

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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Price One Penny.

NOTES

"A dismal outlook" is the heading of an editorial in the "Irish Daily Independent," which goes on to say: "In addition to increased taxation next year, and a serious rise in the price of most articles of food, the Irish householder will in many places have to face increased local rates." The rest of the editorial is devoted to the increased burden of rates.

In a country already almost strangled in the bonds of Imperialism, the rise of several pence in the pound of rates is a far more serious thing than the ordinary man is educated to understand. If the additional rates were spent on economic development, they might be well spent, but in this case "the reason generally given is the enhanced price of food." The added rates go to relieve the hardships imposed on Ireland by a course of Imperial government. Imperialism is the only enemy that Ireland has known since the battle of Clontarf, the enemy of all small nations, and at this moment the red-handed enemy of civilisation.

It is a curious mistake to write about "increased taxation next year." The increase of one-third in the income tax dates from the end of last August. The rise in rates and taxes hits the wealthy and propertied classes chiefly and firstly, though it hits the whole community also. As a public burden, it is serious enough, yet a mere trifle in comparison with the rise in the cost of food, fuel, and other necessities, accompanied by a great reduction in employment.

Already, during the past five years of peace, the cost of the necessities of life had risen twenty or thirty per cent. all round. The War of the Empires has caused a further and much greater rise in prices. Perhaps it is best so. There are signs that we shall soon hear a bitter cry of "Stop the War!" That cry will be of no avail unless people are wise

and see farther and cry "Stop the Empires!" The Empires, if they are not checked, will only stop this war to get ready for the next war.

Some people say that this war was caused by the Prussian desire to dominate the world. Between one variety of Imperialism and another there is little to choose. "At a dinner of the Canadian Club of New York," we read, "Mr. W. H. Hearst, Premier of Ontario, declared that English-speaking people must dominate the world." This will be good news for France and Russia, not to mention Quebec, and several miserable little countries in Europe, like Spain and Portugal, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, the Balkan States, Italy, with trifles like Asia, Africa, and South America thrown in. We have been almost persuaded here that the idea of domination was a German patent invented by Nietzsche.

Can we hope that Mr. M. J. Ennis, Mr. Galloway Rigg, or some other student of National Economics whom the exigencies of Imperialism leave free to deal with the matter, will go into the figures and tell us plainly what is Ireland's share in the Long Purse policy of £45,000,000 a month and what profit Ireland can count upon? I have already pointed out that the Boer War expenditure had disastrous effects on Irish Land Purchase, causing a consequent increase of charge to the purchaser. The Long Purse policy has already put a stop to agricultural loans from the Board of Works, and has tied up the Congested Districts Board expenditure. The prospect for town tenants and agricultural tenants still in the grip of Feudalism is another "dismal outlook." But the cares and glories of Empire, that tried and proved benefactor of Ireland, give our hundred paid legislators enough to think about.

And like the sailor's parrot, they are thinking too hard to be able to talk about Irish interests. Tories like Lord Charles Beresford, who was threatening a British invasion of Ireland a few months ago,

are allowed to speak out in criticism of the Government. Irish representatives must not even discuss the effects of Imperial policy on Irish prosperity, the completion of land purchase, etc. They must not appear to be "disaffected." Silence at all events is more becoming than to hear Irishmen in a British assembly denouncing to suppression Irish national publications that do not take the sharp curve and holding up to British odium as "extremists" every Irishman and Irish woman who refuses to desert Nationalism for Imperialism. That sort of conduct might safely have been left to the Garrison peers who draw their income from Irish toil. There is talk about a union of democracies. The fact is a union of aristocracies, the union of the present and of the prospective Garrisons, of those who now enjoy good things under the Empire and of those who expect. Still Lord Middleton and Lord Mayo might salute more graciously the new Garrison that is going to relieve them on guard.

A Toomebridge Volunteer writes protesting strongly against the policy of interfering with the Volunteer movement and pointing out the results of interference. Toomebridge is on the borders of the counties Antrim and Derry, and is still reckoned to be in Ireland. Our correspondent directs his criticism against Mr. Redmond, and says that if Mr. Redmond foresaw the result of interference he was blameworthy, if he did not foresee it he was incapable. True, but we must look through and beyond Mr. Redmond and see who were the principal actors in this matter.

Nearly three years ago, the Liberal Government produced its Home Rule Bill. The Government, on the promise of Home Rule, had already been long receiving the support of Mr. Redmond and his Party both in the British Parliament and in the constituencies. The understanding was that the Government would use its powers to obtain a Home Rule measure for the whole of Ireland.

NOTES.

On this understanding, Mr. Redmond kept the Government in office and enabled them to pass a number of important measures which, they calculated, would strengthen their position very much. The understanding was not with Mr. Redmond and the Irish Party alone or chiefly. It was above all an understanding with the Irish electors who supported the Party. If the electors had not been led to believe that the Government would do its utmost to enact Home Rule for Ireland, and for all Ireland, they would have made short work of any proposal to support the Government and keep it in office for years. What the electors who supported the Irish Party expected and demanded was made very clear when the Government attempted to pass the half measure of the Irish Council Bill. They compelled the Irish Party to withdraw their support from that bill and forced the Government to abandon it. Whether they thus acted wisely or unwisely is not the question. Their action, and the Irish Party's acceptance of it, established the understanding that the Party and the Government should adopt without modification or alternative the policy of Home Rule for all Ireland.

At the last general election, the Government pledged itself to this policy. On that point, which was challenged by the Unionists, we have many clear declarations by members of the Cabinet. In due course, after further valuable assistance from the Irish Party, the Government produced its Home Rule Bill. There is probably not a single Irish Home Ruler who did not recognise that the Bill was a disappointment, and it was accepted only in the view that it was the best that could be found practicable, considering English prejudice against national self-government for Ireland. Of course great things were said and are still being said in its favour. When a man comes home from the fair with a new cow, he does not usually tell his wife that the cow was not worth what he paid for her.

