

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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Price One Penny.

NOTES

There has been a recent minatory visit of the police to the printing office of this paper and similar visits to a number of newsagents in regard to the sale of the paper. The police are, of course, acting under the orders of the civil government. Can anything be more contemptible? Is this Mr. Birrell's reply to my charge that the Government, including Mr. Birrell, have been maintained in office for years by the Irish electors on the faith of an understanding which has been publicly violated? Or is it his reply to my question what profit or advantage can Ireland possibly expect, under the established system of Imperial exploitation, from the enormous charges which a war expenditure for the protection of English trade interests will entail upon Ireland, and what set-off can Ireland expect against the strangling of land purchase and town purchase, the diminution of employment, the great increase of that grand Imperial burden, the Poor Rate, the withholding of improvement loans, the aggravation of poverty in town and country, the check on all industrial effort, the postponement of all development?

I have not asked Mr. Birrell for a reply. In my view, the only thing we need from British Ministers and British politicians is that they shall cease to interfere with this country—the only serious evils from which this country suffers are the results of their interference, past, present, and threatened. As a nation, we are entitled to ask ourselves publicly what advantages or disadvantages we are likely to have from any course of public policy, and to answer to ourselves publicly. It is to my fellow-Irishmen I put these questions, and they will continue to be put whether Mr. Birrell sends the police to interfere or does not.

It is no answer to such questions to

say that Imperial interests are paramount. Ireland is not called upon to justify her relations to the British Empire. She has not forced herself on the Empire. The Empire is bound in every respect to justify its relations to Ireland. If Imperial policy does not benefit Ireland, but continues to impoverish, weaken and degrade us as in the past, then we shall know where we stand and what our duty is.

I have already said that when I want a model for sedition and threats of rebellion, I know where to find it. I shall find it in the utterances and the actions of the Unionist Party and of certain lights of the British army and navy. It is not at all strange to me that these models of sedition and revolt can behave with impunity, even to this hour and in this Imperial crisis, while the majesty of Empire manifests itself to humble printers and newsagents. It seems a cowardly and contemptible line of policy, but that is exactly what all previous experience leads us to expect from the British Superstatesman.

If such things were done by military authority, they would be less remarkable, for nobody expects wise or intelligent action of military men when they get their way in civil affairs. What we have to note is that such are the methods of civil government, and of Home Rule Liberal civil government in Ireland, the year after the Home Rule year.

It did not surprise me to learn that Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, a gentleman with influential Unionist connections, was required a few days ago to give up his home in Kerry and to betake himself with his wife and children wherever he could find a new home, provided that he did not live too near any place of military importance. So far as I can ascertain, Mr. Fitzgerald's obnoxiousness, as in the case of other persons similarly penalised, consists entirely in the fact

that he has consistently worked with the Irish Volunteers. His wife and children are obnoxious because they are the wife and children of a man who has been locally prominent in the Irish Volunteers. I tremble to think that in mentioning these matters I may be unwittingly guilty of revealing a military measure of the highest importance without having received proper authorisation.

Miss Brigid Ni Fhogartaigh, of Castlebar, who has this week joined the French Sisters of Charity, has, as her last act in secular life, forwarded to me the sum of £2 2s. 7½d., the surplus of a fund for the purchase of arms for the Irish Volunteers of Castlebar, and has requested me to make public the fact, so that certain "official Nationalists" may not be in a position to suggest that the lady had kept the money. I trust that in a life devoted henceforth exclusively to the service of God she will earn a reward for the same simple fidelity that in this world she has given to the service of her country and nation. There are women and men in Ireland, not few but many, not too few but enough to save the nation, who know that their cause is right and just, and whom neither threats nor penalties nor malignity, nor the vacillations of wealth and place and power, nor the wanderings of once-trusted guides from the path, can confound or lead astray. Beannacht De leat, a dheirfiur, agus biodh cobhair do ghuidhe linn anois is go bráth na breithe.

Navan is a decaying town in the heart of Royal Meath, in the most fertile valley in Europe, a valley with so rich a soil that some of the big prairie men who inhabit it have been forced, in order to justify the manner of their occupation, to take refuge in a complaint never before spoken of any soil on God's earth, never dreamt of among any people but a people stifled in the embrace of empire. I myself have heard a denizen of the valley declare in all seriousness that the land is too rich for tillage.

NOTES.

The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland is one of the most valuable records of the history of Ireland under Imperial government. It was published in 1845, the year in which imperial government began to gather in the crop that it had been sowing and tending since Ireland became by the Act of Union an Imperial province. "Navan," says this authority, "in consequence of the opening of the Boyne navigation hence to Drogheda, has become a place of considerable trade and may be considered as in a **steadily prosperous condition**. Its advantageous situation, in the centre of a **great and rich agricultural county**, commands for it a **very extensive trade in farm produce**; and its abundant supply of fresh water and profusion of available water power cause it to figure largely in the flour trade. Among the mills and manufactures either in the town itself or in its immediate vicinity, are five corn mills, two paper mills, two distilleries, one tannery, and various appliances for brewing, for spinning, for frieze-making, and for casking manufacture."

It may here be observed that the special artificial source of Navan's former prosperity, the canalisation of the Boyne, was the work of the Irish Parliament, in the generation before the Union. That Parliament was perhaps the most corrupt and unrepresentative Legislature that ever bore the name of Parliament, yet it did wonders for Irish prosperity and for the development of Irish resources, so that nearly half a century of pure representative Imperial government was required to exhaust the momentum created by a vicious domestic government and to set Ireland definitely moving on the down grade. In 1834, the Lower Boyne Navigation passed under the control of that grand Imperial institution, the Board of Public Works, and the later history of the enterprise may be summed up in what a man once said about his garden: "God trusted it to me and I trusted it to God, and between the pair of us it went to the Devil."

