

SINN FEIN HEADQUARTERS, 23 SUFFOLK STREET.

# DAILY SHEET.

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John Mitchel, describing his Xmas Day of 1848, brings painfully to our minds the similarity existing between his confinement and that of our own prisoners. He tells of the hilarity of his captors at a performance given by the convicts and of "the general gala." Let us quote him:

"I wish them all a Merry Xmas, and many happy returns of the same; but I doubt if it ever will return to me: I am sitting all day shrunk together in my cell, dismally ill, and wrapped up in coats like a man on a box seat of a coach. Read 'Anthony and Cleopatra.'"

It looks as if many of our men will spend Xmas Day, 1923, in much the same way.

## LAW AND ORDER.

"The Government has the situation well in hand." "Law and Order is restored," etc., etc. Many such declarations have been made from time to time by the Free State Authorities, and yet, week after week, crimes are committed to which Ireland was formerly a stranger. And, in most cases, criminals are the paid servants of the Free State officers. We are speaking now only of such crimes as have been proved.

The latest sensation is that of the arrest of an officer and six men of the Free State Army for the murder of Sergeant Woods and Tom Brosnan. The officer made a sensational escape—perhaps his escape was connived at. Well, we shall wait for the sensational evidence promised. We know what the people in Scartaglin and the neighbourhood are saying and thinking.

The main point as far as we are concerned is this. In every one of those crimes—afterwards proved against members of the Free State forces—there was an attempt to suggest that Republicans were the guilty party. The "bands of Armed Robbers" were always supposed to be "Irregulars using dumped arms." We had another instance of this lying propaganda in the trial of a man named Brady for armed robbery a few days ago. His counsel—of the same name—declared that Brady was an honest young man till he joined the "Irregulars," and that he had committed the robbery under orders. We tell Mr. Counsellor Brady that that is a falsehood. Statements made in court by counsel are supposed to be privileged. It is a nice question why counsel should be allowed the crime of slander with impunity. It is one of the things that need changing. While a wide liberty must be allowed in such cases unlimited license for slander is certainly unjustifiable.

All these statements about the situation which the "Government" have so well in hand are highly coloured and partly coloured reports for the purpose of creating confidence in the "Free State." No one is deceived. The Free State created a murder gang for their own purposes. Like Frankenstein's monster it has grown beyond their control. They have given men license to murder Republicans; men so trained will have no more respect for Free State officials who oppose them than they were taught to have for Republicans.

Where are the murderers of Noel Lemass? The Free State authorities had, we are told, a man in custody in connection with that murder. Why is he now at liberty without evidence being produced publicly to show his innocence?

A time of revolution is always and everywhere a time when the criminal elements come to the top. It takes all that is best and bravest in a country to save the country from such elements, and restore order. But the Free State Ministers are imprisoning and murdering the very men whose influence in restoring order was before and will be again, most powerful. The Public Safety could have been secured without possibility of doubt by the Pact decreed by Dail Eireann in May, 1922.

Those who preferred to obey England's orders in breaking the Pact sowed the wind of discord and will now have to reap the whirlwind of the disorders they have themselves created.

Meantime Republicans, while steadily refusing to acknowledge any authority derived from the King of England, must show by their conduct the nobility of the cause they serve.

Sean Buckley, T.D., for West Cork, was released the 12th inst.; Dr. Patrick McCarville, T.D., was freed on the 13th inst., and to-night we welcome Sean T. O'Kelly, T.D. Further, we learn that Alderman Charles Murphy, T.D., who had been granted parole for family reasons, has been notified that parole has been translated into release. Sean T. O'Kelly, T.D., has been in jail sin 24th July, 1922, and recently has been ill, with a threatened attack of rheumatic fever, which he had suffered from, when in Rome where he had been engaged on a special mission for the Republic, before the Treaty was signed.

He is one of the oldest workers in Sinn Fein, and amongst the first members of the Dublin Corporation to have awaked national feelings in that assembly. He was Secretary of the Gaelic League at the time of the Rising and for years before. He counted Cathal Brugha as one of his most intimate friends in the language and national movement. Mr. Cosgrave, who thought his former friend's captivity necessary to national peace, must feel the irony of his having been classed all this time as a looter and murderer.

Dr. Paddy McCarville's absence has been keenly felt by all his constituents—both Free State and Republican—even the former appear to welcome the felon Deputy.



