

THE

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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Price One Penny.

NOTES

The trouble about Sharp Curve politics is that they don't know where to stop. Sharp Curving is like certain kinds of orgiastic dancing and gesticulation that accompany the wilder forms and phases of various worships. The thing begins according to order and plan, but when it gets among the crowd it soon develops into extravagance, goes on to delirium, and sometimes ends in permanent insanity. We have already seen some strange manifestations of the Imperialistic Sharp Curve dance. They began with the German gold invention. Then there was felon-setting and "informations" privately conveyed to Imperialist journalists. Then came the demand for the suppression of Nationalist publications, which the belated protest of the Sham Squire was unable to prevent. We have what the London "Times" calls martial law established in Ireland, after the placing of the Bill on the Book, without a syllable said for or against by those who claim to be the rightful controllers of Irish public affairs, just as if the same controllers did not exist. We have seen men, in some cases married men with families, evicted from their livelihood, and young girls sent to prison. And the end is not yet.

A British Imperialist organ demanded the removal of Kuno Meyer's name from the Roll of Freemen of Dublin and Cork, because Kuno Meyer, a German, spoke as a German to Irishmen in America, knowing that the Irish in America are, with few exceptions dead against the Sharp Curve. Some of the New Imperialists in Dublin took the hint, and proposed to have Kuno Meyer's name struck off the Roll of Freemen. The foolish character of the proposal was evidently recognised in certain quarters, and the thing was quietly called off. Not so Rebel Cork, henceforth to be known as Imperial Cork, the city of the Imperial No Thoroughfare Gateway to the Greatest Trade Route in the World.

Cork never does things by halves. The Cork Corporation, by a large majority, has deprived Kuno Meyer of the honorary freedom of the city. Not having to read the speeches, we may presume that the Cork Fathers satisfied themselves that, when they conferred the freedom of Cork, such freedom as the Imperial Closed Gateway enjoys, on Kuno Meyer, they did so on the understanding that, in the event of a quarrel between Germany and Britain, East and West, Kuno Meyer was to forswear Germany and take the side of Britain or at all events to hold his tongue. Kuno Meyer was a German when they made him a freeman of Cork. He is a German still. Those who have deprived him of Cork's freedom were, excepting the Unionists, Irish Nationalists then, and never dreamt that in obedience to orders they would afterwards become Imperialists.

There will be a day of reckoning for the Imperialist orgy, a day when most of these men will understand, when it can no longer be held back from them, that they have been cheated by the Liberal Government.

The case of Cardinal Mercier is attracting deserved attention. Notwithstanding that the Germans are in effective occupation of the greater part of Belgium and have replaced the Belgian government by a military regime and martial law, the Cardinal has published, in the form of a pastoral, a courageous and patriotic declaration in favour of the rights and liberties of the Belgian people. He has not advised his people to yield to the military power, much less has he thought of saying that he is or could be "proud to belong to the Empire" which holds his country by military force. The Belgians could have avoided their misfortunes, as the people of Luxemburg have done, by submitting to superior force. They did not submit, and Cardinal Mercier does not hold them up to odium as "extremists."

It is reported that Cardinal Mercier's pastoral has been read in all the Catholic

churches of Armagh diocese. Armagh is still in Ireland. It might be well if the pastoral were read in every church and in every home in our country, and if the Irish people at the same time remembered that their own country is a greater sufferer than Belgium. Under a government based on military force, Ireland has been depopulated and impoverished, her industries and commerce destroyed, her national government taken away, and she is now threatened with dismemberment and a perpetual religious war by those who pretend to be friendly. These wrongs are not the less deadly because they have been done by slow and silent methods under the guise of peace.

As for those who are trying to exploit the case of Cardinal Mercier in favour of Imperialism, it may be enough to ask what they have to say about the Catholic Archbishop of Lemberg, whom the Russians, when they invaded his diocese, are reported to have sent to Siberia.

The British House of Lords has been discussing Ireland. The discussion was started by Lord Middleton, who once described the Irish as "a garrulous and impecunious race." Not bad for a member of "England's faithful garrison" who owes his own wealth and his chance of being a garrulous Lord of Parliament to the sweated impecuniosity of Irish serfs. His Irish peerage dates from the Penal Days, his English peerage from 1796. He was a Minister in the recent Coercion and Eviction times. Lord Mayo, another Garrison peer, took advantage of the discussion to pour scorn on the Nationalist Volunteers. There was no scoffing at the Irish Volunteers in the Home Rule debates of last spring. Perhaps the scoffing is a trifle premature.