"A vidimus of the manufactures of the county in 1802," just after the Union, "shows that, at that time, from 200 to 300 looms were employed in weaving sackcloth in the town of Navan, that a number of looms were employed upon the same fabric in other parts of the county, —that Dowlas and three-quarters wide coarse linens were manufactured for exportation, principally in the baronies of Slane and Duleek,—that linen of a finer texture was made in the baronies of Demefore and Lower Kells and sold in

the market of Oldcastle,—that some coarse friezes for home consumption were made in the baronies of Dunboyne and Ratoath,—that whiskey was distilled in large quantities at Navan,—that both writing paper and coarse kinds of paper were made at Navan,—that a cotton mill was in the course of erection on the Boyne below Navan,—that an extensive bleachgreen existed on the Nanny water,—that the straw hat manufacture was extensively carried on in the town and neighbourhood of Dunboyne and at Galtrim in the barony of Deece,—that coarse pottery was manufactured at Knock in the barony of Morgallion,—that large quantities of nails were made near Garristown,—and that tanyards existed in almost every town of the county."

Navan was for centuries a corporate town. Its corporation fell into the hands of the local landlords and was extinguished, not reformed, after the Union. In 1833, the burgesses numbered nine men, of whom "three were brothers of Lord Tara and two were Lord Ludlow and his land-agent, while only one was resident within the borough." "Navan sent two members to the Irish Parliament from the second year of Elizabeth till the Legislative Union; but Lords Tara and Ludlow practically possessed all its franchise, and they received in equal portions the whole of the £15,000" described as "compensation for disfranchisement" under the Act of Union, really a share of the immense sum which Ireland was compelled to pay for the sale of her own franchise to the Imperial Parliament.

Perhaps the final stage in the Imperial exploitation of the richest valley in Europe was the transfer, quite recently, of the Drogheda Steamship Company from Irish to English proprietors.

The population of Meath in—

1792	was	69,000.
1821	"	128,042.
1831	"	136,872.
1841	"	183,828.
1851	"	140,750.
1861	"	110,373.
1871	"	95,558.
1881	"	87,469.
1892	"	76,987.
1901	"	67,497.

This is a fine record for Imperialism in the most fertile county in the "United Kingdom," a county whose 579,899 acres comprise only 16,033 acres of waste land.

Some months ago, the rural labourers of Meath approached one of the county members of the Imperial Parliament with a plaint that their weekly wages ought to be raised from ten shillings to twelve

shillings. Royal Meath asks the Imperial Parliament to enable her men to exist and support families on twelve shillings a week.

I mention these facts merely because they appear to have been overlooked in the proceedings of a meeting held recently in the town of Navan under the auspices of the Imperialists of Meath, and addressed by a member and an ex-member of the Imperial Parliament. The Chairman of the Meath County Council also participated. Perhaps, in his responsible position, he will be able to figure out how much Meath must contribute to the present special Imperial expenditure of £45,000,000 per month, and what dividend Meath can expect from the investment.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR VOLUNTEERS.

In view of repeated inquiries, the Kevin Branch of the Gaelic League has made arrangements for Language Classes for Volunteers.

The Classes will take place on Mondays and Thursdays in the Branch Premises, 6 Harcourt Street. Volunteers who wish to join should present themselves at this address any Thursday from 7 o'clock onwards.

Although Classes are to be arranged for all grades, the course is specially designed for the benefit of beginners.

The Classes will be conducted as far as possible according to the Rev. Fr. Toale's method, and will be directed by Aghuistin O hAodha (Co. C, 3rd).

The fee for the course will be 2/6 to the end of the Branch Session.

Communications respecting the above should be addressed—

LIAM O BRIAIN (Co. D, 4th).

c/o Craobh Chaoimhghin,

Sraid Fhearcair a 6.

"G" COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION.

The members of this Company now meet in the Hurling Hall, Botanic Road, corner of Botanic Avenue, every Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock. A Drill Instructor attends each meeting. The rifle range is being fully availed of by the members, and a marked improvement in sighting has resulted since its introduction. The position of the Hall should prove a boon to the men of the Glasnevin district; its central position should also insure a large accession to the ranks of the Irish Volunteers. A Drawing will be held on the 6th April next for a fine Oil Painting by Smith, the gift of a friend. The tickets are Threepence each. The proceeds will be devoted to the purchase of rifles for the Company.

THE WAR

In the western theatre the Germans have been mainly on the offensive during the past week. It is possible that some of their new formations of troops are by now sufficiently trained to be employed on the lines of communication, thus setting free a number of troops of good quality who were hitherto employed in that service. In the northern end of the general battle line—the Allied left and German right—there has not been any very marked activity. In this region the operations have been largely confined to artillery duels, and even these are heavy only at certain points.

Towards the centre of the line the fighting has been more serious. Soissons which being south of the Aisne is still in the hands of the French—has been heavily bombarded, as has Berry-au-Bac. The design of the Germans is evidently to try and expel the French artillery from the Craonne plateau and work down towards Rheims. Marked success in this direction would result in the splitting in two of the Allied line, and that, too, at a point where the lie of the roads and railways favours a further German advance, and is not so suitable for a junction of the French forces. Combined with these movements are the German attacks north-east of Rheims, where the French some time made fair progress, which seems now to be checked.

Very stubborn fighting has been going on in the Argonne, north-west of Verdun, for several days past, and the result still hangs in the balance. The Germans have gained some ground but nothing of a very definite character. They are still holding firmly to their bridge-head across the Meuse at St. Mihiel, and if circumstances should ever favour them sufficiently in this region to enable them to isolate Verdun they would probably capture that great fortress and make a huge break in the French defences. Hitherto Verdun is the only fortress that has withstood the Germans—and for these reasons: Firstly, the surrounding country is nothing like so well provided with roads as Belgium, being rough and wooded to a great extent. Consequently the great siege trains can only be moved when the assailant enjoys complete possession of the country. But the French field armies are at present in possession and until these are defeated and driven off the fortress proper is safe. At Verdun, in short, we see fortress and field army mutually assisting each other. At Antwerp we saw a fortress without the support of a field army crumble to pieces. Probably if Verdun were isolated and bombarded it would fall as easily as Antwerp; Verdun is scarcely stronger

than Antwerp—it is merely employed on a sounder plan.

