# POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN

WAR NEWS No. 147

Tuesday, 30th January, 1923

Eighth Year of the Republic

Price Twopence

#### ECONOMIC CONSCRIPTION

Once again the British King's Ministers in Ireland are demanding a blood tax from the workers. For the Republic which you established having withstood every attack, having survived even the treachery of former friends a new weapon is being forged. The Colonial Commander-in-Chief has appealed to the Irish Employers to dismiss as many workers as possible in order that the menace of starvation may drive them into the ranks of the Colonial Army. This is Mulcahy's message to the Employers. It is good business on your part, he tells them, to help us in making starvation the official Recruiting Sergeant for our last British line of defence against the Irish Republic. Aiready Mulcahy and Blythe have given a practical example of what they want done. The Housing Grant of £361,410 is being withheld from Dublin Corporation so as to deprive the Dublin unemployed of work. The pretence 's made that this is merely an official reprisal for the proposal to pay half wages to a few Corporation Employees who have been imprisoned without charge or trial by the Colonials. The whole amount involved in the payment to these prisoners is a mere £1,500 a year; less than the salary paid to any one of the Ministers who have entrenched themselves behind the sandbags in Merrion Street. Yet were these Corporation employees to be paid half wages for the next thirty years the cost would be less than that involved in one years' maintenance of the British Governor-General in the Viceregal Lodge. If the Colonials are sincere in their pretended concern for public monies let them get rid of King George's nominee and save something worth while. But these men who ask you to watch your wives and children die of starvation in the streets unless you offer to sacrifice your lives in defence of the Empire for 24s. 6d. a week put a higher value on their own skins. For you tney are preparing a pauper's grave as the alternative to shouldering a British ritle against your own country,

"Lieut." Goodwin of the Free State Army who was wounded some weeks ago in Newtownpark has been noted for his bitter hostility to the Republicans. There is nothing surprising in this considering he was very active during Easter Week, 1916, when he found a dump of Republican rifles and reported it to the British authorities.

#### STOP PRESS

WOMEN ON HUNGER-STRIKE IN MOUNTJOY.

EIGHTH DAY.

Miss Sheila Humphries and Miss Mary Comerford have been on hunger-strike in Mountjoy Prison since Tuesday, January 23rd, as a protest against being treated as criminals. They are confined in the underground cells in the criminal wing of the prison, and Miss Comerford is, in addition, suffering from bullet wounds received on January 18th, when the Colonial guards fired at her and Miss Humphries while they were exercising.

## THE CIVIL FUNCTIONS OF THE I.R.A.

A Correspondent from the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Western Division writes:-

"I returned to this Brigade early in December, after an absence of three months, and found that the situation had greatly improved. The enemy had been driven out of Dromahair, Drumshambo and Ballyfarnon and had evacuated Drumkeerin, so that not a single enemy post now remains in the 2nd Brigade area; while outside our area our troops had forced the enemy to evacuate the important town of Ballinamore. The material captured in these operations included 130 Lee-Enfields, 2 Lewis guns, many revolvers and grenades, several lorries and touring cars and a large o'clock, noon, on the 16th day of Decemquentity of ammunition and general equipment. ber, 1922. Our active service Unit which was formerly supplied with Mausers and Martinis was now armed to a man with modern Lee-Enfields and had almost doubled its fighting strength.

Many Free State soldiers had deserted to our ranks, and many continue to do so, but we accept no deserter unless he brings his own rifle and ammunition. Some of these men have acquitted themselves very well in the field.

Having cleared our area of enemy troops we are now engaged in restoring order, putting down crime and harassing enemy posts in adjacent territories. The extensive woods of Kilrenan which were being destroyed wholesale were guarded by our men until the local people agreed to cut timber only when under permit. Several local robber gangs have been dispersed, criminals have been punished and we have a man under arrest at present on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Mr. Carson-Dennison of Drumkeerin. We hope to open local courts at an early date.

The enemy have invaded our territory in force three times during the last month, but they only captured three men and had themselves several killed and wounded, while we had none. On one occasion a young lad of seventeen, who had deserted to us from the F.S Army a few weeks before, kept "Col.-Commd!." Alec. McCabe and 32 men under cover for two hours single-handed.

James Daly of Knockeendure, Killarney, who was executed in Ballymullen Barracks, the complete independence of their country." Tralee, on January 20th, had a fine fighting record in the I.R.A. during the Black-and-Tan Terror. He acted as a Republican Police Officer in his Brigade area from the Truce until the outbreak of hostilities in June, 1922. During the visit of Eamon de Valera to Kerry, last year, he acted as a member of his personal body-guard He served with his Brigade continuously and was, on several occasions, commended for meritorious works

## TREACHERY

On the 8th of this month five Irish Republican soldiers were executed in Portobello Barracks, Dublin, by the Colonials, for "treachery." They had been members of the Colonial forces and, on finding out the nature of these forces, had returned to the Army of the Irish Republic.

The only treachery in the case is on the part of those who attached false labels to the Colonial Army in order to deceive good Irishmen to join that Army. Below we reproduce a Tender Form issued from Portobello Barracks as late as the 8th December, 1922, in which the Army which was raised for the purpose of destroying the Irish Republic, and which at the moment is still attempting that destruction, is falsely described as the Irish Republican Army.

#### OGLAIGH NA h-EIREANN IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY.

Date, 8th Dec., 1922. Q.M. General's Dept. Messrs..... Contracts Section. Portobello Barracks, ...... Dublin. .......

#### ESTIMATE FOR STORES.

I am directed by the Quartermaster General to request you to forward an estimate for the under-mentioned goods to be delivered at the stores, Portobello Barracks, Dublin.

This form filled in as directed and enclosed in envelope marked "Tender" must be delivered at .... Dublin .... not later than 12

> For the Q.M.G. P. J. Kealy, Capt. O. i/c Contracts.

# "How the Irish are Shot"

The following is taken from the "Voce Republicano," Genoa, Italy.

("We receive and publish the following letter of Donald MacHales and express to him all our most lively sympathy with the hope that the just cause of Ireland may triumph with the strength of the heroic sacrifice with which it is fought).

Genoa, 11th December, 1922.

MR. EDITOR,

As brother of Deputy John Hales who was killed, as Consul-General for Ireland in Italy, I feel it my duty to protest in the most energetic fashion against the inhuman reprisal committed upon the persons of four innocent prisoners of war shot by the Free State on 8th December, in a Dublin prison.

My brother would be the last person to tolerate the cruel act and during his lifetime he had always maintained that the heads of the Republican movement were "men of pure ideals, of disinterested motives, without ambition, who like him, were struggling for

I am certain that by virtue of impartiality towards a beloved brother and towards the poor prisoners of war who were shot, you, Mr. Editor, will not refuse to publish this my letter of protest.

> With respects, DONALD MACHALES,

Consular Agent of the Republic of Ireland.