Another noble Lord estimates that the war is likely to last two years. Count up two years at £45,000,000 a month, and "Ireland's share" in the investments and in the dividends. Less than two years will be enough to clear up the confusion that Imperialism has created in

some parts of Ireland. I do not envy the man or the men who will undertake to persuade the Irish people during that time that Imperialism, the only enemy they have ever known, which has plundered, cheated, and degraded them in all the past, is going to become their bosom friend. The Irish people are fairly shrewd, and if they were as stupid as sheep they will have facts to talk to them that no oratory will talk down.

Meanwhile—well, meanwhile we Empire folk must look after ourselves. From Liverpool came the proposal that it is sedition to circulate in Ireland—the proposal to put one out of every three Irishmen of fighting age into the field, so that Englishmen might stay at home and capture German trade. Liverpool has gone one better. A new proposal was announced at a meeting of Liverpool's wealthy men the other day. It was to make the war add £10,000,000 a year to the wealth of Liverpool. This would be a good return if Liverpool were to spend £100,000,000 on the war. It was not Ireland that was to serve Liverpool's turn this time but—Belgium! The proposal involved the capture of one of Belgium's chief industries. How they must weep over Belgium, these Imperial knights of industry!

At the beginning of this crisis in Irish affairs, Mr. John Redmond said a word that will be long remembered. He said the crisis was "a test to search men's souls." It is interesting to watch that test in operation. There is nothing wonderful in the triumphant demeanour of the whole Irish Whig Rump. They are having the time of their lives. Their souls needed no searching. The thing to observe and to make note of is the hidden element of Whiggery, of Imperialism and West Britonism, that has been brought to light by the test of the Sharp Curve and has revealed itself in the delirium of the dance of the Empire dervishes. The lip Nationality that meant nothing more than self-interested adherence to a party has been thoroughly exposed by the powerful chemical action of the test to search men's souls.

Let us not, however, be too severe, or allow bitterness to cloud our judgment. In many, very many cases, a sense of disciplined loyalty to trusted leaders has put men astray. Theirs not to reason why. It will be a fair explanation for such people, when the disillusionment comes, to say "we were told, we trusted, we obeyed." There are others, better informed, who will not escape the test. The handwriting on the wall is for them. Those whom they have deceived will pass judgment on them.

A cigarette for the end. Mr. Pat Egan is still vainly endeavouring to work up an appearance of Irish American support for the Sharp Curve. Some one goes to the expense of getting his "meetings" reported over here by cable. The latest cablegram says that Mr. Egan has described me to "a meeting" as Chairman of the Sinn Féin Party. He also trotted out the German gold business, of which shamelessness has got ashamed over here. Did he carry it over with him or was it also cabled? The New Imperialism is known by its fruits. I am sorry for the late Mr. Pat Egan.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

CITY OF LIMERICK REGIMENT.

On Sunday the 3rd instant the City of Limerick Regiment, Irish Volunteers, with rifles and full equipment, left Headquarters at 12 o'clock for Killoan, where they were joined by contingents from Ballysimon, Killoan, and Castleconnell. Field work on an extensive scale was carried out. The "enemy" held a strong position on a hill, protected by a stone wall and sunk fence and quarry. The firing line, which had to advance over an open plain, were subjected to a deadly fire, but they slowly gained ground until within 400 yards of the position, when it was found necessary to call on the supports, who worked round his right flank. "D" Company was then ordered to make a swift attack on his left in order to draw off the fire from the centre, which was hard pressed, which they did under great difficulties, and were on the point of falling back when the order came to the centre, "Fix bayonets—Charge," which completely demoralised the enemy, who retreated from their position, but kept up a running rearguard action until "Cease Fire" sounded.

The country contingents co-operated enthusiastically, and greatly enjoyed the more advanced "soldiers' work." A large number of spectators were present, and were very much interested in the various manœuvres. It is only fair to mention the excellent work done by the Signallers. It was remarkable with what speed and accuracy messages were sent and received. A good number of recruits is one result of the days' outing.

The thanks of the Regiment is due to the owner of the land, who kindly gave the use of it for the occasion, as well as the residents in the locality for their hospitality.

JAMES LEDDEN, President.

"C" COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION.

This Company's Concert will be held on Wednesday, 10th February, at 41 York Street. For full particulars see advertisement.

mo tuidirim féin.

Táim tair éir cuistio do tábairt ar doraon éigin de buriúib Baile Átha Cliath. Níor caitear ádt tamall gearr i bfocair gac burúne díob, óir do bí orm dá buriúin o'féacaim gac oíche. Ádt ní gádaí tamall an-fada do tábairt i bfocair burúne ógláic cum rriopair agur bris agur clirteádt na burúne rin do mear. Má'r burúean máit i agur oifisig máite ina ceannur, bíonn a pian rin ar gac obair dá n'óeannann rí. Tógánn na rir i n-am; cornuigtear ar gno na n-oíche ar an uair do ceapad roim-ré; leantair de'n gno rin san rcaonad go beit caite do'n amrigh do ceapad dó; bíonn na rir eirinn beadt; bíonn plact éigin ar a n-imteáctaid ó tair go veiréad.

