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DAILY SHEET.

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ADVICE TO MR. BALDWIN.

The English Prime Minister is in a fix. He has not a majority to carry on with. No party will tolerate a coalition; both Liberals and Conservatives dread the Radical—even Bolshevik—tendencies of Labour, and if Mr. Baldwin resigns the King might have to send for Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. How awful! Why, the Labour Party have declared somewhere or other that they didn't believe in Kings and Empires and would like a Republic! It is a dreadful state of affairs, but Mr. Baldwin could take a lesson from His Majesty's Free State Ministers.

Put all the 191 Labour members in jail, or half might go on the run, then he will be able to carry on quite comfortably against the Liberals. It is quite easy. The Free State learned from the British, so Mr. Baldwin is at the fountain head of the Knowledge of the Art.

FRENZIED FINANCE.

The English "Financial Times" is greatly pleased with the success of the Free State Loan for reasons distinctly British. It is pleased because not only does he success prove the stability of Mr. Cosgrave's Ministry, but of "the latest edition to the constituent members of the British Commonwealth," and it talks of "the confidence Irishmen feel in their own Government." This latter is a very doubtful statement. It is quite certain that many of the subscriptions were handed over reluctantly and with a very hopeless eye on future developments. Looming over Council deliberations and private speculations on the subject of investing in the Loan was the disturbing question of "these prisoners." Could any big venture be a success while such a matter remained unsettled? The writer in this English Financial Journal considers that a neighbour (viz., Ireland) with which his country does something like £300,000,000 of trade annually, is one to whose welfare the British people cannot possibly be indifferent. We thoroughly agree. We only wish Mr. Cosgrave would think out in like manner and realise that he cannot treat with indifference the number of people in this country who have elected forty-four T.D.'s to uphold the Republican principles for which so much valuable blood has been shed. They are living and will continue to live in Ireland. They have to be reckoned with. It is useless for the Free State Government to try to blind themselves to that fact, and every day the prisoners, including eighteen of these forty-four, are kept locked up, only makes them more bitter, and their thousands of sympathisers outside more determined in their belief that no government can be a success which could treat men whom they themselves have admitted to be brave and honest, with such needless and barbarous cruelty.

Dying men are asked to give senseless guarantees, men, some of them broken in mind and body, are not set free because the authorities are "suspicious" of them, others have "too much brains" to be let out amongst the people, and so on. As if truth will not out no matter how many are imprisoned!

Every day someone is found ready to fill a vacant place. Locking up will not settle things in the least.

There is as much to be feared from those outside who have never been in jail at all as from the prisoners. The presence of the prisoners in fact only makes things all the more "dangerous" from the Free State Government's point of view. Let them think it is all over again and empty the jails and camps for Christmas.

MORE COERCION.

We read with amazement that a further Public Safety Act passed its first reading in the Southern Parliament yesterday. The public has not been informed of the wording of this Bill. Its nature can be surmised from the sister bill which will expire of February 1st. Mr. O'Higgins pointed out that the passing of the bill is necessary for the order and security of life and property in the country for the coming year. He regretted "the present situation should call for the introduction of such a bill, but their responsibility to the people obliged them to face the fact."

He believed Peace was not sufficiently firmly established to ensure fearless verdicts on crime.

The bill was merely an interim one, all its sections would not be put now before Parliament.

The first section deals with arrest and detention, and this was read for the first time. Mr. Hall asked if all the untried political prisoners would be released before Christmas, or if the men on the run could return to their homes.

Mr. Mulcahy's answer was that the prisoners were being released as rapidly as the public safety permitted, and he could not guarantee that all the men on the run could return to their homes without interference.

This continuity of Wentworth policy is not reassuring. There can be no justification for it. The cease fire order has been loyally observed by Republicans since April 28th. For the past six months at least twenty Free State soldiers have been convicted of robbery under arms.

Is it necessary to arrest and detain Republicans "reasonably suspected" of sticking to their Republican principles because Free State soldiers, both disbanded and at present serving, are making life terrible in some districts?

For Mr. O'Higgins to aver that juries would be afraid to convict is surely laughable. Have there not been six death sentences in Dublin alone for the past five months? Let him rather say boldly we have nothing definite to bring against these men save that they consort with Republicans and apparently still hold the principles for which they have suffered. No jury would convict on this charge, hence it is better that they can be imprisoned on the word of the local military officer stating that the prisoner is "reasonably suspected of having committed certain offences!"

The Bastille fell in France over 130 years ago for actions such as these on the part of those who ruled. There were men imprisoned then for groundless reasons. The Governor of the Bastille received with his victim a secret letter stating that the said victim be detained during the writer's pleasure. More often than not his offence was unknown to the Governor, and seldom was it communicated to the victim. He remained there because his accuser wished to possess himself of his property or to be rid of his person for private reasons.

How do the Irish people know that these are not the reasons that actuate the officer who arrests and detains a person and alleges he is "reasonably suspected of having committed certain offences?" Might not one trader in a town fear the superior enterprise of a rival and whisper dark suspicions in the ear of the military officer? The said officer might a borrower or a lender be. He might be venal and a prey to such suspicions if they were accompanied by money or material.

Officers have been known to fall from their high estate. These matters are but opening wide the gates of temptation that only the strong will withstand.

Mr. Mulcahy's answer to Mr. Hall's question *re* immediate release of political prisoners being commensurate with the public safety is, to say the least of it, incongruous.