The Home Rule proposed in the Bill was cut down to the lowest degree that the Irish electorate would stand in order to minimise English opposition: partly for that, and partly because the "Home Rule" Government itself was glad enough to set bounds to Irish autonomy. But the fact that the Bill was so restricted made the Government's bargain with the Irish electors all the more binding in honour and good faith on the Government. The Home Rule Bill, as passed by the House of Commons in 1912, was

the solemn treaty and undertaking of the Government, framed by themselves, between them and the Irish people.

This same Government has since then gone to war, and has asked the people of Ireland to aid them in war, and has heavily taxed the people of Ireland for war, in defence, as they declare, of a treaty and undertaking between Great Britain and Belgium. Obligations to Belgium are sacred, but the contract made with the Irish Party and, what is of more importance, with the Irish supporters of that Party, a contract in virtue of which the Government has been kept for years in office, becomes a scrap of paper for which the honour and good faith of a British Ministry has no concern.

The same Home Rule Bill was brought forward and passed in the House of Commons in the session of 1913. The Irish Party maintained the Government still in office, and there was not a hint or a whisper of any deflection on the part of the Government. Finally the Bill came forward a third time in the session of 1914, last year, which we were told was the Home Rule Year.

Then and for the first time the Government announced that the understanding upon which it had been maintained in power by Irish support would not be kept. The treaty, having served the Government's turn for several years, was openly proclaimed to be a scrap of paper, subject to whatever amendment may be devised by the joint enthusiasm of British Whigs and Tories for Irish national autonomy.

Irish Home Rulers were indignant. We may be certain that Mr. Redmond, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Devlin were indignant. Judging from Mr. T. P. O'Connor's all-absorbing indignation over another question of Imperial treaty obligations, we may perhaps suppose that he also took an indignant stand. The Government, however, relying on Unionist support, **compelled the Irish Parliamentary leaders to submit.** They were thus entitled to make a vital change in the Irish policy to which they were committed in honour and in public faith.

What Mr. Redmond felt about this transaction may be judged from the fact that, contrary to well-established precedent, the vital change in policy was not submitted to a convention of the Irish supporters of the Party. But while the treaty, broken this time before signature, still lay in the Parliamentary morgue, Mr. Redmond diverted the attention of Ireland to his sudden and peremptory public demand to control and dominate the Irish Volunteers, whom he had previously discountenanced. The

cloud of dust raised by this proceeding effectually covered the shameless treachery of the Liberal Cabinet and the submission forced by them on the Irish Party.

I am making a plain statement. Let it be contradicted, if it can, in any particular. What were the grounds put forward by the Ministry for the breaking of their pledges? The same grounds as the right of might can put forward elsewhere for disregard of other international engagements—the grounds of military necessity. The Government yielded to a threat of force, conveyed not merely by the Ulster minority but by the Tory Party in general, and to various intimations that the forces of the Crown, in a question of Irish nationality, would only act against Ireland. I say the Government yielded, but the yielding cost them no greater pangs than afflict the young lady who says a reluctant yes to the suitor of her choice.

The breach of the treaty was definitely announced with characteristic hypocrisy. "The coercion of Ulster was unthinkable." My friend from Toomebridge, no Liberal Minister would lie awake at night thinking about coercing you and the like of you. They will do it without thinking, and be damned to you. If what they now call coercion is unthinkable, perhaps that is why they never thought of it as coercion during all the years that they held office by the support of Irish votes and Irish voters, and during the two years while the Home Rule Bill held the field without hint of coercing you out of Home Rule.

I intend to return to the question of the bearing of these facts on the various turns in Mr. Redmond's policy since the surrender of last Spring. Meanwhile, it is enough to say that Ulster Nationalists can still defeat every treachery by maintaining and perfecting a Volunteer organisation which will be neither directly nor indirectly dominated by those who find the coercion of Ulster Nationalists quite thinkable, and whose Imperialism is quite satisfied with the prospect of a maimed and divided Ireland, divided by a line of barbarism which would not be tolerated in any civilised Christian State.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT CONCERT.

The National Holiday Concert Committee have secured the Rotunda Rink, the largest hall in Dublin, for this year's event. The Hon. Organiser, Mr. Sean Doyle, informs us that portion of the proceeds will be given to the Arming of Ireland Fund, and to the Irish Language Fund.

THE WAR

The main interest of the European campaigns has again shifted to the Western front. In the East the weather has prevented any operations involving the movement of large masses, and there is a distinct probability that the Germans may adopt the same course of action as in the West and entrench themselves along the entire front. The presence of an abundance of heavy artillery in both the German and Austrian lines is an indication of this. Of course, a deadlock like that obtaining in Belgium and France is not possible here because there will always be room on the flanks to manoeuvre.

The Russians are beginning a new move, the exact importance of which it is too soon to judge yet. They are moving down the right or eastern bank of the Vistula from Novo Georgiavsk towards Thorn, perhaps with a view to threatening East Prussia or in an effort to pass to the Vistula and get in rear of Von Hindenburg's left wing on the other bank. The first would be a useless move as the Vistula, from Dantzig to Thorn, is the real defence of Germany in this quarter, and no Russian success east of that line can have a decisive effect. The other design is much easier to understand, as it might be possible to cut the Thorn-Lovitz railway near Vloclavek—an important line for the Germans. But the Vistula here is a huge river, and could scarcely be passed in face of an army: there is no railway on the Russian bank, without which a large force could not be supplied in Poland with the roads in their present condition. If the Germans—as is pretty certain—have a flotilla of gunboats on the river any passing by the Russians would be quite impossible.

In the West there have been renewed activities at several points. The general line runs as follows: from Nieuport due south to Roye—about 120 miles, thence a little south of east to the Verdun region about 140 miles, south of Verdun the Germans still maintain their passage over the Meuse at St. Mihiel—the point of a wedge into the French fortified line between Verdun and Toul; from St. Mihiel the French have bent in the German line south of Metz, and then the line runs south-east to Mt. Donon west of Strassburg, and thence almost due south to the Swiss frontier: from Verdun to the Swiss border is almost 180 miles.