Do bí raígar easla orm i o'corac na reáctmáine nac mbead cornuigte i gceairt ag na burúin ar obair an treireoin. Ní mar rin do bí. Do bí an obair fá lánréim riubail aca. Do fítear go mbead orm a lán aca do gniopad agur o'imdeargad. Ní raib gádaí le n-a leitéro. Do bíonar ar fad ag luise ircead leir an obair go oícheallad. Níl for ná ruaimhear ag bairt o'ógláic Baile Átha Cliath. Táir ina lán-uiréad agur fonn oibre oíra.

Tá gunnaí ag a leat. Ní beag le fáo an méir rin. Ir fáda ó bí an oiréar rin gunnaí i támaib Saivéad Baile Átha Cliath. Ná rcaontar anoir go mbid gunnaí ag an leat eile. Ir féirín na gunnaí o'fagáil ádt an t-airgead do cur rior. Veiréad gac roirgél an t-airgead. Ir é an t-airgead tair agur veiréad an t-airgél ro. Baileáir an t-ór agur an t-airgead agur deánfaimíne iapann de. Tá uairle an t-ór ir uairle fá dó an t-iapann. Dá máit liom doir an iapann o'fillead ar éirinn. Ró-bog ádmíro le fáda.

Tá amrighad agur rgailead upcar dá gcleáctad ag fuphór na mburúean. Níor mór a tuillead de rin. Ní maraíde go rriúiréir agur ní raíróirín go gunnaóir. Ceannuigead gac burúean mion-gunna, cuirtear ruar comárta i ngac halla, agur caitead an burúean leat-uair ag rgailead leir gac reáctmáin. Ar an tairgíe o'geirtear an t-eolair.

pádraic mac piaraís.

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March of the Irish Volunteers of 1782.

Published by John Lee,
Dublin, 1782.

DEDICATED TO THE EARL OF CHARLEMONT.

Composed by Ellard.



The above fine quick-step was the March adopted by the Dublin Volunteers of 1782. It was a favourite with Wolfe Tone, whose musical taste was much above the average amateur. Being simple, melodious, and of well marked rhythm, it will be found very suitable for present-day Irish Volunteer Bands.

W. H. GRATTAN FLOOD.

CYCLIST TRAINING

DRILL.

THE SQUAD.

Each Section of Cycle Scouts of the infantry companies and all other Cyclist Sections formed shall consist of the commander and 16 men. These 16 men are divided into four Cyclist Squads of 4 men, each commanded by a corporal. This unit admits of easy control by the corporal and is in point of size suitable for outpost and patrol duty.

The **Squad in Line** is formed in one rank, numbering 1 to 4 from right to left. The **corporal is No. 4** or the left-hand man of the squad. Where the road is wide and the entire surface good the squad should cycle in line, and the section in column of squads, i.e., four abreast.

This would, however, be exceptional, and the ordinary marching formation would be in **Double Files**, i.e., two abreast. The squad being in line forms in double files at the command: **By Double Files—March**. Numbers 2 and 4 stand fast, numbers 1 and 3 move forward until clear, and then 2 and 4 file in behind them, 2 following 1, and 4 following 3. The corporal is then so placed as to be best able to exercise supervision over his men. **Line is re-formed** at the command **Into Line—Form**.

Occasionally it will be necessary to advance one by one. In this case the command **In Single File—March** is given. If the squad is in line the numbers move off in succession, 1, 2, 3, 4, each number standing fast until the man in front of

him is clear. If the squad is in double files, number 1, followed by number 2, move forward, and when they are clear number 3, followed by number 4, move in behind them. **From Single File Line is formed** at the command **Into Line—Form**, numbers 2, 3 and 4 successively obliquing in on the left of their right-hand man. **Double Files from Single Files** are formed at the command **Into Double Files—Form**, numbers 3 and 4 oblique in on the left of 1 and 2 respectively.

These drill movements should at first be taught from the halt, dismounted, with the men wheeling their machines.

ROLL CALL.

Tang (Co. Westmeath) has a very business-like Company. It believes in rifle-practice and in talking Irish.

Captain Mellows reports cheerily on Westmeath as a whole. In a few places they have got cold feet.

Every town in Wexford has a live Company. Ennisclorthy leads, with a good Battalion of town and country corps.

The Wexfordmen are making it their business to study the geography of their county. Other counties please copy.

The Limerick Regiment is strong and sound. It gets practice on a full-size as well as on miniature ranges.