The case of Michael Barry and Thomas O'Shea look like the two horses in the country circus that we all so believed in as children. These, our readers may remember, were galloped round and round the ring through a 'door at the far end, where they became invisible to the audience, and back again quickly, so that the simple onlooker thought there were hundreds of horses instead of just two or three.

This is what Mr. Mulcahy is doing to the Irish people. He is releasing rapidly, he says, and opening the invisible door to re-arrest as rapidly.

MICHAEL BARRY was arrested on 25/11/'23, at 10 p.m., released and re-arrested at 12 o'clock noon on 4/12/'23.

THOS. O'SHEA.—Arrested Wednesday 28/12/'23 between the hours of 6 and 7 a.m.; released and re-arrested at 12.20 a.m., Thursday, 6/12/'23.

The following cablegrams have been received:—
To the Lord Mayor, Dublin.

Citizens' meeting protest brutal treatment Republican prisoners. Demand immediate release.

MONSIGNOR COLLINS,

Sydney (Chairman).

McGinley, Dublin.

Irish mass meeting Toronto demand prisoners' release; condemn imprisonment of elected representatives; shocked at meditated Star Chamber trials; give publicity.

B. BREEN,

Toronto.

Monsignor Collins sent a duplicate cable to Miss Mary MacSwiney.

MOUNTJOY.

The men going off hunger-strike had, in the majority of cases, to be taken on stretchers. Some were assisted, walking, by military police. On arriving at the hospital, the usual procedure was to take them to a little room used at temporary kitchen and store. Here they were given egg-flip. In many cases this was so strong as to cause men to collapse. If a patient asked for biscuits or bread it was given. Tea or bovril was given a short time afterwards.

As the transfer to the hospital took place almost invariably at night, there was always an excuse that the stores were closed, consequently there was a difficulty in getting sufficient beds.

Men 25 and 26 days on hunger-strike had to carry mattresses from one room to another, and make their own beds. No sheets were supplied.

There were three large rooms as well as single cells utilised. In the large rooms, practically all the patients were on the floor, there being only three beds for twenty men.

As regards a proper dietary scale there was at no time even an attempt at one. It was left to the discretion of the men themselves. Several men had porridge, brown bread, butter and tea on the morning after coming off a hunger-strike of 28 days, and this was followed by a dinner of potatoes and tinned fish. The result was that the sufferings of these men were terrible.

It is impossible to say definitely what those men took on the second day. Each man took almost what he wished, as there was no supervision by the doctors or medical orderlies. The food was taken to the larger rooms by men who had been there a few days earlier, and were less weak than their comrades, and it was just a case of one man advising another what might or might not be suitable for him. Several had bacon and eggs for breakfast and potatoes and meat for dinner on the first day after hunger-strike. Those who were wiser had soup and tea only. Milk was for a long time a scarce commodity—one half-pint in the morning with porridge, and no more save what went in tea and custard. Later this improved.

The doctor visited once each day, but unless a patient called him to tell him he was particularly bad, no notice was taken. If men grew very bad at night the only ministrations they received were from their own comrades.

Practically all the men in one room (21) suffered severe heart-burn, pains in stomach and vomiting.

Men were sent back to the wings in a great many cases after three days in the hospital. Several of those contracted bad colds as a result. Summing up the hospital treatment, one could say that there was plenty of food but no attempt to regulate the proper diet for men coming off hunger-strike. There were not sufficient orderlies, so men could not resist the temptation to eat any food they saw prepared.

Mountjoy has been a veritable hell from the beginning, and governors and doctors and all concerned are a disgrace to civilisation, especially Fitzpatrick and the M.O. (Devlin). They have had three since who don't seem much improvement.

For the honour of our country it is a relief when we get a report which is not all black.

We append, in full, an authentic report of after-strike treatment of prisoners in Newbridge and Tintown II., which makes pleasant reading.

NEWBRIDGE.

The treatment by the Staters is as good as can be expected. In fact, I have no complaint to make about this treatment of us. When the Kilmainham representative had left here on the morning of 23rd November, our O/C sent for the Governor and the M.O., and got promises of good treatment for all the men in the event of the strike being called off. We got our own orderlies day and night, light, coal, clothes, three letters each week—in fact, anything we thought of asking we got. The Governor put us in the hands of the M.O., and said he would do all in his power to get us everything the M.O. ordered.

The diet up to this has been Bovril, milk, beef tea, rice made with milk, eggs and biscuits. Of course, all the fellows are getting in stuff from outside, and are all doing well, with a few exceptions. The exceptions have gone a bit mentally, but even those are showing signs of recovery.

We have musical entertainments in the huts from 7 to 10 each day.

KILMAINHAM.

Patients slightly improved. Ald. de Courcy, Tom Derrig, Austin Stack, and Sean Buckley still bad.

RELEASE OF EAMON ENRIGHT.

On Tuesday, at 7 p.m., Eamon Enright was released from Mountjoy and taken to Miss O'Donnell's Nursing Home, 62 Eccles St. His mental condition is very serious. He is at times muttering quietly, at other times wildly delirious. All this is the direct result of neglect and exertion after the hunger-strike. The result of putting a man 40 days on hunger-strike to fix up his own bed and clean his own cell.

We hope Governor Fitzpatrick feels as comfortable as he deserves to feel.