South of Metz the Germans have succeeded in re-taking a share of the ground they had lost earlier in the month, and around Thann in the Vosges they are putting up a firm resistance. On the whole, the French have had the better of affairs on this southern flank. Still, there is no question of even threatening Metz and Strassburg and the real military defence of Germany supports its left flank on these two fortresses.

In the Russian field of operations the new Russian offensive on the right bank of the Vistula is not likely to be a very serious threat upon Field-Marshal von Hindenburg. The aim is to cross the Vistula and turn his left, but the numbers of the Russian turning army do not seem to be adequate for this purpose. They are, indeed, forcing back the German troops on this eastern bank, but in such a way as to indicate only a slight superiority to them. The Germans on the western bank have strongly fortified Dobrzyn, ten miles above Vlodavak, where there were good facilities for crossing. Vlodavak is also strongly held, so that the German Field-Marshal's line of railway to Thorn is not at present in any serious danger. In the centre of the line from Skierniewice by Rawa and on along the Nida and Donajec, operations are largely at a standstill. In the Carpathians the heavy falls of snow have prevented all movement. The Russian offensive in Bukovina appears to be checked. In this region the Austrian Commander Lodman has collected an army of considerable strength, and indications are that he is about to pass to the offensive at any moment.

In South Africa the operations have been begun against German territory, but so far there has been no serious fighting.

It is very probable that serious operations against Egypt will soon begin. The Turkish advanced-guard, consisting of a strong body of Turkish troops and a great number of Arab irregulars, is reported thirty miles east of the Suez Canal. Great numbers of troops are in El Arish and the Turkish army is said to consist of the 4th, 6th, and 8th Army Corps, the Commanding General being Djemal Pasha. There has been considerably more than the average amount of rain in the Sinai peninsula, so that the Turks will be much better off than was expected in the matter of water, which it was thought would prove a serious difficulty.

There has been serious fighting in the Caucasus, but up to the present the Russians appear to have derived no really decisive result from their victory at Sary-Kamish. The probability is that the advance of the Turks to Tahriz and beyond has compelled them to divert considerable numbers. In addition the Turks have by now been reinforced, and are

probably in a position to maintain themselves in what Russian territory they hold.

The past week has furnished a considerable share of interest on the naval side. The French submarine "Saphir" was sunk by the coast batteries while attempting to penetrate the Dardanelles. The sinking of the "Messudieh" has probably brought about increased vigilance in the Turkish coast garrisons, and, anyhow, the experiences of the war up to the present prove that submarines are practically ineffective against strongly-defended harbours. A much more significant incident was the sinking of the British merchant steamer "Durward" by a German submarine in the North Sea. This is probably the beginning of the submarine war on English shipping projected by Admiral von Tirpitz. It is stated that an entire submarine and destroyer flotilla has left Heligoland, probably with that purpose. In addition, it is very likely that these small craft will carry out organised attacks on the British transports carrying the reinforcements across the Channel, which the Germans will naturally expect to arrive early in spring. In this connection it is interesting to note that the first super-submarine is said to have concluded successful trials in Heligoland Bight. This vessel is said to carry supplies for a couple of months and to be thus capable of cruising on the high seas.

The German air raid on the 19th in the Yarmouth district was probably in the nature of an experiment. It is noteworthy as the first occasion on which Zeppelins were employed, at least one of these craft having been testified to in England, and three having been seen off Holland. The raiders sailed over a considerable section of the coast from Yarmouth round to King's Lynn, dropping bombs in all the towns en route. The cruise lasted nearly three hours, but the actual damage inflicted was small. Whether the rumour of another raid on the 22nd is authentic or not, it is probable that from now on the German air-fleet will become active when favourable weather conditions offer.

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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 30, 1915.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

The General Council of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Sunday, 17th inst. Mr. James Ledden presiding.

Important reports were submitted on the various branches of Organisation, Training, Ordnance, Supply, and Finance.

It was decided to draw the attention of Companies, Battalions, and County Boards to the necessity of keeping in close touch with Headquarters, of promptly acknowledging and acting upon all communications, of putting into immediate force the new Schemes of Organisation and Training, and pushing forward the Recruiting Campaign in their respective Districts.

The Central Executive met on Wednesday, 20th inst., Mr. P. H. Pearse presiding.

The Directors of Organisation, Training, and Ordnance, and the Secretary for Finance submitted reports.

Various elections to Company Officerships were provisionally ratified.

The Dublin County Board's fixture of February 10th for a general meeting of Dublin Volunteers to be addressed by members of the Executive was approved.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare St.,
Dublin, 20th Jan., 1915.

APPOINTMENTS.

The following elections to Company Officerships are provisionally ratified by Headquarters:—

Dublin Regiment.

1st Battalion.

"C" Company.

Captain—Thomas F. Dolan.

1st Lieutenant—Frank Fahy.

2nd Lieutenant—James Brady.

Wexford Regiment.

1st (Enniscorthy) Battalion.

"A" Company.

Captain—Seumas Rafferty.

1st Lieutenant—James Cullen.

2nd Lieutenant—Seumas Doyle.

"C" Company.

Captain—Michael Cahill.

1st Lieutenant—Alexander Doyle.

2nd Lieutenant—Thomas Toole.

"G" Company.

Captain—Michael Maher.

1st Lieutenant—Paul Dillon.

2nd Lieutenant—Michael de Lacey.

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 20th Jan., 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

RECRUITING.

The pushing on of the Recruiting Campaign is the need of the hour. In several centres the local corps seem fully alive to their duty in the matter, and have already accomplished very effective recruiting work. In one district a special Recruiting Week has rallied a number to the standard. In another a Recruiting March, following on the distribution of some telling handbills, has proved fruitful. Different methods will suit different localities. The thing is to think out a plan of campaign that will suit the particular place, and then to carry it out spiritedly and thoroughly. There are two main objectives: first, to win back all who have for no very good reason fallen away, and secondly, to enrol as many new recruits as possible. The number of young men who have not yet joined the Volunteers at all in some districts is very large. It is for the local corps to get into touch with these and bring them in. Every man is to be a recruiter and to make himself responsible for at least one recruit.