Captain Monteith has done fine work in Limerick City and county, but the local men had prepared the way.

Kerry is now crying out for him. Here again he will find well-prepared soil.

Tralee vies with Limerick as the best-organised urban area outside Dublin. Personality again. The men at the head are the right sort.

The Volunteer spirit is strong in Kerry. But then the Gaelic instinct is nearly always right. Kerry and Galway have shown it in the Volunteer movement.

Despite wet weather, Volunteer activities in Dublin were multifarious on Sunday last. Some restless spirits belonging to North City Battalions rose at 4 a.m. and scouted Fingall. Captains Daly and Bensley were the instigators.

On the South side, Captain McCarthy ("C" Coy., 4th Batt.), led an adventurous band towards the Scalp.

"B" Coy., 3rd Batt. (under Instructor Maguire, with some men of "D" Coy., 4th Batt. (under Lieut. W. Pearse), marched on Ballyboden, which was successfully defended by the local Company under Capt. Pearse and Lieuts. Boland and Clarke. The scouting of the Rathfarnham men was sound.

Captain Ceannt, Acting-Commandant of the 4th Batt., has been visiting his Companies during the week, and is following up his tour by a conference of officers. Other Acting-Commandants should get similarly busy.

At Father Mathew Park, Capt. Hunter has fitted up a neat miniature range for "B" Coy., 2nd Batt. This will mean weekly target practice.

The Companies of the 3rd Batt. sanctified the Sabbath by target practice at Camden Row. The piety of Captains Sheehan, O'Rahilly, and Fitzgibbon is to be commended.

BOMBARDMENT

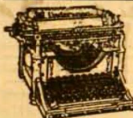
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NOTICE.

All literary communications for the "Irish
Volunteer" should be addressed in future to
VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS,
41 KILDARE STREET, DUBLIN.

All communications re Advertisements to be
addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1915.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

The Central Executive of the Irish
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-
nesday evening, 6th inst., Mr. P. H.
Pearse presiding.

The Director of Training submitted a
draft Syllabus of Training, which was
approved of. The Syllabus includes the
courses on which the examinations for

Section Commanders and Company
Officers respectively will be based.

The Director of Organisation submitted
a Scheme for Recruiting during 1915,
which was approved of, and a circular
based thereon was sanctioned for trans-
mission to Company Commanders.

The date for the next meeting of the
General Council was fixed for Sunday,
17th inst.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 6th Jan., 1915.

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN, 1915.

The following circular is issued to
Company Commanders:

A CILARA,

The earnest co-operation of all Com-
pany and Battalion Commanders, and of
Volunteers generally, is asked for by
Headquarters in a systematic effort to
recruit the various units of the force up
to full strength during the early months
of 1915. The strengthening of existing
Companies and the bringing back to the
active ranks of members who have grown
slack or fallen away is at this stage re-
garded as much more important than the
formation of new Companies.

In pursuance of the Recruiting Cam-
paign hereby opened, Company Com-
manders will take the following steps:

(1.) Address their Companies on the
necessity of a vigorous recruiting cam-
paign, appealing to each Volunteer to
constitute himself a recruiter for his
Company and to bring in at least one
new member.

(2.) Address personal letters to all
members of the Company, inviting them
to come back to the ranks.

(3.) Follow this up by instructing the
Section Commanders to get into personal
touch with such members by calling upon
them at their residences or places of
business and endeavouring to interest
them in the Company again.

(4.) Put up a few striking posters in
the neighbourhood, such as "Irish
Volunteers: Drill To-Night at —";
"Ireland Wants You: Join the Irish
Volunteers and Train for the Service of
Your Country. Drills at —."

(5.) If considered desirable, hold a
Recruiting Meeting for the district. At
such a meeting and in all addresses at
parades, avoid politics or anything likely
to alienate support or perpetuate dissen-
sion; stick strictly to the Volunteer pro-
gramme of military organisation and
training.

(6.) Make special arrangements for the
elementary training of recruits, so that
they may qualify as soon as possible for
drafting into the sections and falling in
with the general work.

(7.) In order to keep up your men's
interest, vary your programme as much
as possible. Do not, as a rule, confine
yourself to one branch of training at each
parade. Give a little target practice, a

little bayonet exercise, a little signalling,
a little physical culture, a little extension
work; vary with a short march or a short
lecture.

(8.) Offer some prize or privilege to the
Volunteer who attends most regularly or
who brings in the largest number of
recruits.

Company Commanders should also get
into touch with isolated groups of Volun-
teers, or even individuals favourable to
the movement, in adjoining districts and
take the initiative in bringing them to-
gether as a Special Half-Company or as
Special Scouting Sections. The Company
might march out to suitable centres and
interest local people, who would after-
wards form a Committee to organise the
district.

