



# THE NATION



SOVEREIGN AND UNDIVIDED

Saturday 11th November

Seventh Year of the Republic

## THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT THE FOUR COURTS

If the Free Staters had told us the truth long ago, we might have been saved some trouble. But if they had not told the colossal lies about the attack on the Four Courts, the Free State would be dead by this. The Provisional Government is based entirely on lies - on the lie that the people voted for the Treaty and not for the Pact and Peace - the lie that England did not force the attack on the Four Courts. Here now is the truth excluded from the Irish Press, the truth which must out in spite of foul lies, and fouler intrigue against the very life of the Nation:-

### WHY THE FOUR COURTS WAS ATTACKED

The following information in regard to the actual commencement of hostilities in the present conflict is derived from an absolutely reliable source:-

At the last visit Mr. Collins paid to London he was ordered back immediately by the British Authorities, and he was told there would be no further conferences held with him until he got the 'Irregulars' out of the Four Courts.

The time given him to have that accomplished expired at twelve midnight, June 27th. But as he had not yet made an attempt to get them out he was allowed another four hours, i.e. up to four a.m., on the 28th. Failing that, Colonel Boyd, who was in charge of the British Military in the Phoenix Park, and who, from twelve midnight, was in command of a large detachment of troops, Infantry and Artillery, was to move with his troops against the Republicans in the Four Courts. These men under Colonel Boyd were under arms from midnight and ready to march at a moment's notice.

At 3-40, a.m., the ULTIMATUM was sent by T. Ennis in the name of 'The Government' to the Republicans to evacuate the Four Courts by 4 a.m. As the Republicans took no notice of this message the Free Staters opened the attack at about 4.5 a.m., this obviating the necessity of Colonel Boyd and his troops doing so.

### WHERE THE GUNS CAME FROM

At 1-30 a.m., the 28th, that is about two hours previous to the attack on the Four Courts, a body of Free State soldiers called at the British Military Camp in the Phoenix Park and got from the English Military TWO LARGE FIELD PIECES, together with shells for them. These were signed for by 'General' Owen O'Duffy. The Free Staters declare that the small number of casualties in the Four Courts was due to their great anxiety to save the lives of 'The Rebels'. The real reason is as follows:-

The Free Staters were bombarding the Four Courts from 24 to 30 hours without doing much material damage to the building. Then the Free State Officer who had received the two Field Pieces wired directly to the British Government Authorities in London accusing the British Military in the Phoenix Park of having supplied them with 'DUD' shells. The London Authorities wired the complaint back to the British Authorities

in the Phoenix Park, and at once a British Officer and two Gunners were despatched from the Park to the Four Courts to examine the shells supplied by them. On examination it was found that the Free Staters had not fused the shells and that, it was pointed out, was the reason they proved ineffective. The two British Gunners and Officer returned immediately to their Headquarters in the Park, and as a result of their statement to the Officer in charge there, FOUR BRITISH GUNNERS were at once sent back to the Four Courts. They took over the working of the Field Pieces which now began to tell with deadly effect on the building and these four British Gunners remained in charge of the bombardment until eventually the Fortress went in flames on Friday, the 30th June, before mid-day.

#### A CONVERSATION

Free Stater : Don't you know that you must obey the Bishops' decision until it is reversed at Rome.

Plain Republican Soldier : Then good catholics in England should have obeyed all the English Bishops who went with Henry VIII, until the Pope should have told them to reverse engines and do the opposite. Thats queer.

Free Stater : Then you repudiate their authority.

Plain Republican Soldier : No, but I can't do what I consider wrong for anyone. Those who joined the Republican Flying Columns did so at the bidding of the best and noblest in them, and they made a sacrifice of life and everything for what they considered their duty to their country. To desert it now would mean desertion of right, of principle, of what they hold a noble and a sacred duty. That would be basely wrong, therefore, I cannot obey the Bishops in this.