THE TRAINING SCHEME.

The new Training Programme must be got going at once. It looks formidable

at first sight, but when carefully read will be found to contain nothing that is not essential. Company Commanders will find that they will add much to the interest and enjoyment of the week's work if they vary it as much as possible. The men ought not to be kept at one branch the whole night. Four or five branches can be dealt with at a single parade if the time be wisely and economically used. Above all, there should be no loitering. Keep the men busy the whole time. Give every officer something to do. One should specialise in scouting, another in tactics, a third in musketry, and so on; and each should take charge of, or superintend, the instruction in his particular branch. Make each feel that he is doing something for the well-being and progress of the Company. Every officer and every man should have his post assigned to him, and should always be there.

EXAMINATIONS.

Candidates for permanent recognition as Section Commanders or Company Officers should get busy immediately. The programme is of a nature that cannot possibly be "cramped" in a few weeks. It must be worked at conscientiously and systematically,—not by one's fireside but in one's drill hall and on the roads and hillsides. The tests will be practical, and the proper preparation is practical work with a Company, Half-Company, or Section. The date of Examination A will be announced shortly. This will qualify the successful candidates for the rank of Section Commander and for admission to the further qualifying examinations for Company Officers.

KEEPING IN TOUCH.

At the last meeting of the General Council members of the Headquarters Staff found it necessary to draw attention to the failure of many Companies to keep in proper touch with Headquarters. In some cases the officers fail to reply to communications or to forward necessary information. The General Council regards it as of the utmost importance that every Company should keep in the closest possible touch with Headquarters. All communications should be acknowledged; information asked for should be given promptly; instructions should be acted upon without delay; affiliation fees should be forwarded punctually. Unless we accustom ourselves to regarding ourselves as a military force, under a certain amount of military discipline and with definite military obligations, we shall prove inept and ineffective when we are put to the test. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of proper cohesion, closeness of touch, and unity of purpose between Headquarters and the local units. Almost everything depends upon this, and the local officers will be well advised to keep it always in view.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

LESSONS OF THE FLANDERS BATTLES.

The nature of the fighting going on at the present time in Belgium and Northern France is such that many valuable lessons may be learned from it which are applicable to Irish conditions. The scene of the present fighting is a very intricate country: sand-hills, canals, numerous villages, a great network of trenches. The tactical conditions are very similar to those presented by the ordinary Irish countryside with its numberless walls, ditches, hedges, drains, etc. A detailed study of the fighting in this Western theatre of the great war will amply repay those Irish Volunteer officers who think it worth their while.

Success in such operations can never come as a single direct act: a general success is merely the sum of a great number of minor successes. Each one of these little gains has a certain solid value of its own, and each side seeks to make the most of these small values. An advance at one point may be counterbalanced by the loss of another point, and victory in the end rests with the side which has the greatest number of petty advantages to show. Moreover, each step in advance may become a starting-point for a further effort: a trench, a cluster of trenches, the edge of a wood, a building, a village, or a knoll may be so situated as to considerably facilitate further operations. A few selections from the numberless newspaper reports will serve to bring home what is meant.

"A mine was exploded by the Germans underneath one of our trenches on the right of the line, and several yards of trench were blown in. Under cover of this German snipers advanced, occupied part of our line that had been destroyed, and enfiladed the rest. When this party of the enemy had established itself a larger body advanced to the attack." Of course, exactly the same thing might not happen in Ireland, but something very similar. For instance, suppose a force A is holding an ordinary ditch and hedge, and a force B is holding a similar post 70 yards away at the other side of a field: clearly, neither can advance. But suppose a small group B2 of the second force succeeds in crawling along behind the hedge on a third side of the field and establishes itself on a flank of A. Even a dozen rifles in such a case would inflict ruinous losses on A and throw the troops into such confusion that an advance of the main body of B could be easily made and would sweep the others away.

"In the district of Steenstraete and

Bixschoote we captured a wood, some houses, and a redoubt." Such a despatch as this does not announce a great victory and the minor points named are not of any serious military importance in themselves. But they may be so placed as to be in the nature of a wedge—or rather the thin end of a wedge—driven into the enemy's general line. They may offer opportunities to deliver a flanking fire on any attack the enemy may wish to make in the neighbourhood. Finally, they may prove very valuable rallying points where a small force well handled might be able to check the pursuit of a successful enemy.

Similar small successes of a negative or defensive nature are exemplified in the following:—"The superiority of our artillery showed itself by the interruption of the enemy's fire, the destruction of machine-gun shelters and observation posts, and the dispersal of a concentration." These are examples of the sort of success to aim at in order to paralyse an advance. Obviously any or all of them could be accomplished in a number of other ways besides artillery superiority. It could, for instance, be brought about by a surprise attack at close quarters—"To the north of Maricourt we were obliged to abandon a trench captured the day before, which was set on fire by the enemy by means of hand grenades." In dry weather a hedge could be similarly burnt out.

Such a very specialised kind of fighting as this calls for special equipment of some kind with which the troops engaged must be provided. Thus the proportion of entrenching tools per unit is largely increased, and a considerable number of the men on each side are supplied with wire-cutting shears to cut down the barbed wire entanglements which form an important factor of defence. In Ireland there would not be the same need for trenching tools, for the defences are mostly ready-made. But there should certainly be an ample supply of tools suitable for breaking down hedges; light, strong, sharp axes, small strong saws, short heavy bill-hooks. And in addition every man should carry a large, strong knife in a leather sheath.

