first explosions took place in the early hours of January 16th.

Wars have occurred during the last few years in Abyssinia, Spain, China, etc., and armed action has taken place in other parts of the Continent. In no case was any Declaration of War issued and indeed it seems unlikely that any will be issued in the future, the modern practice being fro hositlities to be started without warning. Nevertheless the Army Council decided, in order to provide Britain with every chance of avoiding trouble, to issue this formal Ultimatum warning the British Government of the consequences of continued intervention in Ireland.

The British Government did not consider it worth their while to reply. It is, therefore, clear that the responsibility for all damage to property and any loss of life that may occur in Britian lies at the deer of the British Government, who in the face of a clear warning as to the results of continuation of their present policy, deliberately decided to ignore that warning.

It should be noted too that though the policy of the I.R.A. in all operations in Britain has been to avoid loss of life, there was no mention of this in the ultimatum, and the fact was made known to the British only subsequently from captured documents. It can be seen, therefore, that the British Government were deliberately prepared to risk the lives of their citizens in order that they might retain their hold on Ireland. For any lives that may be lost the British Government alone will be responsible.

WITH THE EXPEDITIONARY FOCE IN ENGLAND

A summary is given below of a partial return of operations carried out since January 16th (Date of expiry of Ultimatum sent to British Government).

Certain operations are omitted from this list, as their inclusion might implicate captured Volunteers awaiting trials or others still unknown to the British authorities.

1939 JANUARY 16th: Seven major explosions, mostly directed againgt English electrical lines and stations, two in London, three in Manchester, one in Birmingham, one in Northumberland. Although great damage was caused, and supplies of current interrupted these operations were only partly successful, mainly owing to the precautions necessary to avoid taking human life.

FEBRUARY 3rd. Major explosions at two London underground railway stations.

FEBRUARY 4th. Several explosions in London. Four fires in stores in Coventry. Explosion outside Walton Gaol, Liverpool.

FEBRUARY 11th. Explosions in coal bays at Kings Cross, London.

FEBRUARY 19th. Explosions in London and Nottingham.

MARCH 20th. Two big explosions at Great Yarmouth Electric Power Station.

MARCH 25th. Four explosions in Coventry. 1,000 telephones put out of action.

MARCH 30th. Explosions in Birmingham, Liverpool and Coventry.

MARCH 31st. Seven explosions in London at intervals throughout the night.

APRIL 4th. Three major explosions in Birmingham "rocked centre of city". Others in Coventry and Liverpool.

AFRIL 11th. One explosion in Liverpool. Explosion in Electrical Sub-station in Nottingham.

APRIL 12th. Six explosions in London, four in Coventry, one in Birmingham.

APRIL 18th. One explosion in Liverpool.

APRIL 25th. Two explosions in Liverpool, one in Birmingham.

MAY 3rd. Four explosions in Liverpool, one in Manchester.

MAY 4th. Tear-gas bombs in two Liverpool cinemas.

MAY 5th. Four explosions in Coventry as four in London.

MAY 12th. Five explosions in Manchester and three in London.

MAY 18th. Interrupted operation in London. Only one telephone kiosk damaged by explosion.

MAY 19th. Fires in eight sea-side hotels by delayed-action Incondiary Units. (Blackpool, Margate, Brighton, Southen, Southport, Morécombe, Eastbourne and Harrogate)

MAY 29th. Magnesium bomb explosions in Birmingham cinemas, Tear-gas bombs in Liverpool cinema. Big Lendon store fire, Heath and forest fires.

MAY 30th. Two cinema explosions and fires in Birmingham. Bombs at Coventry failed to explode.
Big fire in Lendon factory, 50 fire engines called out.

CHATTER -TOPIC TO

5

MAY 31st. Tear-gas bombs in four London cinomas. London polico

June 6th. Explosion and fire at Factory in Bedford. 500 gallons of oil and cylinders of oxygen destroyed.

JUNE 9th-16th A series of explosions affecting the Postal Services as fellows --- 26 in London, several at Lincoln, one at Manchester, five at Birmingham, 8 at Leicester, and several on night Mail trains.

JUNE 16th. Fire in acrodrome near Salisbury. Valuable apparatus and documents dostroyed.

JUNE 24th. Five London explosions, mainly directed against banks, though no more extensive as to damage than many other operations, were followed by panic in London and troops had to be called out to control terrified mobs.

Soveral minor explosions in London also. 16000 police were put on special duty and the public were assured that there would be no more explosions.

JUNE 26th-28th. Three fires at warehouses in London. These were described as the worst fires in London for 40 years. An entire street was destroyed and the damage estimated at £1,500,000

JUNE 27th. Two fires in aircraft factory in Reading were discovered before Serious damage could be cone.

JULY 2nd. Considerable damage caused by explosions at seven railway stations (Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Leanington, Leicester, Nottingham, Stafford). Ten thousand tons of coal on fire at Croydon Electrical works. Fire in Birmingham Emall Arms Factory. Government contracts destroyed. Fire in Eccles Varnish Works, Manchester caused £10,000 damage.

JULY 7th. Fire at Cannon Street Station, London, Trains hold up.

JULY 9th. Two more fires at Cannon Street Station, London. Inother fire in Birmingham Small Arms Factory.

JULY 17th. Explosion at Wolverhampton Railway station.

JULY 19th. Huge fire at Borough Market, under Railway Viaduct outside Cannon Street Station, London. Train service suspended between London Bridge and Cannon Street.

Owing to lack of space, we are compelled to hold over until the next issue, a complete list of operations.