Alderman Charles Murphy, whose sufferings in the Glass House on the Curragh has been denied by Mr. Cosgrave, is another Corporator, and will get the sincere greetings of friendship his merits deserve from his fellows on the Corporation.

This makes four Republican Deputies out of the eighteen imprisoned. We rejoice greatly that they are in our midst again and feel that their liberty must surely presage a return to sanity on the part of their jailors. If these men can be restored to civic life, is there any reason why those whom we have been told so often were their dupes, *i.e.*, the rank and file, must be detained? The remainder, fourteen, are no more involved in Republican Policy than were the four who have been liberated. Is there any reason why their fellow-Deputies should be asked to suffer more?

**MOUNTJOY.**—There have been four releases from here to-day: Denis Farrell, Kilkenny; Daniel Ryan and Bob Sugrue, Tralee, and Sean T. O'Kelly. Some of the men are still reported to be very weak.

**KILMAINHAM.**—Alderman De Courcy, Mayor of Limerick, continues seriously ill. Tom Derrig and Austin Stack are poorly.

**NEWBRIDGE.**—Twenty-six released to-day, amongst them, Frank McCoy, O.C., prisoners.

**TINTOWN.**—Thirteen releases.

**HARE PARK.**—Two, Robert Barton, being one of them. He has been in since October, 1922. He had been arrested previously and escaped. Free State Publicity stated he was of no military importance then. Both Mr. Barton and the late Joseph McDonagh who was also one of the escapees, were re-arrested very shortly afterwards.

Robert Barton was one of the first Directors of the National Land Bank; its existence is owing to his untiring energy. His arrest during the Black and Tan regime was due to his constructive ability in establishing the Land Bank. He was Minister of Agriculture under the Dáil, holding this position until his arrest and imprisonment in Portland Prison. He was one of the signatories to the Treaty, having signed it for the sole purpose of preventing his country being plunged into immediate and terrible war. When he realised that any war that England might wage would be not as disastrous as a war waged between the Irish people themselves (which seemed to him inevitable after his arrival in Ireland with the Treaty), he manfully sided with those who stood for complete independence and accomplished the hardest of all things, the public recantation of an act which he saw to have been a fatal mistake.

## THE DAIL BONDS.

### AN UNINTENTIONAL CONFESSION.

#### BIG TALK ABOUT THE "NATION'S" DEBT AND MORAL OBLIGATION.

The high tide of indignation among the deceived holders of Dáil Bonds in the United States has apparently convinced the Free State Ministry that it is a good thing sometimes to profess their belief that honesty is the best policy. The attempt of Mr. Blythe in the Partition Parliament on the 13th inst. to make a virtue of necessity, and his talk about the "nation's" debt and its "moral obligations," would be beneath contempt were it not for its brazen effrontery to cover up a disgraceful transaction with a mantle of mock righteousness.

What are the actual facts of the issue of those bonds? I have before me one for \$100 at the moment. It is headed "Republic of Ireland," and is signed by Eamon de Valera as President of the Irish Republic, the man who is at present in solitary confinement in a Partition State prison for the sole crime of still "pretending" to be President.

The bonds are not negotiable, but are payable by the "Treasury of the Irish Republic one month after the international recognition of the said Republic. Said bond to bear interest at five per cent. per annum from the first day of the seventh month after the freeing of the territory of the Republic of Ireland from Britain's military control." Mr. Blythe must feel it difficult to speak honestly on any point connected with these bonds.

This control continues unabated—without any disguise in the six counties, and with a very thinly-veiled disguise in the other twenty-six counties of the territory of the Irish Republic. The army of the King of England occupies the four shores of Eire more effectively than it ever did before.

He falsely states that "the bonds need not be paid back for twenty years"—but he generously and heroically proposes to pay them back in seven years. He adds that were it not for the generosity of those people who subscribed to those bonds there would be no Free State in Ireland. This is perfectly true, but no more complete confession can be imagined of the deceit and treachery of the men who induced people to put their money into an institution which he and his colleagues then asserted to be a reality, but now declared to have been always non-existent. To obtain other people's money on false pretences has always been regarded as infamous; but to make use of their money to destroy the very Republic which the money was contributed to support, is a depth of infamy which is in strict keeping with the Government established and maintained by bloodshed and fraud.