In all the fighting on this point for the past week by far the most important operations were those comprised in the engagement north of Soissons on January 14th—16th. There, after severe fighting a French force, said to be part of three brigades, or nearly 20,000 men, was forced from its positions on the

heights north of the River Aisne and compelled to retire to the southern bank. The Germans claim to have captured 35 guns, and this is very probable as the floods in the river swept away the French bridges and a new bridge thrown was used to bring off the infantry. The French in this region had got within a dozen miles of Laon, an important centre. This and the presence of the German Emperor with his troops lends considerable significance to the success, which in conjunction with renewed artillery duels near Rheims, may mean that the Germans intend a move against the French centre. This German victory offsets the French successes in the Perthes region east of Rheims, where a fairly important attempt to penetrate the German line was being made. On the other sections of the front the respective activities were of a minor character.

In Asia there are signs of activity on both the Syrian and Armenian fronts. The slowness of the Turkish advance upon Egypt is supposed in some quarters to indicate that nothing serious is intended. As a matter of fact this is probably quite erroneous. The movement against Egypt is an enterprise of great difficulty, and without thorough preparation could not be carried out with any prospect of success. It is necessary to accumulate a considerable numerical superiority, and this the Turks have probably accomplished by now. As far as Jerusalem the Turks have railway communication, and from there to El Arish the communications are still good. All along this route the advance of the Turkish troops is proceeding, but the 75 or so miles from El Arish to the Suez Canal is over desert. To cross this the Turks are accumulating a vast number of camels—now placed at 14,000—which are the best means of transport over such a country. The weather does not become unusually hot for another month or six weeks, and not excessively so for some months, so that there is no reason for the Turks to begin their operations prematurely. The fact that the Turks do not control the sea has no vital importance. Napoleon advanced from Egypt to Palestine and retreated along the same route, although the English controlled the sea for the entire period: and he was operating in hostile territory, too. The forces available for the defence of Egypt are hard to estimate. Putting the Australians at 15,000, the New Zealanders at 7,000, the Egyptian Army at 25,000, and English and Indian reinforcements at 15,000, would make the total 62,000, which may be further increased to a limited extent. It is very unlikely, however, that the numbers will ever exceed 75,000, and if such is the case the task of the defenders is very serious, even allowing for the unusual defensive strength of the position. Of actual fight-

ing in this region the only item is the rumoured capture by the Turkish vanguard of a troop of cavalry belonging to the Anglo-Egyptian forces.

In Armenia disjointed fighting continues in the region north of Erzerum and west of Kars, which is a tangled mass of mountains. It is evident that the Turkish reverse at Sarikamish—the southern end of the Russian railway through Kars—was not the decisive event the Russians hoped at first, and probably by this time the Turks have been heavily reinforced. Indeed, it is most likely that reinforcements are coming up continuously. Apparently the bulk of the Baghdad Army Corps has gone towards Egypt, and consequently future reinforcements will be those from Europe. These can be brought in either of two ways: The first and easiest is by sea to Trebizond; the second is by rail to Angora, and thence by Sivas to Erzinjan. From Angora to Erzinjan is a long march, but the route is—for Asia Minor—by no means excessively difficult.

Moreover, the Russian communications in this part of the world are not very numerous in case they should desire to bring up heavy reinforcements. There are only two routes over the main ridge of the Caucasus—the great military road through the Dariel Pass between Vladicaucus and Tiflis, and the railway round the Eastern flank of the mountains from Derbend to Baku—both on the Caspian Sea. The Russians must use these for they cannot transport troops in the Black Sea. In sum, the campaign will be fought out by much the same numbers as are now engaged, because the excess of reinforcements over losses will not be very marked on either side.

The Turkish advance into Persia is a distinct operation from the campaign west of Lake Van. The troops engaged are probably part of the Van Army Corps, with a large number of Kurdish irregular cavalry. They have apparently been reinforced by Persian tribesmen to some extent and have succeeded in clearing Persia of the Russians. The expedition's immediate object is probably Baku, on the Caspian, important by reason of the great oil-wells and of its command of the railway to Europe. The Russians will be compelled to send a considerable force from Erivan to Julfa to deal with the Turks and thus weaken their main force near Kars. A further possible outcome would be the spread of the Holy War in Persia and General Asia. The bulk of the Persians favour the Turks, and it should be borne in mind that the language of the upper classes in Afghanistan is Persian.

The week on sea and in the air has been an absolute blank.

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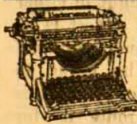
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All communications re Advertisements to be
addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1915.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

The Central Executive of the Irish
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-
nesday evening, 13th inst., Mr. Joseph
Plunkett presiding.

The Director of Training submitted the
final draft of the new Syllabus of Train-
ing, which was approved for publication.

Reports were submitted by the Direc-
tors of Organisation and Ordnance, and
by the Finance Secretary.

It was decided that members of the
Executive should address a special meet-
ing of Dublin Volunteers, which the City
and County Board was requested to
summon.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare St.,
Dublin, 13th Jan., 1915.

CORRECTION.

In the Circular on Recruiting pub-
lished in the IRISH VOLUNTEER of 16th
inst., Suggestion 2 was misprinted. It
should have read: "(2.) Address personal
letters to all members of the Company
who have fallen away for unexplained
reasons, inviting them to come back to
the ranks."

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NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

RECRUITING.

It is to be hoped that the suggestions
contained in last week's Recruiting Circular
will be put in practice immediately. It
is up to the Companies to make a de-
termined effort right here to bring them-
selves up to full strength. The flowing
tide is with the Irish Volunteers, and if
we neglect to avail of it it will be our
own fault. Now is the time. The time
may go by. It will be a bitter thing if
twelve months hence we find ourselves
lamenting that we have lost our chance.
We have precious weeks and months at
our disposal. Let us make use of them.
The task we have set ourselves is a pos-
sible one. But it will need grit, hard
work, above all, constant work. Let us
set our teeth and get to work; and,
having got to work, let us keep at work
no matter what happens. Here is a
definite concrete thing to do as a start
for the New Year: Bring back the old
members, those who have simply fallen
out of the ranks and would come back
again with a little encouragement. And
here is another thing to do or at any rate
try: Bring every lad and young man in
your parish into the Volunteers. It may
prove easier than you think. Have re-
cruiting marches, recruiting meetings, an
odd social gathering. Put up posters,
give out handbills. Chiefly and always,—
use your personal influence. Just try
what your personality is worth among
your friends. Every good and true man
can make himself to some extent a leader
in his own little circle. It is not enough
to give yourself to the Volunteer move-
ment. Bring everyone that calls you
friend.

