# POBLACHT NA H-EIREANN WAR NIWS No. 24

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Seventh Year of the Republic.

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#### THE FOOLS!

Four weeks ago to-day Ireland was hurled into war by the act of recreant Republicans who rather than risk the displeasure of British Ministers shelled their brothers in the Four Mountjoy Jail. In his affidavit Courts. They and the Irish people Count Plunkett sets out reasons this craven act. As soon as the Four ised -Courts had fallen, men in every county. leaped to arms in the defence of the Republic and to-day the war, recklessly provoked at Churchill's command, has spread to every village in Ireland. The fools who began it thought their borrowed big guns would end it in a night, but after a month of empty effort their casualty list grows and grows and the bill of costs mounts to the sky. They are farther now than ever from making the Treaty acceptable to the Irish nation. Capturing evacuated towns by the dozen, they bludgeon the Press into calling them victorious but the brand of failure is upon them and with cach las is driven deeper. The Army of the epublic is on the hill-sides and in the p!ains where is has always been and until every square inch of Irish earth) is freed from King's troops in whatever uniform, the war will go on. The Rebellion against the Republic must be broken. That is the resolve of the real National Army nor can a thousand Free State censors keep the knowledge of it from the nation.

#### WAR ITEMS.

continuing in Wellington Barracks. We have just received the following from the Prison there:-

"Four boys arrested by Free Staters on 20th July: were taken to Wellington Barracks and beaten by their captors because they would not give information. One prisoner was beaten until unconscious, and is still a prisoner although no charge can be made against him. Following the abuse each prisoner was confined to a cell where they are at present."

#### A Test Case.

To-day George Noble Count Plunkett will apply to the Supreme Court for the liberation of his son George Oliver Plunkett now in

George Oliver Plunkett I.R.A Officer joined that Army in 1913 and took part in the establishment of the Republic in 19:6. Released in 1917 f om penal servitude he had been an active member of the Army since. On January 21st. 1919, Dail Eireann ratifying the establishment of the Republic ordained that its Parliment alone had power to make laws binding the Irish people and later decreed that as well as the Deputies, the Army should swear allegiance to the Republic. In fulfilment of that sworn allegiance the army waged a war of defence for 2½ years taking life on the orders of the Government of the Republic. On December 6th violating their ouths and agreement to sign no Treaty without submitting it the Dail Cabinet, five commissioners of the Republic, signed a Treaty foreswearing the Republic partitioning of its territory and making the whole by 64 votes to 57. However the allegiance of the army to the Republic remained and in fulfilment of it George Plunkett and others acting under an Executive constitutionally appointed occupied the Four Courts, an operation considered necessary to. the desence of the Republic. The legality of or need for this act was not questioned by the Dail at its several subsequent sittings. On June 16th elections in Ireland resulted in The Black and Tan tactics are the party of 64 who voted for the Treaty being reduced to 58, thus becoming a minority in Dail Eireann. After the elecions men calling themselves "The Provisional Government" being urgently ordered by British Ministers to attack the Four Courts rose in rebellion against the Republic and put the British orders into effect two days before the Dail was to meet. By bombardment with British guns. they destroyed the courts. George Plunkett was then captured and imprisoned, though he as a soldier had always loyally fulfiled his sworn duty to defend the Republic against "all enemies foreign and domestic" aduty solemnly laid upon him by Dail Eireann itself.

### Giving No Quarter.

The Irish daily Press has been prohibited from publishing an appeal for funds for the dependants of Irish Republican prisoners. Amongst the signatories to the appeal were Mrs. are now reaping the litter fruits of for his application here summar. Pearse, mother of Padraig Pearse, Madam O'Rahilly, widow of The O'Rahilly, Mrs. Ccannt, widow of Eamon Ceannt, Mrs. McSwiney widow of Terence McSwiney, Miss Barry, sister of Kevin Barry. Similar appeals were sent to the Press during the war with the British. Dublin Castle had enough humanity jeft to allow them appear. The Free State in this as in other ways is going one better.

## Jail for Peace-Makers

We have received copies of the correspondence sent to Richard Mulcahy by Comdt.-General Frank Aiken O/C 4th Northern Division. subject to enemy authority. On before the "capture" of Dundalk. Jan. 7th the Dail approved this Treaty The Comdt-General recognised the authority of Free State G.H.Q., but could not bring himself to fire upon the I.R.A. He wrote to Mr. Mulcahy under date July 6th urging him to call an immediate truce in order that the Army and the authority of the Dail might be saved from the disaster which threatened it as a result of Mr. Collins' breach of the Pact of May 20th. He appealed to Mr. Mulcahy to realise that if the war continued the morale of all Irishmen would suffer. On the 15th Comdt.-General Aiken addressed another eloquent appeal to Mr. Mulcahy: "Are you prepared" he asked the Minister of Defence "to carry on a war with your own people to enforce that oath of allegiance to England, while you have a splendid opportunity of uniting the whole nation to fight against it with success." Next day Comdt.-General Aiken and 250 of his men were placed under arrest.

