POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN

WAR NEWS No. 144

Thursday, 25th January, 1923

Eighth Year of the Republic

Price Twopence

THE NEW CENSORS

The following is a copy of a Proclamation issued by Dublin Castle on the 25th November, 1919. We publish it with but two

observations:—

1.—James H. Campbell, the first signatory to the Proclamation is the present Lord Glenavy, Chairman of the Senate in the Colonial Parliament.

2.—A consideration of the terms of the Proclamation in the light of what is happening to-day shows that the present war is merely a continuance of the War of Independence.

"By the Lord Lieutenant, and Privy Council in Ireland.

FRENCH.

WHEREAS, by our Special Proclamation dated the 3rd day of July, 1918, in pursuance, and by virtue of the "Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887." We declare from the date thereof certain Associations in Ireland, known by the names of:—

The Sinn Fein Organisation,
Sinn Fein Clubs,
The Irish Volunteers,
The Cuman na m-Ban, and
The Gaelic League, to be dangerous:—

AND WHEREAS, said Associations now exist in the several Counties and County Boroughs specified and named in the Schedule hereto:—

NOW WE, the Lord Lieutenant-General and General-Governor of Ireland, by and with the advice of the Privy Council in Ireland, and by virtue of the "Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887," and of every power and authority in this behalf, do hereby, by this Our Order prohibit and suppress within the said several Counties and County Boroughs specified and named in the Schedule hereto, the Associations named and described in the said Special Proclamations as:—

The Sinn Fein Organisation,
Sinn Fein Clubs,
The Irish Volunteers,
The Cuman na m-Ban, and
The Gaelic League.

This order shall be promulgated by the same being published in the Dublin Gazette.

Given at the Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, the 25th day of November, 1919.

JAMES H. CAMPBELL. JOHN ROSS.
T. L.O'SHAUGHNESSY. FRANK BROOKE."

SCHEDULE.

Counties and County Boroughs referred to in Order:—

Counties of Antrim, Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, King's, Leitrim, Limerick, Londonderry, Longford Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Queen's, Roscommon, Sligo, Tyrone, Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow.

County Boroughs of Belfast, Limerick. Londonderry, Waterford.

WAR ON THE RED CROSS:—"Stretchers and First Aid Appliances were also taken by the troops" (Extract from enemy official report of raids in Macroom).

THE SAME WAR

On December 5th His Majesty King George of England appointed Mr. T. M. Healy to represent him in Ireland as Governor-General of the Free State. Mr. Healy was congratulated by His Majesty and by his Majesty's nominees in the Colonial Parliament, but the Irish people were silent. They are still silent. Not a single public board or representative Irish Assembly has added its approval to that of King George. In this we except the Presby-

A POPULAR APPOINTMENT

terian Church which recently sent a deputation of ex-Unionists to assure Mr. Healy of their loyalty. This perhaps explains the silence of the Irish people.

What America Thinks of Colonial Methods

The following quotation is not from a Republican source. It is an extract from "The Nation," New York, for December 20th, 1922. This paper was pro-ally during the European War and it was one of the few really good weekly papers in America which was definitely pro-Free State.

The executions were, it is true, reprisals for the assassination of a member of the Dail. But these men were guiltless of any connection with that, having been in fail for months. It was a butchery, precisely like the massacre of hostages by the Germans in Liege, and should equally be reprobated. Yet, Kevin O'Higgins, the Minister of Home Affairs, declared for himself and his associates that "they knew no better means of prevention (of the garroting of the Free State) than those they had employed." Precisely. That is what is the trouble everywhere. Ministers know only how to meet murder with murder and force with force.

The situation calls for an Irish application of Gandhi's principle of non-co-operation. Why should an imaginative, generous and warmhearted people have anything to do with rulers, or aspirants for rule, whose hands are red with innocent blood? Irish Labour and Independent Deputies could withdraw from all share in a government which persists in the policies on which Mr. Cosgrave's government is now embarked. For them to remain, is to accept a responsibility for the guilt. Irish workers and farmers, who knew well enough how to boycott oppressive landlords, might try a boycott of native militarists. Then there is the Churchabove all there is the Church. The Roman Catholic Church has lately thrown its influence against the violence of the Republicans; will it be silent in the face of the atrocious crimes of the government it has supported? What is at stake is the good name of the Irish race and the faith of mankind in the principle of selfdetermination. In the mouths of men deeds not enemy lies—are making the Irish cause a byword.

The Sinister Difference

Under the heading "Sinister Threat," the "Freeman's Journal" of January 16th reported that while derailing the engine of a breakdown gang at Bagnalstown on the 15th "the head of the Irregulars stated that they would continue the policy of railway destruction." What the Republican officer said was that they would have to continue the work of destruction as long as the troops used the railways for travelling.

Since the Colonial Party re-opened the prisons and internment camps in continuation of the British policy of wholesale imprisonment without charge or trial, a rigorous censorship has been enforced to isolate the prisoners from the outside world. This did not succeed in concealing certain facts in relation to their treat-Examples were frequently quoted by us with demands for an impartial inquiry. Our demands were either ignored or the reason for them denied. As, however, some of the stories of brutalities have now managed to leak into the British press, the Colonial Government hastens to allay the suspicions of its own supporters by handing to the "Daily Mail" for publication 33 picked and censored letters as evidence of the happy lot enjoyed by Republicans in their custody. Just as in the British campaign of 1920-21 when, after nine months' protest, our demands on behalf of prisoners were finally answered by the appointment of 3 British pressmen to form an impartial visiting committee to inquire into the treatment of Irish prisoners! And as in their subsequent reports they obligingly cleared the British Government of all the Republican charges, so now the Special Correspondent of the "Daily Mail" discharges a similar duty to the new gaolers:-

"I have now" he writes in his article of January 20th "had an opportunity of inspecting 33 letters written by prisoners in Newbridge to their friends and relatives. There is no complaint of treatment in any one of them."

As if there would be. What does the Colonial Government pay a staff of censors for? Why do not more than one-sixth of the letters written by prisoners ever reach their destination? Because the other five-sixth contain complaints of treatment which must be suppressed. It is a matter for amazement and some ridicule that any journalist with a respect for his professional integrity should accept 33 carefully selected letters, from a carefully selected camp, as evidence of Colonial humanity towards the thousands of prisoners in their hands.

If their consciences are clear, why could not Colonial propaganda begin nearer home. Why not send the seekers after truth to Wellington Barracks, for instance—or to Mountjoy, where Miss Comerford was shot by the guards on this day week.

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