THE TRAINING SCHEME.

The new Syllabus of Training is issued
this week. It will be seen that it has a
two-fold scope. In the first place it pro-
vides a scheme of Training for the Com-
panies, in the second it constitutes the
programme on which candidates for per-
manent recognition as (a) Section Com-
manders or (b) Company and Superior
Officers will be examined. The same
Syllabus fulfils both functions because
officers will be examined, not on a pro-
gramme of theoretical knowledge, but
on a programme of practical efficiency
actually carried out in the Companies in
which they work. Hence, an officer who
desires permanent recognition will have
not so much to read up books (though
the more books he reads the better) as to
set himself to work to train his Company,
Half-Company, or Section on the lines
laid down. In assiduously training his
unit he will be qualifying himself in the
best possible way to pass his examina-
tion and receive his permanent commis-
sion.

The scheme aims at providing an all-
round training for everybody and a
special training for the specialists of
our army. Musketry, Bayonet-fighting,
Scouting, Section and Company Drill, a
certain amount of Signalling and Pioneer-
ing, are for everyone; in addition,
specialists will specialise in each of these
branches, so as to be able to direct the
training of their fellows; further, there
are subjects of advanced study—such as
Engineering, Field Hospital work, etc.,
—at which only selected groups need
work. The intelligent application of
this scheme should produce a very high
degree of efficiency. Before the end of
the year we ought all to be trained—and
well trained—in all the essentials of the
soldier's profession; and in every com-
pany there will be individuals highly
trained in each of several special
branches.

GET TO WORK.

Let the Syllabus be put in operation at
once. Every Company, Half-Company,
or Section Commander must get busy in
his own unit. Every man has now a clear
objective before him; he knows what he
is expected to master,—he knows what
is essential, and what is non-essential.
The officers especially are now being
given their chance. Each has, like
Napoleon's soldiers, a marshal's baton in
his knapsack. The good men will rise.

AN IDEAL.

The ideal is a due combination of
general with special training. Each of
us should aim at a good general know-
ledge of Volunteer work, and at the same
time an accurate special knowledge of
some particular department that appeals
to us. In other words, we ought—
especially if we are officers—to know
something about everything and every-
thing about something.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

PROGRAMME OF MILITARY TRAINING AND SYLLABUS OF QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS.

All Companies and Half-Companies will be instructed henceforth in the following subjects:—

I.—Infantry Drill and Tactics.

(a) The Squad, the Section, the Half-Company, and the Company. Work and Duties of Squad and Section Commanders.

(b.) The Company and the Battalion. Work and Duties of Half-Company and Company Commanders.

II.—Musketry.

III.—Bayonet and Pike Fighting.

IV.—Physical Training.

V.—Scouting and Signalling.

VI.—Entrenchments and Barricades.

VII.—Camps and Bivouacs. Transport and Supply.

Instruction in subjects I. to VI., inclusive, will be proceeded with immediately. Instruction in subject VII. may be postponed until further order. Where possible, however, lectures in the theory of the subject should be given, and preparations made for practical training during the summer months.

Special sections will be instructed in the following three subjects:—

VIII.—(a) First-Aid; (b) Ambulance.

IX.—(a) and (b) Military Engineering.

X.—(a) and (b) Work of Armourers.

Special handbooks of instruction in all these subjects are being prepared at Headquarters. Pending the publication of these, a series of notes calculated to assist Officers and Instructors will be contributed to the IRISH VOLUNTEER.

Details of the Programme are indicated in the following Syllabus of Qualifying Examination for Officers. As this Examination will be open to Irish Volunteers of all ranks, and will be a test rather of practical experience and ability than of theoretical knowledge, it will be absolutely necessary for all candidates to have worked in Companies which have been trained in subjects I. to VI. above.

The Examination will be in two parts, A and B. Examination B to be held some months after Examination A.

A. The **obligatory** subjects for A will be:—

I. (a), and the elementary portions of II., III., IV., V., and VI.

The **optional** subjects for A will be:—

VIII. (a), IX. (a), and X. (a).

B. The **obligatory** subjects for B will be:—

I. (b), the advanced portions of II., III., IV., V., and VI., and the whole of VII.

The **optional** subjects for B will be:—

VIII. (b), IX. (b), and X. (b).

All candidates for A and B will be required to have a thorough knowledge of the Constitution and Scheme of Military Organisation of the Irish Volunteers.

A pass in Examination A will qualify an Irish Volunteer for the rank of Section Commander, and for admission to Examination B.

A pass in examination B will qualify an Irish Volunteer for the rank of Half-Company or Company Officer.

Volunteers who do not seek qualification for these ranks will be permitted to take the Examination in one or more of the special subjects, VIII., IX., and X.

It will be understood that these are to be qualifying examinations, not competitive. They will be in the main oral and practical, though candidates will be required to show proficiency in the writing of reports and orders, and may have to write solutions of simple tactical problems.

SYLLABUS.

I.—INFANTRY DRILL AND TACTICS.

(a) FOR SECTION COMMANDERS.

PRACTICE.

Squad, Section, and Company Drill in close and open order. Section Commanders must be able to train and handle a Section and a Company in close and open order drill, with and without arms, in musketry exercises, fire control, etc.

THEORY.

Duties of Squad and Section Commanders in time of war. Control of Squads and Sections forming part of attacking and defending forces. Control of Squads and Sections acting alone. How to advance over open country. How to advance over close or broken country. How

to advance under fire. When and how to take advantage of cover. When cover should not be taken. How to surmount obstacles, cross barbed wire, rivers, etc., without assistance from engineers. Fire control—passing of signals and commands; issuing and carrying out orders for sighting, elevation, and deflection; ensuring correct adjustment of sights; regulating the volume of fire; collecting and re-distributing ammunition of casualties; responsibility for replenishment of ammunition supplies in the firing line.

(b) FOR HALF-COMPANY AND COMPANY OFFICERS.

In addition to being able to train the Section Commanders in the foregoing Syllabus,—

PRACTICE.