Every individual favourable to the
Irish Volunteer movement should be
brought into relationship with it, and his
energies and influence utilised.

You will from time to time communi-
cate with Headquarters as to your pro-
gress on these lines.

I am, etc.,

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare St.,
Dublin, 6th Jan., 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

AFFILIATIONS.

The new scale of Affiliation Fees came
into force on 1st January. The annual
Affiliation Fee for each Company is now
a lump sum of £3 (replacing the old scale
of a penny per man per month), but it
may be paid in four quarterly instalments
of 15s. each. The instalments for the
first quarter of 1915 should be forwarded
to Headquarters Treasurers at once. A
number of Companies have not yet paid
the December affiliations. It should be
a point of honour with companies to clear
up these arrears without delay. The
punctual payment of affiliations would
secure to Headquarters a regular quar-
terly income quite sufficient for its
ordinary expenses.

RECRUITING.

Headquarters has inaugurated what it
is hoped will prove a vigorous recruiting
movement during the early months of
1915. The first thing is to whip up
Volunteers who have fallen away or
grown slack in their attendance; the next,
to go out into the highways and byways
and bring in new recruits. Different
methods will prove effective in different
districts: suggestions, which are not
meant to be exhaustive, are made in a
Circular issued to Company Commanders
this week. Headquarters will be prepared
to supply Companies with the posters re-
ferred to in Suggestion 4.

PERSONAL WORK.

Personality is the mightiest force in the
world, and the very best recruiting
agency is the personal influence and ex-

ample of earnest Volunteers. Every Volunteer should make himself a centre of influence in his own immediate circle,—among his neighbours, his fellow-employees, the members of his clubs, friendly societies, Gaelic League branches, etc. A really determined, systematic, and widespread effort should succeed in rallying all that is best in the young manhood of Ireland to the standard of the Irish Volunteers during 1915.

DUBLIN COMPANIES.

The Director of Organisation has visited twelve Dublin Companies during the past week, and will continue his rounds next week and the week after. Everywhere he has found the men rallying splendidly after the Christmas Holidays. He has been impressed by the fact that really solid work is being done in every centre, and has found all the Company officers fully alive to the desirability of making the programme as varied and as interesting as possible. An excellent tendency is observable towards the fitting up of miniature rifle ranges in the various drill halls. Soon every Dublin Company will have its own miniature range in its own hall. Already a weekly target practice is a feature of the work of several Companies.

THE ORGANISATION SCHEME.

The majority of the Company Commanders had already taken steps to create the Special Services required by the new Scheme of Military Organisation. The officers are much interested in the whole matter, and were glad of the opportunity of discussing various details with the Director of Organisation. No difficulty will be found in putting the whole scheme into operation in Dublin within the next few weeks. The Director was able to make clear one point which had been troubling some of the Company Commanders. It is not necessary, when a Company is not at full strength, that the Transport and Supply or the Ambulance Section should at all times be regarded as an independent entity to march and drill by itself: it is quite sufficient that a few members selected from the ordinary sections be trained to act, when required, as a Transport and Supply or as an Ambulance Section as the case may be. At ordinary parades they can fall in with the ordinary sections, and they will of course in any case receive the usual Volunteer training in addition to their special training. What is really essential is that some one member of the Company, with two, three, or four more or less trained assistants, be responsible for the Transport and Supply or for the Ambulance work of the Company, and that he and his assistants, with the necessary apparatus, be on the spot when required. The Section of Cycle Scouts should, however, act constantly together in that capacity, and should make a fifth permanent Section of the Company.

IRISH BATTLES.

IV.—THE BATTLE OF BENBURB.

Benburb was the victory of military genius over superior numbers and artillery. Owen Roe O'Neill was known on the continent as a brilliant general, his most notable exploit being his defence of Arras for seven weeks against the French. He came to Ireland to lead her untrained and badly-armed troops to victory against her oppressor.

PRECEDING EVENTS.

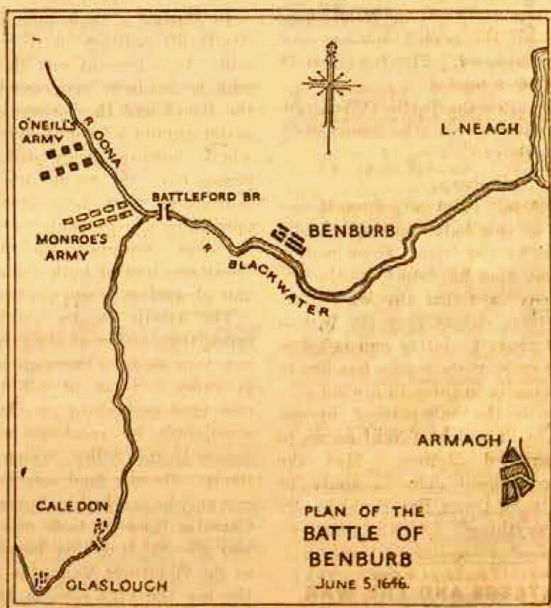
Perhaps the greatest of Ireland's struggles began on the 23rd October, 1641. Its partial success led to the formation of the Confederation of Kilkenny in 1642, which for a few years virtually governed Ireland, maintaining an army in each of the provinces. The Ulster

head of 6,000 foot and 800 horse, and he sent word to his brother, Colonel George Munroe, to join him at Glasslough with three troops of cavalry.