In fighting of this kind it is more important for troops to be alert and determined than well-trained or armed. Much of the fighting would be between small parties of men, and either hand-to-hand or at close range. In such circumstances comparatively raw troops, if willing and well led, can meet highly-disciplined troops on a fairly equal footing: there is no reason why a dozen half-trained troops should not be able to hold a bank and hedge against a score of regulars, and similarly it is possible for a score of raw

men to surprise and overwhelm a dozen of the regulars in a narrow lane at night. And again, at twenty yards range a revolver is as good a weapon as a rifle, and at two it is better.

But the most important point of all in this close semi-fortress fighting is the need of the most complete system of scouting that can possibly be obtained. Thorough reconnoitring not only prevents surprise against yourself, but informs you of any chances that may arise to surprise the enemy. Careless reconnoissance in such circumstances becomes doubly criminal.

STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE SHANNON.

It is manifestly true that the natural features of any country, such as rivers, lakes, mountains, or forests, must exert a very powerful influence on all military operations carried on in that country. As the River Shannon is by far and away the most remarkable geographical feature in Ireland it may be useful to notice its importance in this respect, and to see whether it is not possible to gather any lessons from the part it has played in the Irish wars.

This great river, with a length of about 220 miles, is a great natural artery dividing Ireland into two unequal parts. From its mouth—about three-fourths of the way down the west coast—to Limerick, a distance of 50 miles, its general direction is east and west. Then it bends at right angles and for the rest of its course lies practically north and south. It thus surrounds on two sides the province of Connacht and the County of Clare, or about one-fourth of the country.

From the sea to Limerick the river is practically a great tidal estuary. This part of its course is consequently the domain of sea-power—a fact, the result of which was seen a thousand years ago in the Danish invasions. An entrance was afforded to a resolute invader through which he could penetrate to the heart of the country. This is just as true to-day, for large ocean-going ships can ascend to Limerick, where there is a large graving-dock.

From Limerick up to the head of Lough Allen the Shannon presents the usual military obstacles offered by a large river. It is bridged in several places, and in a few is even fordable. But for long distances in parts the banks are marshy and no roads approach the river, so that extra bridging would be largely restricted. This limitation is further in-

creased by its expansion in places into long lakes of some miles width. Above Lough Allen the upper waters flow from a mountainous desert.

The most obvious military use of the Shannon would naturally be as a defensive line for Connacht against an invader from the east, and of this, of course, the great example is the Jacobite War after the Battle of the Boyne. Then the Irish held Athlone and Limerick—the two keys of the river; and also Sligo, and Galway, which, with Limerick, were open for supplies from France. At that time, too, the French held a superiority on sea; so that for a long time the Irish position was virtually unassailable, and their subsequent defeat was not due to any weakness in the river line.

Another object, at first much less evident, can also be served by the river: it is by far the easiest line of defence against an enemy landing on the west coast of Ireland—where very many of her invaders have come. Thus in 1798 it was this line which Cornwallis decided to hold against Humbert: it was much shorter, much more easily watched, and much more easily reached with supplies than the actual coast itself. And Humbert, for his part, fully realised the urgent need of getting across the river, and that only on the eastern bank—in other words in the heart of Ireland—would the full effect of success be felt. In this case control of the sea had also passed to the eastern bank, so the line had to be forced. But if we suppose the case of an invader with supremacy on sea, then the left of the defenders' line at Limerick can be turned and the entire line becomes untenable.

Although in late years several new bridges have been thrown across the river the general conditions remain unaltered. Further, even to-day Limerick and Athlone are the vital points, for it is there that the principal railway bridges exist. In fact, there are only three railway bridges across the river. In an outline sketch like this it is not possible to do more than touch on the subject, but each section of the river's course should be studied in detail with reference to the past campaigns and to all recent industrial developments.

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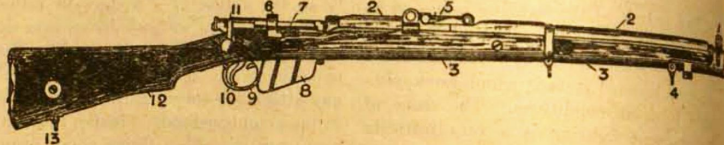
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leabhar omle d'óglaíocht na héireann.

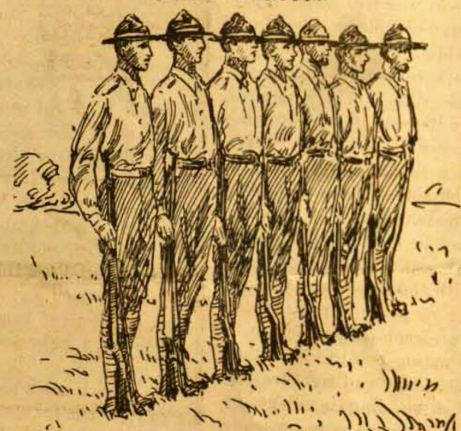
Dirchruaigh an cur de lámhleabhar na Fiann héireann agus an airtib áiríte le ríocht agus an cur eile atá le ríochtáil fós. Táimís fionnburdeac d'áirí-Cource na d'Fiann i dcaob b'leanna na bpeictiúirí do tabairt an iarsaí d'áirí.

GEARRA-SUNNA MÓSAISÍN LEE-ENRIETO, MARC A III.



- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. An ríochtáilíocht tórais. | 8. An mágairín. |
| 2. An gáirí glaise. | 9. Sáirí an t-íoch. |
| 3. Ceann tórais an t-íoch. | 10. An t-íoch. |
| 4. An t-íoch. | 11. An bolca. |
| 5. An ríochtáilíocht tórais. | 12. An bap. |
| 6. An t-íoch. | 13. Críca íochtaí an t-íoch. |

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IRISH BATTLES.

VI.—THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE.

On the 5th November, 1688, William, Prince of Orange, landed in England, and King James fled to France. Great Britain, except for the Highlanders of Scotland, declared for the invader; Ireland stood by the King. The result was that the Protestants throughout the Kingdom fled to the North, where they held Derry, Enniskillen, and other places for William. Tyrconnell, the Viceroy, now urged King James to come to Ireland. James consented, and sailed from Brest with a French expedition on the 1st of March, 1689.