All close and open order drill up to and including Battalion drill. Field Manœuvres, including simple tactics. Infantry in attack and defence, division of force, choice of position, etc. Protection on the march—Advanced guards, rear guards, flank guards. Protection when at rest—Outposts, day and night. The telling off and posting of guard and outposts. The selection of ground for outposts, etc.

THEORY.

Fire control—When to open and cease fire in attack and defence. Circumstances governing the volume of fire. Objects of rapid fire and when it should be used. Methods of indicating targets. Methods of ascertaining and keeping enemy's range.

Infantry in attack and in defence—Division of forces (firing line, supports, local and general reserves). Reasons for such division and special duties of the several bodies. Control of these bodies in action. General methods of advancing in attack.

Communications. Ammunition supply, how maintained. Special duties of Company and Half-Company Commanders in addition to superintending their commands when the Company is acting as part of a larger force. Observation and reporting of signals and movements of the enemy's forces. Writing of correct reports and orders. Maintenance of communications with all other units and with the base. Observing and supporting movements of other units and reporting intended movements. Systems and methods of ensuring co-operation of all

units. Maintenance of ammunition supply. Advancing through hostile country. The Company as advanced or rear guard. Outpost Duty. General rules as to strength of sentries, piquets, supports, etc., by day and night in relation to force to be protected, nature of country, proximity of enemy, etc. Choice of position for outposts. Preparation of ground. Instructions to sentries. Use of signs and pass-words. Conduct of sentries, piquets, supports, and reserves when attacked.

II.—MUSKETRY.

1. Parts of the Rifle.
2. Care of the Rifle.
3. Use of the Rifle—Loading—Sighting—Aiming—Firing Positions—Running to firing positions.
4. Visual Training—Judging distances.

III.—BAYONET AND PIKE FIGHTING.

1. Guard, points, and parries.
2. Advancing and retiring.
3. Single combat and fighting in squads.
4. Assault and defence.
5. Close-quarter fighting—shortening arms—use of rifle-butt—tripping.
6. Substitutes for rifle when practising (dummy rifle, pole, hurley, etc.). Use of spring bayonet. Wall-pad.
7. Special pike exercises.

IV.—PHYSICAL TRAINING.

1. Setting-up exercises—wrists, arms, legs, trunk, neck, shoulder. Hand-grips. Breathing exercises.
2. General exercises—arms, leg, trunk, shoulders. Balancing. Route marches by day and night. Doubling. Marking time at the double (a hundred up).
3. Combined and correcting exercises.
4. Gymnastics. Use of improvised apparatus (rifles, tables, chairs, etc.).
5. Athletics—running, jumping, boxing, wrestling, etc.

V.—SCOUTING.

1. Cycle drill.
2. Map reading—map drawing—sketching. (Use of camera also strongly recommended.)
3. Signalling.
4. Reports—Despatch-riding.
5. Reconnaissances—Patrols—Estimation of strength of enemy.
6. Use of scouts in covering march, attack, defence, and outposts.
7. Field Engineering. Demolitions with and without explosives.
8. Special Scout-craft. How to find way by day and night—Use of compass, stars, etc.—Tracking—Keeping fit—Cooking, etc.—How to assist wounded

comrade—Surmounting obstacles (including swimming of rivers, etc.)—Spying—Horse-mastership.

VI.—ENTRENCHMENTS AND BARRICADES.

1. Natural ground features in relation to skirmishing.
2. Conversion of these into good fire cover.
3. Various forms and means of entrenchment while under fire.
4. All forms and systems of deliberate entrenchment (those works undertaken while not in presence of the enemy), including all means of obstruction, barbed-wire entanglements, alarm signals.
5. Street barricades, and the use of buildings in defence.
6. Technical terms in connection with entrenchment. Tools used.

VII.—(a) CAMPS AND BIVOUACS.

1. Choice of site.
2. Preparation of site. Tent-pitching, etc.
3. Field Cookery, making of field-ovens, etc.
4. Water supply.
5. Sanitation—Personal hygiene, care of feet, teeth, etc.; latrines and urinals; disposal of refuse.
6. Protection—Alarm posts; outposts and piquets.
7. Distribution of troops.
8. Duties of officers in camp.

VII.—(b) TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY.

Care and feeding of animals—Packing—Loading of pack animals—General work and duties of Transport and Supply Section in Company—Its position on march and in action.

VIII.—(a) FIRST-AID.

1. Elementary Anatomy and Physiology.
2. Structure of the human body and nervous and muscular systems.
3. Haemorrhage and vascular system.
4. Asphyxia in relation to respiratory system. Unconscious conditions.
5. Artificial respiration, etc.
6. Digestive system.
7. Poisons and their treatment.
8. General instruction on wounds, burns, scalds, foreign bodies in the eye, etc.
9. Methods of transport by hand seats.

VIII.—(b) AMBULANCE.

1. Stretcher exercises.
2. Improvised stretchers.
3. Ambulance waggon.
4. Exercises with general service

waggons or country carts—Carriage by horses.

5. Methods of carrying stretchers over obstacles.
6. Tents and shelters.
7. Preparing beds and bedding for reception of the wounded and sick.
8. Sanitation.
9. Transport by rail.

IX.—MILITARY ENGINEERING.

1. Conventional mapping signs.
 2. Mapping scales, ordinary or improvised.
 3. Special study of contour mapping.
 4. Field geometry and field level.
 5. The elements of Surveying.
 6. Working parties and execution of work.
 7. Tools and materials.
 8. Cordage and use of spars.
 9. Mechanical contrivances.
 10. Boring and levelling.
 11. Tracing and profiling.
 12. Revetments and allied work.
 13. Demolitions.
 14. Glossary of Technical terms.
1. Electric and other power supplies.
 2. Special works—Roads; cuttings; earthworks; drainage; embankments; sanitation; waterworks; canals; bridges.

X.—WORK OF ARMOURERS.

1. Rifles and carbines.
 2. Pistols and revolvers.
 3. Bayonets and pikes.
 4. Bicycles.
1. Motor-cycles and motor-cars.
 2. Machine-guns.

TEXTS.