Meanwhile O'Neill, with 5,000 foot and 500 horse, reached Glasslough first, crossed the Blackwater and encamped at Benburb.

THE BATTLE.

The capture of one of O'Neill's scouts first told Munroe of the presence of the Irish army. Fearing that O'Neill would advance to Charlemont and entrench his forces, he determined to attack him at once. He therefore marched up the Blackwater to cross the river at Benburb, but, finding the ford strongly held, turned aside and crossed at Kinard, ad-



army under Owen Roe O'Neill, was opposed to the Scotch Parliamentary Army under Munroe and Inchiquin.

PRELIMINARY MANOEUVRES.

In May, 1646, O'Neill's army was encamped on the borders of Cavan, where it had been drilling and equipping itself for some time. Leinster was at this time unprotected, for its army, under Preston, was in Connaught. Munroe therefore determined, in conjunction with Sir R. Stewart, to march on Kilkenny. The junction of the two forces was to be effected at Glasslough in Monaghan. On May 6th O'Neill received warning of this movement from Ormond, and, ordering that each of his men should take with him 16 days' provisions, he marched 60 miles into the interior of Ulster.

Munroe was now at Armagh at the

vancing then circuitously so as to attack O'Neill from the south-east.

This was the 5th of June. In the morning O'Neill had despatched most of his cavalry to intercept George Munroe, and now marched his main body forward to the junction of the Oona with the Blackwater. He occupied the bridge, and took up his position between two small hills. In his rear was a wood. The river protected his left and a bog his right. In front, taking cover among the bushes, were numerous sharpshooters.

Munroe was now approaching. The Scotch artillery compelled O'Neill's advance guard, which held a defile on their line of march, to retire, and the two armies were face to face.

The sun and wind were in the faces of the Irish and encouraged Munroe to

make a general assault, which was repulsed with loss by O'Neill's concealed marksmen. The Scotch artillery then opened fire, but the Irish army was so well posted that it had very little effect. It is said that only one man was hit.

The artillery fire was followed by several cavalry charges, which all failed, and O'Neill engaged the enemy in skirmishes until the setting sun shone in their eyes. About this time the Irish cavalry returned, having routed George Munroe. O'Neill now prepared to take the offensive. The British horse, routed in their last charge, were pursued through their own infantry by the Irish cavalry. The infantry, however, faced the advancing Irish pikemen firmly, until their cavalry reserve, routed in one more desperate charge, was hurled in among them.

The British were now broken. They were driven into the angle of the Oona and Blackwater, hundreds being drowned in the waters. Three thousand were killed, and all the Scotch artillery and stores were captured. The Irish lost 70 killed and 200 wounded.

Two days after the battle O'Neill advanced to meet Stewart, who immediately retreated to Derry.

COMMENTS.

The principal point of interest for Volunteers in this battle is the splendid use of cover by the Irish. Good marksmanship was also an important factor. One authority says that the Irish pikemen owed their victory over the British to the fact that the latter had cut two feet off the ends of their pike handles to make them easier to carry in a wind.

Strategically, the main point of interest is the ease with which O'Neill seems to have outmarched Munroe. Had the British forces been able to unite at Glasslough even Owen Roe could hardly have done anything.

VOLUNTEERS AND THE WAR OFFICE.

According to the "Irish Times" there is a regulation of the War Office which gives that Department power to go to any Corps of Volunteers in England and call upon suitable men to enlist in the Army. The English Volunteers are organised in close touch with the War Office.

Some sections of the National Volunteers in Ireland seem to be anxious to place themselves in touch with the War Office, and those in Cork appear to have already done so. We wonder if they have thus rendered themselves to be "called upon" to enlist for service in France. They had better walk warily if they don't want to incur that liability. The Irish Volunteer Organisation has, of course, no connection with the War Office whatever.