Soon afterwards the famous General Schomberg, with a foreign Williamite army, landed near Belfast, and occupied the town. James thereupon marched northward and met Schomberg at Aghena, but merely made a demonstration before his camp before retreating on Dublin.

On the 14th of June the following year William landed at Carrickfergus.

PRELIMINARY MANŒUVRES.

Hearing of William's arrival, James marched northward to meet him on the 16th of June. His army consisted of 23,000 men, Irish and French. Of the Irish, 10,000 were raw levies, armed with short pikes and scythes. They had twelve pieces of artillery. The army reached Dundalk on the 22nd.

William was now at Newry at the head of a force of 52,000 men—Dutch, Scandinavians, Swiss, Prussians, French Huguenots, English, Scotch, and Ulster Scotch. These were supported by sixty cannon. Before this overwhelming army the Jacobites retired, and finally took up a position on the southern bank of the Boyne.

William's army reached the Boyne on the morning of the 30th June, 1690. William himself reconnoitred the position, which we shall describe in the words of A. M. Sullivan:

"The Boyne enters the Irish Sea a mile or more to the east of Drogheda, but for a mile or two above or to the west of the town the sea tides reach and rise and fall in the river. Two miles and a half up the river from Drogheda, on the southern bank, is the little village of Oldbridge. About five miles in a direct line due west of Oldbridge (but considerably more by the curve of the river), which between these points bends deeply southwards), stands the town of Slane on the northern bank. The ground rises rapidly from the river at Oldbridge, sloping backwards, or southwards, about a mile, to the hill of Donore, on the crest of which stands a little ruined church (it was a ruin even in 1690) and a graveyard. Three miles and a half further

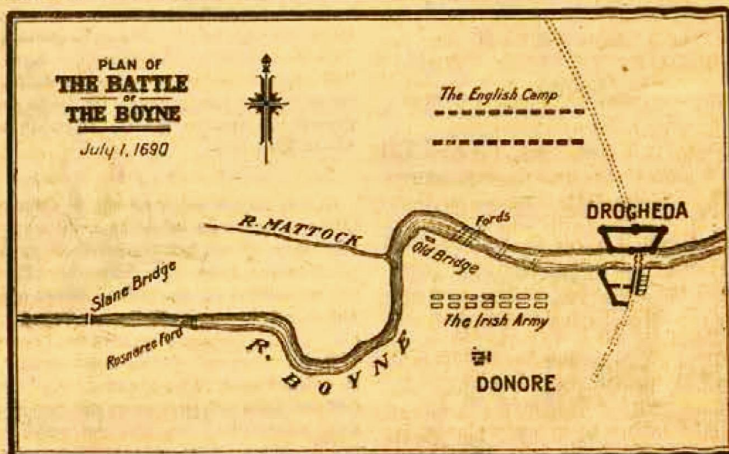
southward than Donore, on the road to Dublin from Oldbridge, stands Duleek.

"James's camp was pitched on the northern slopes of Donore, looking down upon the river at Oldbridge.

"Directly opposite to Oldbridge, on the northern side of the river, the ground, as on the south side, rises rather abruptly, sloping backwards, forming a hill called Tullyallen. This hill is intersected by a ravine north and south, leading down to the river, its mouth on the northern brink being directly opposite Oldbridge. The ravine is now called King William's Glen. On and behind Tullyallen Hill, William's camp was

5,000 cavalry, was on the left. Three separate actions resulted, which we shall describe from the Irish point of view.

Left Wing. The Irish cavalry met the Williamite infantry crossing the river at Slane, and held them in check for an hour, when O'Neill was mortally wounded. Then the supporting cavalry of the Williamites, who had crossed at Ross-na-ree, joined in, and the Irish gave way. They would have now been cut off from the main body but for the arrival of some French infantry and some more Irish cavalry, under the French general Lauzun. The Jacobites occupied a hill behind a marsh, and the enemy did not venture to continue their attack until some reinforcements arrived, when they began working round the Jacobite flank towards Duleek.



pitched, looking southwards, towards, but not altogether in sight of James's, on the other side of the river."

William observed easy fords at Oldbridge, and others at Slane. He therefore decided to send a strong outflanking party to cross the river at Slane, while the main body were to force the fords at Oldbridge. James, realising the danger to his left, sent 500 cavalry under Sir Neal O'Neill to defend Slane. He also sent half his available artillery to the same spot. The Oldbridge fords were defended principally by breastworks and farm buildings, behind which the main body of the Jacobite musketeers and pikemen lay. Patrick Sarsfield, the ablest of the Irish generals, was placed in command of the reserve behind Donore.

A shot from an Irish cannon cut short William's reconnaissance by wounding him slightly in the shoulder.

THE BATTLE.

On the morning of the 1st July the assault commenced. The Williamite right, 10,000 men under Douglas and the younger Schomberg, set out for Slane. The centre was commanded by the elder Schomberg. William himself, with

Centre. The Williamite attack was preceded by heavy artillery fire, to which the Jacobites could not reply, for James had sent the remaining half of his artillery back to Dublin. The Dutch infantry then advanced. They were followed by the Ulster regiments and the Huguenots. The river was crossed with hardly any loss, and 10,000 of the enemy formed up on the southern bank. They received the charge of the Irish pikemen with a murderous volley, which completely routed these raw levies. Two other charges met the same fate. It was left to the Irish cavalry to save the position. These hurled themselves on to the Dutch and drove them back into the river. Some fled, and a large number were killed. While the issue was still doubtful, Schomberg, leading a reserve regiment to the rescue, was killed. The attack, for the moment, was a complete failure.