An early issue of the IRISH VOLUNTEER will contain a list of books suitable for study by Irish Volunteers. All Officers who can buy it, will find in Lieutenant-Colonel Kinsman's "Tactical Notes, 1914" (published by Messrs. Ponsonby, Ltd., Grafton Street, Dublin, at 5/- net), most valuable information and instruction on most details of this work.

Pending the publication by Headquarters of notes and handbooks of instruction, Volunteers must still be referred to the British War Office **Manual of Infantry Training, 1911.**

The foregoing Programme of Military Training and Syllabus for Examination have been duly adopted by Headquarters. The Programme comes into force as from this date.

THOMAS MACDONAGH,
Director of Training.

Headquarters,
41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 13th January, 1915.

IRISH BATTLES.

V.—THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM.

At the end of June, 1691 Athlone fell to Ginkel's army and St. Ruth fell back across the Suck towards Ballinasloe, thus covering his communications with both Galway and Limerick, by one or other of which supplies and reinforcements from France must necessarily come. Opinion was divided as to what was the best course to pursue against the English: a number of officers were for blockading Ginkel in Athlone, which was possible from the nature of the country immediately to the west of the town. Such a course might have been advantageous in the winter but scarcely in summer. Another alternative was to cross the Shannon near Banagher and cut off Ginkel near Dublin. This would be a very bold move, indeed, and if it could be made would probably succeed; but it is very unlikely that St. Ruth had at his disposal the necessary transport facilities for such a manoeuvre. St. Ruth himself was desirous of overwhelming Ginkel by a great victory in a pitched battle, and thought his course justified by the conditions. His forces were about equal to Ginkel's numerically, and were fairly well equipped in the main: the year's hard campaigning since the Boyne had made excellent soldiers of those who were then raw: their spirit was good: and finally there was nothing in Ginkel's military record to indicate that in fairly equal circumstances he was anything like as good a tactician as the French General.

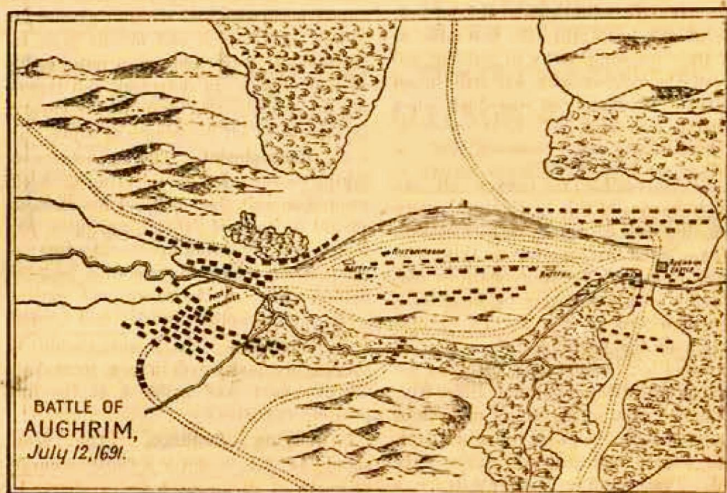
THE GROUND AND CONTENTING FORCES.

St. Ruth had reconnoitred an admirable position about four miles south-west of Ballinasloe, where Ginkel had no choice but to fight him unless he was prepared to forego all idea of conquering Connacht, and here he decided to give battle, and drew up his army accordingly.

The Irish line ran for almost two miles along the slope of Kilcommodan Hill, an eminence about 400 feet high and sloping easily towards a boggy valley through which, in a marshy bed, flowed a small stream. It was imperative for the Williamite army to pass this obstacle, and it was passable for cavalry and guns only at two points, one on each flank. In the centre small parties of infantry could cross the bog over dry patches of land. The two points of passage on the flanks were the Pass of Aughrim on the left and the Pass of Urrachree on the right. The first of these was commanded by Aughrim Castle, occupied by Col. Burke with a regiment of infantry and two guns, another detachment of infantry and some cavalry being held under cover in rear to support them. Urrachree was weaker, and here St. Ruth expected the

main attack: he defended this point with four guns and a large section of his troops, extending his line to the right to avoid being taken in flank. Two small parties were thrown across the stream to force the English to deploy prematurely on their own side of the stream. The slope of Kilcommodan Hill down to the edge of the bog was a network of high thick fences and hedges, giving excellent cover for skirmishers. Through these fences St. Ruth had cut broad lanes to facilitate the movement of troops from point to point. Finally, a battery of three guns swept the bog in front and flanked the Pass of Aughrim. Sarsfield,

the latter, prolonging the line on their own side of the river, prevented this, and the two bodies maintained a brisk exchange of fire across the stream. The Huguenot regiments were assigned the task of forcing the Pass of Urrachree and pressed forward steadily, the Irish defenders holding the ground with great resolution until the assailants advanced and actually thrust their muskets in through the hedges, whereupon they fell back in good order, forming behind each successive line of hedges to deliver their fire. At length the Huguenots were caught by a fresh fire in flank, charged by a regiment of cavalry and forced back to the bog. The Irish infantry resumed their original station. The fighting in this quarter continued with great stubbornness, and Ginkel had to call up



with the cavalry reserve, was posted on the left rear of the hill. The numbers were about equal, 20,000 men on each side. The quality of both troops and officers was in the main excellent in both armies.

THE BATTLE.

On July 11th Ginkel took post on the hills on the opposite side of the bog after a few affairs of outposts. On the 12th a fog hung over the field until noon. When the fog lifted Ginkel reconnoitred the Irish position and sent a detachment to drive the advanced parties on St. Ruth's right to their own side of the river. A smart skirmish was the result and the Irish succeeded in holding their own. Ginkel then held a council of war, whereat it was determined to attack, and the battle proper began about five o'clock in the afternoon. Ginkel in person directed the attack on Urrachree, Mackay that on Aughrim, the Duke of Wurtemberg commanding a thin screen in the centre to be used when the flank attacks had progressed.

Ginkel extended his Danish regiments to the left to threaten the Irish right, but

troops from his left to maintain the contest. St. Ruth also reinforced his own troops and the assailants were kept well in hand.