#### LLOYD GEORGE'S TRIBUTE TO GREENWOOD AND MULCAHY FOR DESTROYING THE REPUBLIC

"On Monday afternoon Mr. Lloyd George proceeded to Sunderland, where he had an enthusiastic reception when he rose to support Sir Hamar Greenwood's candidature.

The part played by Sir Hamar in the Irish settlement, he said, had been distorted and cruelly misrepresented. He appointed him to the office of Chief Secretary because he was a man of courage, and he told him when he accepted the appointment that it was dangerous politically also. Sir Hamar faced the job with absolute courage, fearlessness and resolution. Mr. Michael Collins, Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. Arthur Griffith overbore de Valera and the extremists, but if it had not been for the resolute fight put up by Sir Hamar Greenwood they would never have had the Treaty with Ireland."

#### A LASTING SETTLEMENT

"He had met these great Irishmen, he continued, and never heard a word of complaint from them of the action taken by Sir Hamar, nor from any of their associates (cheers). The Irish settlement, Mr. Lloyd George declared, was one which would last. It was a settlement which LEFT IRELAND INSIDE THE BRITISH EMPIRE, a partner co-operating with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, England, Scotland and Wales, and WHEN THE CHALLENGE CAME TO THE EMPIRE FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM he was absolutely certain".

Quoted from 'FREEMAN'S JOURNAL'

## A GOOD STORY

We have just heard a rather good story arising out of the capture by Free Staters of a Stokes Mortar from the Republicans operating in the County Cork area.

It would appear that when the gun was taken the Free State Military Authorities expressed great surprise and had never seen such a gun before. However upon examination at Headquarters they were able to 'identify' it as a Stokes Mortar and were so impressed by its effectiveness that they wrote to the manufacturers asking if they could supply a number. The makers replied that they could only supply on a permit from the British Ministry of Munitions. A permit was duly applied for but the Ministry of Munitions 'regretted their inability to comply with the application' as the use of the gun was confined to British War Office requirements. They expressed willingness to supply any other form of artillery desired. The Free State Military Authorities then wrote to the Manufacturers asking them to supply a few text booksoon the use of the Stokes Mortar but they replied that they were prohibited from doing so by the British Government.

It then dawned upon the Free Staters that their English Allies did not wish them to know too much about the Stokes Mortar, and in order to get as much information as possible they approached the British Government Stationers locally for a copy of the Stokes Mortar Textbook only to find to their chagrin that the British Military Authorities in Dublin acting upon instructions had a few hours previously commandeered all the Textbooks available.

## WHEN THE DUST CLEARS

'It has been noticeable to us that friends of the Republic who return here are anything but depressed. They report that the people of Ireland, like all men of goodwill, are strongly desirous of peace - so strongly that in the interest of unity and peace they acted in accord with the Collins-de Valera Pact for an agreed election on June 16th. They report that in spite of the loud promises of prosperity and peace the people of Ireland are not yielding their will to foreign domination, to the partition of Ireland, to approval of those who broke the May 20th Agreement, and restarted the war on June 28th.'

'They found the people had not yielded and were less likely to yield as week follows week. That though many may be numbed with long sorrow their wills hold true. We have not heard a returned friend of the Republic who saw any sign of defeat for the Republic.'

'With such spirit inhering in the people of Ireland, how plain is our duty towards them. They will carry through whatever the cost'.

(Quoted from the 'MONITOR' Catholic Weekly, New Jersey)

## ONLY ONE VICTORY

There can be only one victory, that of the Irish Republic over British arms.

Do not be deceived by a Press which is officially supplied with 'victories' every day.

## WHEN WILL THE TRUE SHEPHERD SPEAK?

'The chloroforming of the people's parliament after the amputation of one of its limbs and the substitution of a foreign partition in its place is THE immoral act against which intelligent Christians expect Ireland's spiritual guides to raise a mighty, unceasing and compelling voice'