Right Wing. William and his cavalry behind Tullyallen, hearing of the repulse of his centre, crossed the Boyne by the lowest ford. Here James's son, the Duke of Berwick, was in command. The two forces of cavalry charged each other simultaneously. There was a terrible shock, and the next moment the William-

ite cavalry was broken, and flying for the river. Here they were reinforced by infantry from the centre, and were able to rally, and the Irish, being outnumbered, retreated to Sheephouse, half way to Donore. At this point they made a stand, and repulsed William's attacks until Ginkel arrived to assist him. Another terrible cavalry fight now took place, and again the Williamites fled. But when the Irish returned from the pursuit they were attacked in rear by a detachment from the Williamite centre, which had at last forced the Oldbridge fords. Overwhelming numbers had carried the day.

By this time the left wing had also been driven in, but was covering the line of retreat to Duleek. The whole Irish army now fell back slowly. At Duleek they prepared for another stand, but William would not attack. The Irish lost not a single gun, and only two standards.

COMMENTS.

The battle was a complete mistake on James's part. With such forces as his, and with such opposing forces, he should have known that the line Slane—Old-bridge was untenable. His greatest mistake during the battle was the sending of his artillery to Slane. (The sending of the first half of his artillery to Dublin before the action was, of course, the act of a coward and a fool.) His third mistake was his failure to make any use of Sarsfield's reserve.

Defeat, however, was a forgone conclusion. James should not have attempted to defend Dublin, but should have taken Sarsfield's advice and held the line of the Shannon, which would have been a comparatively easy task.

It is interesting to note the importance of cavalry in this battle, and especially the efficiency of the Irish cavalry.

3rd DUBLIN BATTALION.

Field day next Saturday. Companies will assemble as already ordered at 11.30 o'clock. Full day's rations.

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mo τῆς αἰῶνος πέρας.

[illegible]

Mí mór dúinne eolais do éir ar aghaid na
 héireann, agus do mhór-mhór ar an mbaile
 mór agus ar an taoibh thiar agus ar an
 gcontae ina bfuil ar gcomhairle. Tá a
 lán de dhúinib ógláir agus do ríleáir oirde
 supar amláir i' d'ois leo supar a' ríleáir
 i halla foghlimeantar ríad céara na féinne.
 Mí head, maréad. Mí head, s'c amuig pá
 na enocaid agus pá na gleannair. "Tré
 congar sáca conaire agus ríle ríle na
 sáca ríamair," do b' i' ríle ríle na
 féinne. Leansamir-ne a tóir-ran.

Ir deas an riu deit ag cumad ceastran
so plachtar. Aet nuair deas an natha ar
ar ocl, no rinne ar a ti-pean, ir maigs rinn
ma cuimio ar muingin ina leideo rin.
Ma tpi nit ir mo a mbéir gádao leo an lá
ri. urpuir-mait, tuaf cor, agus eolar an
aictenna.

Cuirimís eolar, mion-eolar, eolar cruinn
beaí, ar ar mbaile féin i dtíopaí. Ní
fágaimís bótaí ná bóitín, ríut ná páipe
ann gan a cuapteáas agus a fheadán agus
a mion-réabúas. Ní bímís fársa go
beir dháinn dom oile sin go dtíopaí linn
ar mbeataí do téanam ó ceann ceann an
bailé i lár oirde agus daila-púicín oipáin.
Amac linn ainmín go dtí an baile irí goirne
duinn agus eolar do cup ain rin ar an nór-
céana. Agus mar rin ve ó baile go
baile.

Agus cogar, mar a d'fheas an tSean-
 bean. Cibé naimh t'ocfáir in ar gcoinne-
 náir dá buair arís, i. buair na tionntair-
 eacta agus buair na naimh. Má bíonn
 an buair ro achom ro luad agáinn, i.
 cruinn-eolair ar an tíf, b'fheir na d'áin-
 náir meair i nveir na t'ocfáir. Ní beag
 nó.

CYCLIST TRAINING

PRINCIPLES OF EMPLOYMENT

The principal characteristic of cyclists is their power to move rapidly, and if necessary for long distances, in a country well supplied with roads of fair surface. Compared with mounted troops, they can travel more silently, are less conspicuous, and can conceal themselves with greater facility.

Their sphere of action lies between the main body and the outer line of protection of the force with which they are acting. Within these limits their employment in formed bodies on special missions such as the rapid seizure of points of importance, the destruction of railways and bridges, and the interception of the enemy's movements will often be invaluable.

In battle, by reason of their mobility cyclists are best suited for employment on the flanks of the force, either to prolong their own line or to envelop the enemy, or as a local reserve for reinforcing weak points.

In pursuit a vigorous use of their mobility may enable cyclists to occupy tactical points or defiles along the enemy's line of retreat, and thus materially assist in turning it into a rout.

In retreat, they should act on the flanks, prolonging the rear-guard's front thus compelling the enemy to make a wide turning movement. By a stubborn resistance and a full use of their mobility and fire power they can delay the advancing columns of the enemy, and assist the withdrawal of their own troops.

Coast defence is an important duty of cyclists. A vigilant look-out and a rapid concentration, based on early and accurate information, will enable them to adopt a vigorous offensive the moment an opportunity for action occurs.

In general the tactics of cyclists are the same as those of infantry supplemented by greater mobility. They depend on their fire-power, which in the case can be carried to greater distances in less time. Their mobility should not be used for an indefinite purpose, but rather to move them for a definite object to gain which it is essential that they should adopt a vigorous offensive action in order to defeat the enemy.

LONDON VOLUNTEER DANCE.

A Volunteer Pleuraca will be held on Saturday, January 30th, at St. George's Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London S.E. A special programme is being arranged, including bayonet exercises, rifle and physical drill, evolutions, etc., and a special appeal will be made for recruits.

ROLL CALL.

Wexford is organising itself apace. An Acting Commandant for the county has been selected, and the Companies are grouping themselves into Battalions.

Captain Seán Sinnott is Wexford's choice for Commandant. With hard work he will be able to weld his Battalions into an effective Brigade. It will be a race between Dublin, Wexford, Kerry, and Limerick as to which will first qualify for recognition as a Brigade District.

It is not a matter of size or of numbers. It is a matter of organisation. The Companies must be alive and efficient, the Battalions must exist in fact, with their Battalion organisation perfected, before Headquarters will recognise them as a Brigade.