On the other flank Mackay delivered his attack in two divisions, one along the causeway passing by the Castle of Aughrim, and the other across the bog on the left of the former and consequently more towards the centre of the line. This last body numbering about 3,000 men, pushed across up to their waists in mud and began a fight exactly similar to that carried on by the Huguenots on the left. And with the same result: the Irish fell back, firing from hedge to hedge, and then the local reserves checked them, and they were charged by cavalry and driven back in disorder. Nor did the column at Aughrim fare any better, being driven off repeatedly without being able to come to close quarters.

But in the immediate neighbourhood of the castle, to the left—Mackay's left—of the Pass of Aughrim two regiments succeeded in effecting a lodgment and maintained an obstinate contest. Mackay prepared to lead his cavalry to improve

this slight advantage and began crossing with them. Eventually the two troublesome regiments were forced back by the Irish horse, but the time had been valuable. However, St. Ruth had the battle well in hand along the entire front, and resolved to meet this new move with the reserve cavalry. He called up half of it and prepared to lead it himself, Sarsfield being ordered to stay where he was posted with the rest. But as the French General cantered forward a stray cannon-shot took off his head, and the charge—and with it resistance on the left—collapsed. Mackay hurried forward horse and foot, masked Aughrim Castle, and rolled up the troops opposing Ginkel from left to right. There were a few stray cavalry encounters and then the Irish infantry broke. The first warning Sarsfield had was the sight of the broken regiments streaming down the reverse slope of the hill. He was just able to gain time for some units to re-form and covered the retreat with his still intact cavalry. Fortunately it was dusk when the battle was over.

COMMENTS.

It is impossible to convey all the military lessons of this battle in the space at our disposal. No other Irish battle is worthy of such careful study as this. The tactical skill and fighting qualities displayed on both sides were of an exceedingly high order. St. Ruth's careful selection of his position, preparation of the ground for defence, and posting of his forces, were without fault. Similarly, the English plan of a turning movement supported by an attack on the other flank at the proper moment, was thoroughly sound. The use of hedges for defence is well worthy of notice, and also the device of hurdles for crossing marshy ground, of which some of Mackay's infantry availed themselves. Also Mackay's resolution to disregard the castle, press on and attack the enemy beyond it was the act of a soldier with real judgment. As a matter of fact, Burke was short of bullets in the castle. It is noteworthy how little Ginkel's superior artillery assisted the attack: the artillery of those days could not be manoeuvred in support of infantry. The posting of Sarsfield where he was and the nature of the orders given him were almost a direct insult: he was in no position to be of any use in a crisis. The fighting was very bloody, the English losing some 2,000 men and the Irish fully twice that number.

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CYCLIST TRAINING

SCOUTING.

The following are the subjects in which Scouts should receive special instruction. These subjects should be included in the training of all cyclists:—

1. **Ability to Find the Way.**—The scout should know all his own district thoroughly. He should cultivate the habit of observation of roads, features of the landscape, direction of march, etc. He should be able to find his way in a strange country by an ordinary map or rough diagram, by land marks, by questioning natives of the country.

2. **Use of Eye and Ear.** He should be practised in observing the same distant object both with and without glasses; in noting small signs and details both far away and underfoot; in interpreting various sounds; in detecting and reporting ambuscades and posts of the enemy; in the use of all his senses at night.

3. **Concealment.** The importance of taking cover and of selecting a background to suit the colour of his clothing should be pointed out; of remaining perfectly still; of avoiding the sky-line; of the use of trees; of selecting look-out points when on the move and getting from one to another quickly and unseen.

4. **Reporting.** The scout should be thoroughly instructed in how to make a useful report—and make it at the first possible opportunity.

5. **Judging Distance.** The scout should be able to form a fairly accurate estimate of distances long or short, by day or night, and by the eye or by time.

As a rule scouts should be exercised in working against detachments of troops and not against other scouts. The former is more like war conditions. Scouting is learnt by intelligent and constant practice, and by hearing or reading the experiences of other scouts. Scouts and dispatch riders should constantly study their maps, in order to know always their exact position, and be able to sum up the chances of concealment or observation offered by any particular road.

Every scout should be occasionally sent out on patrol for distances of 50 miles or more to develop his power of finding his way, his intelligence and self-reliance. As a rule trained scouts work in pairs, but young soldiers should be sent out alone with definite missions to give them confidence.

TACTICAL PROBLEMS.

II.

Solutions should reach the Editor on or before Monday, 1st February. They should be written on one side of paper only, and name, address, and unit of sender should be enclosed.

GENERAL IDEA.

A Red force has succeeded in landing in Galway Bay and has advanced towards Ballinasloe on its march to Dublin. The commander ascertains that the line of the middle Shannon is too strongly held to warrant the attempt to force a passage, and turns south to turn the defenders' line by crossing below Lough Derg. The only blue forces immediately available in this quarter are the Volunteers from Clare, Limerick, Kerry, and Cork. Outline the measures to be taken by these several detachments to secure the line of the river, and gain time for reinforcements to arrive? Blue's measures will be substantially the same whatever the strength of Red's force.

NATIONAL FESTIVAL CEILIDH.

We wish to draw the attention of Volunteers to a Ceilidh Mhor which is being organised by the Dublin District Council of Na Fianna Eireann, to celebrate the National Festival.

The Ceilidh, which will be held on the 20th March in the Banba Hall, Parnell Square, is being organised on a larger scale than in previous years. As all arrangements are in the hands of Capt. Eamonn Martin, "A" Company, those who enjoy Irish dancing, singing, and music will spend a most enjoyable night.

Tickets can be obtained from Headquarters, Irish Volunteers, Kildare St., or from any of the Officers of Na Fianna Eireann. The prices are 4/- Double; 2/6 Single.

"Oglaigh!" "Ar seath a cheile, 'seadh mairid na daoine."

"C" COMPANY, 1st BATTALION, DUBLIN.

A meeting of the above Company was held at 41 Parnell Square on the 14th inst. Capt. Weafer, Company "E," 2nd Batt., attended on behalf of the City and County Board.

The following were unanimously elected:—Capt., T. F. Dolan; 1st Lieut., F. Fahy; 2nd Lieut., James Brady.

