

# To the Men and Women of West Wicklow

MUCH water has passed under the bridges of our country since Theobald Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Lord Edward, and Michael Dwyer sacrificed liberty and life for the ideal of a free Ireland. The Sinn Fein candidate for West Wicklow at the General Election will fight for the same ideal for which these men died—the ideal of an Ireland free from the sod to the sky. Are we, men and women of Wicklow, fallen so low that we are willing to accept for Ireland to-day any lower status than that of a Nation free amongst the Nations of the World? Are we to deny the past, forget the dead, surrender our nationality, and have our future dictated to us by England? Shall we not rather let the World know once for all that so long as a Wicklow man or a Wicklow woman breathes the air of our country we will never deny the heritage God gave us and for which all the greatest of our race have struggled from the time of Brian Boru to the present date.

Sinn Fein stands for a free and independent Ireland—an Ireland as free from foreign tyranny and dictation as are the great United States of America to-day. Our policy is the policy of self-reliance and self-determination. We believe that all things right and just are obtainable, provided we seek them with sufficient energy and courage. We will set up our own Government in Dublin. By staying at home we will deny England's right to govern us instead of admitting it by going to London. It is because of the presence of Irish Representatives in the Westminster Parliament that England claims the right to conscript us.

The coming election is the greatest opportunity our country has ever had of stating her determination to secure her ancient rights. Do not let it pass, it will never recur. There can be only one kind of peace at the termination of this war: A peace the terms of which will entitle all conquered nations to decide for themselves the form of government under which they will live. At the Peace Conference Ireland must be represented by men who will seek Ireland's independence.

Election funds will be required to secure that West Wicklow shall be represented by a Sinn Fein or Free Ireland member. Will you refuse to give a few pounds for the cause for which so many Wicklow men and women have given their lives? Let every man and every woman be as generous to-day with their money as their ancestors were with their lives.

A Wicklow man will win the Election with Wicklow money. Our county has a record second to none in Ireland, and we will find our Election funds in our own county. In '98 we held these hills against all comers, and we will do it again in 1918.

To be bound under England will in future mean not only National Degradation but also National Bankruptcy.



For 118 years we have followed the programme devised for us by Englishmen—namely, representation in the London parliament—and has it brought us any nearer even the meanest measure of freedom? The chosen leaders of the Irish Race are now in English gaols—The Laws are still made by Englishmen in England's interest—Liberty of the Press and Freedom of Speech are denied us—It is illegal to be Irish—The only freedom we have is to die for England and England's Empire.

In the last century

Four millions of the Irish Race have fled from Ireland.

Two millions have died of starvation.

Ireland's world-trade has almost gone.

Irish shipping is practically non-existent.

Ireland's taxation has increased from two million pounds when her population was eight millions to thirty million pounds when her population is 4,300,000, or 5/- per head of the population when Ireland had her own parliament against £6-17-6 to-day.

Why should Irishmen leave their country—it is one of the richest in the world?

Why should we pay England's taxes and her bills?

Are you satisfied that we should always be poor?

Why should we not be as free as England is herself?

Democracy is coming into its own again.

The bonds that have held us for 700 years are breaking.

You have only to push the door and it will open before us into the garden of freedom.

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## **ELECT A FREE-IRELAND CANDIDATE!**

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Subscribe generously to secure for Ireland the place which Tone and Emmet and Parnell and Pearse sought for her amongst the Nations of the World.

A DÍA SAOR ÉIRE.