THE WAR

In the western theatre the operations continue to have much the same form as they have worn for the past couple of months—a form of give and take on a small scale. At two sections of the line there is a little more activity than at the other points. These are in the western Argonne region and in the Vosges west of Mulhausen. In the first of these the Germans are seeking to press forward so as to be able to command the main road and railway from Rheims to Verdun; while in the second the French are aiming at Mulhausen—an industrial centre of some consequence. Each of these sets of operations are of some considerable importance, but neither is in any sense decisive. Success in either would merely inconvenience the enemy, it would by no means ensure his defeat.

In Poland a thaw has brought practically all military activity to a standstill. In a general way the Austro-German levies have progressed slightly on the Bzura and Rawka streams and have given ground a little in the Carpathians, where, however, they still hold all the passes over the mountains. There are indications that here, too, semi-seige operations are probable: we read of the Germans bringing up their 11-inch Howitzers and of both sides entrenching and advancing by approach trenches.

The Asiatic theatre has had more interest than either of the others since the new year set in. There are several points in order. First of all there is the rumoured project of an attack on Constantinople by combined land and sea forces of the Allies, which appears unlikely. On the land side Constantinople can only be reached by forcing the famous Chatalja lines—a task which two years ago proved altogether beyond the power of the victorious Bulgarian army. From the sea the city can be approached by the Bosphorus from the Black Sea and by the Dardanelles from the Mediterranean: the "Goeben" effectively prevents the first. The only thing, then, is for the Anglo-French Fleet to force the Dardanelles—a naval problem of this kind: Can a fleet run through a forty-mile channel less than five miles wide, commanded by heavy batteries for its entire length, mined, with vessels sunk in the fairway, besides having strong currents and some islands? A disaster to one of the leading ships would pile the rest up on her in ruinous confusion. It is possible, by landing an army in the Gulf of Saros, to take in reverse the forts on the European side of the straits. But by posting the garrison of Adrianople at Gallipoli and commanding the best landings the Turks have forestalled such an attempt. Besides, the Allies have not at

present any troops to spare for such an expedition.

Next there is the attack on Egypt. The latest reports are of the concentration of 190,000 Turkish troops at Jerusalem with this end in view. If this is true—as is possible, for the necessary railways now exist—the task of the English becomes very formidable, because it is unlikely that at the present time they have more than one-third of that number available for the defence of the country.

In the Caucasus the Russians claim a great victory at Sarykamysh. Probably they have heavily checked the advance of the Turkish centre towards Kars. On the other hand the Turks have met with considerable successes west of this, in the triangle Olti-Ardahan-Batum. In the Van region, too, they have met with considerable successes around Urmia—perhaps with a view to spread the Holy War into Persia. There are reports of Persian and Caucasian hillmen joining the Turks, and the revolted Albanian Mahomedans are likely to give trouble to Serbia later on. The Germans are also apparently seeking to spread the Holy War idea by isolating all Mahomedan soldiers of the Allies who are now prisoners.

A point in which the Allies as a whole are much worse off than the Germans is the unity of command. It must be remembered that the supreme control and direction of both the Austro-Hungarian and Turkish armies is now in German hands. This is not at all an example of German arrogance, it is a sound military measure, because it ensures the most harmonious working. The Allies are under grave difficulties striving to bring about something of a similar state of affairs. Hence the proposal of a war conference in London and the reported visit of the French General Pau to Russian Headquarters.

There have been two outstanding naval achievements since the new year, both by the Austro-Germans. The first was the sinking of the "Formidable" in the Channel by a German submarine, in the small hours of a rough morning. It is evident that the submarine can operate in rough weather better than was thought at one time. The other affair was more remarkable altogether. A French submarine stealing into the Austrian naval harbour of Cattaro was observed and sunk. Subsequently the Austrian submarine U 12 put to sea, succeeded in reaching the French Fleet, selected the best object of attack and discharged two torpedoes into the dreadnought "Courbet." This splendid ship, whose main battery was 12 12-inch guns, was one of the only four dreadnoughts the French possess, and will prove a very grave loss indeed. It is the biggest individual bag that has fallen to the lot of any submarine commander so far.

Another feature of recent operations was the increased activity of air-craft. German aeroplanes have appeared over Dover, Sherness, Dunkirk, Warsaw, etc. The attack on Dunkirk by five machines was admirably carried out—one aviator remaining on sentry duty, while his comrades flew to and fro over the town dropping bombs. The loss of life was considerable on this occasion, as also at Warsaw. The English replied by a sea-plane attack on Cuxhaven, which proved the possibility of ships and aircraft working together, but at the loss of four machines.

TWO PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

Mr. Newman at Ballinderry and Clogher.

On Friday the 8th January, under the auspices of the Irish Volunteers, Mr. A. Newman delivered a lecture in the Parochial Hall, Ballinderry, before a crowded audience. As a charge for admission was made, a substantial sum was added to the local rifle fund. The chair was taken by Rev. Father Francis Donnelly, P.P., who said they had not forgotten their Nationality in Ballinderry. He welcomed Mr. Newman as a speaker who needed no introduction.