Capt. Weafer congratulated the Company on the selection of officers, who would, he felt confident, devote their best efforts towards the efficiency and success of the Company.

The newly-elected officers responded in suitable terms.

AN TÓDAR NAOMHA.
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mo tuidrim féin.

A rgeat féin rgeat sae éinne, agus rgeat Uí Rácgaille an t-ainsear. Ní hé go bfuil uil pan airsear aige. Níl. Do b'fearr le hua Rácgaille, i gcomhaire deit as cadair uair iona deit as bailuagad cuige ircead. Ir é acá as baint cobalta na horóde de fá lácair gunnaí do deit le pagail aise agus fan glaoad oíca as oíglad. Mar a duhpar, tá reactmáin o foin ann, ir féiríu gunnaí do ceannac anoir act an t-ainsear do cur fíor foin-pé. Doon burdean oíglac a bfuil leat-céat púnt nó fice púnt nó deit bfuil féin i uairse acá, tairmáiríu ar an rcead an cruim aiseir fin agus reolairíu cum Uí Rácgaille i. Cuipfear luac an aiseir do gunnaí cap n-air cuca san pó-moill.

Anoir an t-am. Ní hé lá na saorle Lá na rgeat. Muna b'fearr na gunnaí anoir béimio san gunnaí lá an comraic. Ir fearr go mall iona go pó-mall. Ir mall an cornuagad aiseir é act do b'féiríu le Dia na b'fearr nac bfuil pé pó-mall fóp.

Tá ina cósad b'fearr as fú na h'éorpa inuio. Tá na cósad do miltíu i uairsear aise na goat. Níor féiríu an buaball i néimíu go fóill. Act ad b'fíor uáinn nac i geionn bliadna nó leat-bliadna do féiríu é? Ir maing rinn má bímio san agmaid an lá fin. Má bímio, ir oíceinn féin b'fear a miltéan. Ir fíor go bfuil a react noileit ná noéanac as Sallair cum aise do cósar oíceinn. Ir fíor go bfuil a Lá na Saebealair meacta as cuiríuagad leo pan iapraic fin. Ir cuma fin. Níor féiríu ar fear an miltíu uáinn. Ir féiríu oíceinn. Níl as teipead oíceinn anoir féin. Tá as éinge linn. Tuilead miltíu, tuilead fíorair, tuilead fíorair fin a bfuil uáinn. Oibpíur linn agus ar noécar ar Dia.

Tá an rgeat dona go leor as Saebealair anoir. A b'fearr ceannuagad do ceannuagad, agus nígbeagán uil as fearair amac pan mbeapmáin baogail. Act deit an air-éinge ann, mar a duhpar an pite trát. Ní head, act ad an air-éinge ann ceana féin. Cuiríu é fin go beact. Cuiríu go bfuil cornuagad ar fíorair Saebeal. Tá cur agáinn agus muna bfuilmíu paon ceana tá fír ar fíorair agáinn, i aiseir agus rinn as uil ina uairse. Dait Dé ar an oíceinn!

páorac mac díarais.

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As the Treasurer is making out a statement of amount lodged to the credit of each Company, any Treasurer who has not received full receipts should send particulars at once to Proinsias O Fathaigh, B.A., at 41 Kildare Street.

Saturday Battalion drill at Larkfield and Fairview were resumed on Saturday, 16th inst. An important scheme of work has been drafted and it is essential that all Volunteers should attend punctually at 3 p.m. in future.

Newly elected Delegates will please note that the County Board meets at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

T. SLATER, Hon. Sec.

Halt at KELLY'S

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DE WET'S

Motto was—Never let the grass grow under your feet, keep moving.
VOLUNTEERS'
Motto should be—Never let your whiskers grow, keep moving them with a good razor.

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My remarks of last week have called forth an indignant letter from a lieutenant in the Dublin Battalion. I will not do my gallant friend the injustice of publishing his medieval epistle. In the most chivalrous fashion (à la Don Quixote) he takes down his lance from its rest, and with a "Defend yourself, Churl," he rushes full tilt upon me. I will just give you the last and most polite paragraph of his letter precisely as it is written:

"Permit me, kid of big words and little sense, to quote you our manifesto published last year: 'The Fianna will constitute what the old Irish call the Macradh, or boy troop, of the Volunteers, and will correspond to what is called in France an Ecole Polytechnique or Military School.'" Now what I want to know is, what has this to do with my remarks of last week? Perhaps some enlightened scout will be able to give me an inkling. The military mind is a problem, indeed.

At the last Ard-Fheis it was an instruction to the Central Council to arrange this year a Summer Training Camp near Dublin. It was agreed that this would be of great assistance to the country officers and would strengthen the bond of comradeship through the whole organisation. I think it is not a bit too soon to urge the Central Council to get busy on the scheme. In the first place they should find out the month most convenient to the greatest number, and also publish as early as possible the cost of the camp per week for each boy attending. Every facility to attend should be given to boys of the right stamp from

sluaghite outside Dublin. If we succeed in attracting fifty boys from the country sluaghite and give them a solid month's training it will be worth a dozen organisers on the road. I would just like to say one word regarding the site of the camp. If possible secure a site near the sea; if not, the camp must be situated near a good river or lake. A swim in the morning adds one hundred per cent. to the enjoyment of a camp.

I am informed that there is a move on to form the older groups in the Fianna into cyclist patrols. They are to undertake more advanced reconnoitring work and must be all expert in the Morse code.

The Cadet Classes have been very poorly attended since Christmas. Attendance at the rifle range was also very poor. Re-unions, ceildhthe, etc., may account for but do not justify this aberration.

The first issue of "Fianna," the new monthly paper, will make its appearance on the 1st February. It will contain the first chapter of a new serial story written specially for "Fianna" by Mr. P. H. Pearse, Headmaster of St. Enda's College. Articles, stories, poems, reports from sluaghite, and notes on current affairs will form the main features of the new paper.

I close my remarks this week with a word of advice to the poets and patriots who have nothing better to do except write verse. I have no objection to the

usual run of verse, but I must protest when the burthen of a page and a half of verse happens to be the colour of a fellow's hair.

WILLIE NELSON.

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