Lieut. Séamus Doyle is Wexford's efficient County Secretary, and Capt. Séamus Rafter is keeper of Wexford's Volunteer purse. On the whole, things look healthy down that way.

Monaghan Volunteers can make lectures pay. Perhaps others could too if they were to try. True, Mr. A. Newman is the Monaghan lecturer and the Northern folk are very eager to hear him. At Ballinderry and Clogher he had the invaluable help of Father Donnelly, P.P., and Father O'Daly, C.C., respectively. It is a good and a sound combination—the Nationalist of Protestant and Unionist upbringing and the Catholic priest who stands shoulder to shoulder with his Nationalist flock.

Clogher is so much in earnest that it is willing to pay a pound a week to a good instructor for six months to come. The spirit of places, like that of men, is not measured by their size.

There is an excellent feeling in Tyrone, but there is a lack of guns. The feeling in time will translate itself into Lee-Enfields. The leading men should get up ceilidhes, smoking concerts, athletic tournaments, and so forth, to raise funds. A way must be found.

Belfast keeps at work. The first memorable march down the Falls Road with rifles had a moral effect which will remain. Acting Commandant McCullough is justly proud of the spirit and discipline of his men. Spring will bring larger opportunities of field work. In the meantime there must be no falling off.

Fingall is getting busy. There are active Companies in Swords, Lusk, and

Skerries, and smaller groups at Donabate and Sundry. A move is on foot to bring together all these units as a Fingall Battalion. Capts. Lawless and Colman and Lieut. Lawless are looking after the district.

At Rathfarnham a fortnight ago Scout Commander Keegan lectured on Scouting, with special reference to the possibilities of the neighbourhood,—and these are many. The local Company is making itself acquainted with every hill and glen in the Dublin Mountains.

Some of the smaller Dublin City Companies are rendering a good account of themselves under difficulties. In the Blackhall Street area, Acting Capt. McCormick is keeping Capt. Monteith's Company (A Coy., 1st Batt.) hard at work. At the same centre Acting Capt. Allwright holds together the faithful remnants of H and G Coys.

In the Fairview district Capt. O'Reilly (F Coy., 2nd Batt.) shares Capt. Hunter's miniature rifle range. Other City Companies talk of clubbing together to erect ranges. The more the better.

B, C, and F Coys. of the 1st Batt. did some very useful and educational field work between Skerries and Swords on Sunday week. The North City Battalions are out nearly every Sunday now. This is as it should be.

BELFAST VOLUNTEERS.

The Belfast Committee of the Irish Volunteers have arranged an Irish Concert, to be followed by a Ceilidh, for the 29th January, at which a new standard is to be presented to the Belfast Regiment by Prof. Eoin Mac Neill. The visit of Eoin Mac Neill to the "Volunteer Town" will, we are sure, mark the beginning of a new epoch in the history of the Irish Volunteers in that city. The musical programme will be one of the best, and will, of course, be thoroughly Irish in character.

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Motto was—Never let the grass grow under your feet, keep moving.

VOLUNTEERS'

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IRELAND OVER ALL.



I expressed in my notes of a fortnight ago some ideas of mine regarding certain qualifications I believe ought to be essential for officership in the Fianna. My remarks were treated by some of my distinguished superiors in the Dublin Battalion with a levity the reverse of polite, and as I am convinced of the importance of this matter I intend for their edification as well as for my own defence, to pursue this subject a little further this week.

Now as I am a "mere boy," not a philosopher, I will deal with the matter as my experience and sense will direct and will leave the sociology and psychology of the thing to the men with wisdom and beards. It seems to me that if the Fianna is to be of any real service to the nation it must have a permanently good effect on the individual boy. It must so inspire his thought and direct his energy as to bring out all the finer traits in his character to his own and the nation's good. He ought to leave the organisation with a broad and intelligent grasp of national affairs so that he may be fitted for the duties of citizenship. He ought to possess military discipline and moral courage. Every man ought to be a soldier; and every man ought to have the courage of doing the right thing even when it means personal loss or unpopularity. The man who is not permitted to bear arms is reduced to the status of a slave; the man whose sense of righteousness is not superior to his sense of politeness or his sense of gain reduces himself to a moral servitude. What the Irish Nation needs most is men, men in the real sense of the word. To the making

of such men we in the Fianna must dedicate our lives.

For this exceptionally difficult task we need exceptionally qualified officers. I have said that the first qualification for officership in the Fianna ought to be a great and real love for boys. I will go further and say that an officer who desires to lead his boys along the lines I have stated must possess a personality that will inspire love, respect, and admiration amongst the boys he has under his control. He must possess a broad and unprejudiced mind and exercise it not only in matters that relate to his slough and to the Fianna but in everything that effects the nation and humanity as a whole. I have not mentioned military knowledge for that, in my opinion, is the least important and in any case is more easily acquired. Officers possessing the qualities I have mentioned must be procured for the Fianna if the organisation is to become an important and useful factor in the life of the nation. As I desire to see the Fianna become such, and as I believe that the fellows who stood up to the police and military at Clontarf have it in them to make the organisation such as I (and even the jocular officers) desire, I express my dissatisfaction with our present spasmodic efforts and advocate improvement.

As I have dealt with the important question of officership, I will wind up my remarks with a few stray ideas regarding our system. It seems to me that our present slough system is not a happy one. The ages of the boys in the same slough

vary too greatly. One often finds in a slough boys from eight to eighteen years of age. The grouping of boys in this manner seems to me to be wholly wrong. The governing and training of boys from eight to twelve years of age ought to be very different from that of boys between the ages of thirteen and sixteen years. I would also have a different course of training for boys between sixteen and eighteen years. In fact, I would divide the Fianna into groups as follows:

Boys between 8—12 years: the scout period.

Boys between 12—16 years: the Fianna or soldier period.

Boys between 16—18 years: the cadet or officer period.

I will develop this theory of mine next week.

WILLIE NELSON.

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