On Sunday, 10th January, Mr. Newman lectured in Clogher under the auspices of the Irish Volunteers, in the Parochial Hall. The chair was taken by Rev. Father James O'Daly, C.C. There was a crowded attendance. Father O'Daly said it gave him great pleasure to preside at that meeting. About six months ago the Volunteers of that Parish held their first meeting outside that Hall. On that occasion his hopes were high. He felt that the days of platitudinous resolutions and inane platform oratory had passed and that the Irish Volunteers had come to settle the Irish question in the old way, the only way in which, in his opinion, it could ever be settled. He had promised the Volunteers at that time that he would do all in his power to equip them and he had in part fulfilled that promise. There was no word then of a "two-fold duty for the Volunteers," for the Irish Volunteers had been organised for a definite purpose and had signed a solemn declaration to defend the rights and liberties of Irishmen.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Newman said that it would save England a lot of trouble if she would realise as quickly as possible that the Irish Volunteers had come to stay. Without her Volunteers Ireland was helpless. She could not argue even with the Unionists of the four counties. And what chance would Ireland have in an argument with England if she could not argue with a fraction of herself? To be armed was to be respected. To be disarmed was to be swept aside. The Volunteers were the

custodians of Ireland's freedom. It was their duty to see that England did not tear up any more scraps of paper.

Men asked for the policy of the Irish Volunteers. It was a policy to which no Irishman could offer objection. Here it was in a phrase: Forget the country of the stranger and remember your Motherland. That was the policy of the Irish Volunteers; and as an armed force they had come to stay. But in conclusion he would utter a warning to the Volunteers, whether Irish or National: Keep drilling, learn to shoot, above all be punctual, and never miss a parade.

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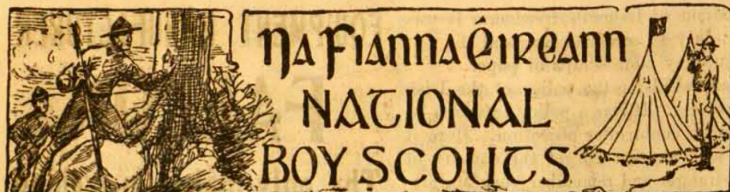
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The maintenance of the boy spirit amongst the older boys seems to me to be one of the greatest problems that beset the future growth of our Organisation. It is a problem that demands the serious attention of every officer in the Fianna, for when this spirit ceases to be the predominant influence with us the Fianna Éireann ceases to be a boys' organisation. There seems to be a tendency amongst most boys when they reach a certain age to cast from them this boy spirit and assume what they believe to be the man spirit. They believe that the new spirit is very much superior to the boy spirit and consequently adopt a new and very superior attitude towards younger boys.

I have noticed this superiority amongst many of our Dublin officers, and I have noticed that where it exists the officer has begun to lose his influence with his slough. A slough means very little outside the influence of the leaders or the officer in command of that slough. For what, indeed, is a slough of the Fianna but a group of young boys with a common ideal working together for that ideal under the guidance of an older boy to whom they give ready obedience. Therefore I believe that the personality of the officer-in-command is the chief factor in the making of a slough of the Fianna.

If I were asked to name the first qualification for officership in the Fianna I would unhesitatingly say "love for boys." If an officer does not possess a great and real love for the boys he has in charge he loses their sympathy and fails to see things from their point of view. If he had all the military knowledge of all the generals at present fighting in Europe and has not this first qualification he ceases to be a source of influence with his boys—in fact, he ceases to be their leader in any real

sense. It is then his obvious duty to resign from office and retire from the Fianna. When he loses the boy spirit he is no longer a boy mentally. He can then best work for the object of the Fianna in the Irish Volunteers or some such adult organisation.

The action of those boys who a few years ago altered the Fianna Constitution so that the control of the organisation should remain entirely in the hands of boys seems to me now to have been very wise and necessary.

I have also noticed that many of the Dublin officers seem rather inclined to adapt the Fianna to the requirements of the older boys. When this means the overlooking in the slightest degree of the younger boys for whom the Fianna was founded, it becomes a danger. The Fianna must not be allowed to drift into an association for young men. It must remain a purely boys' organisation.

I close my remarks this week in a more sorrowful mood than is my wont. I have to record the death of our comrade, Willie Fitzpatrick ("C" Coy., Dublin Battalion, who passed away during the past week. A section of his most intimate comrades attended the funeral, and showed their reverence to the body of a true member of the Fianna. The Dublin Battalion tenders the parents of our deceased comrade its sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Imeasg Shluaighe Dé go raibh a anam.
WILLIE NELSON.

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