POBLACHT NA H-EIREANN

WAR NEWS No. 44

Monday, 21st August, 1922

Seventh Year of the Republic.

Price Twopence

THE F.S. CIVILIAN SCREEN

When Greenwood's troops tyrannised over Dublin the I.R.A. went out to break the tyranny by attacking them in the streets. (ivilians were killed and wounded and Dublin Castle suppressing its own casualties, said: You call you: selves soldiers, yet you slay only women and chadren. Mulcahy and Collins answered: It is you who endanger the civil population, using it as a screen. Keep to your barracks or travel unarmed and the civil population will be safe. And the deadly street ambushes went on. Now the new Castle starts the old whine. Again the screen of women and children is used for the passage of armed troops. The I.R.A. says once more: Barracks are the places for tyrants. Keep to them. Come through our streets in war kit and you will be met and fought and the blood of the innocent whom you shoot down that their broken bodies may serve you as propaganda will be upon your head and upon yours alone.

MacNeill Versus Collins.

There is a serious rift in the F.S. lute. In the Press of the 16th, Dr. Eoin MacNeill roundly trounces the Wexford County Council for demanding a Dail meeting to secure Peace. He says such a meeting would be entirely inadvisable in the present military situation and a positive danger to peace. Mr. Collins in the same day's Press declares: "I can advise beginning Messrs Mulcahy and Collins the Government that as far as the have seen these statements. Yet they North Frederick Street at 4.20 p.m. military situation is concerned the permit this hateful thing to go on, new Parliament can meet at any time." Dr. MacNeill says a military victory must first be secured and implies it will take time. Mr. Collins announces that the military victory has already been secured and "within the next fortnight" all will be over (for the 5th time). Upon this the "Freeman's Journal" comments: "Parliament is the voice of the people. Its support will strengthen enormously the hands of the Government"; but Dr. MacNeill says his Previsional Government is the voice of the people and must be left to itself as a meeting of Parliament would weaken the hands of the Government. Mr. Collins, on Saturday last, declared the war would continue at least for 2 months and ridiculed those who thought it would end in a fortnight. On Wednesday he said the war was practically ended and ridiculed those who thought it wou'd last more than a fortnight. The riddle is beyond us; but we would suggest to Churchill's Ministers that they should all endeavour to tell the same lie at least on the same day.

Shameful Prison Treatment.

The following is an extract from a letter from Sec-Com. J. Mitchell, I.R.A. arrested by F.S. troops on Aug. 5th and now imprisoned in Wellington Barracks:

"Harry and I got awful treatment when we were arrested. Comdt Frank Coughlan beat us about the road and gave me two kicks in the stomach, one when I was arrested and another in Wellington Barracks. Some young fellows were taken out of the guard-room at midnight by C.I.D. men and beaten and kicked about the place, trying te get information out of them."

A prisoner writes from Portobello Barracks:

"On Saturday night last (5th Aug) five prisoners in the guard-room here were beaten and kicked in the middle of the night. One man badly injured during the Black and Tan Terror was bruta ly kicked by a F.S. soldier and left lying in the barrack square. My back is black and blue from ill-treatment."

Will these shameful acts never end. For over a month the "Poblacht" has given details of the ill-treatment of prisoners. We believe that from the allowing men utterly unfit for their duties like Comdt. Bolster and Comdt. Coughlanto retain their rank and their position. The only action they do take in the matter is renewed efforts to suppress the paper which exposes this infamy.

The Adventures of Paidin O'Keeffe, Ex-T.D.

A letter dated Aug. 13th from Mount-Joy says:

"Once they (the F.S. Guard) fired up and down the passages and now they do it almost every night. Of course it is a usual thing in the daytime. You get so used to gun-fire that you don't pay any heed to it. . . Last week we had the Deputy Governor to supply the casualties. in our passage hopelessly drunk firing his revolver all over the place and 2 name."

This is confirmed by statements from several other prisoners

IN THE FIELD

MANY SUCCESSFUL ACTIONS.

On the 19th many successful actions by our troops were reported. In the North, Monaghan was stormed and held for over an hour in broad daylight. Heavy fighting took place. The garrison was prevented from leaving barracks while several operations in the town were carried out. F.S. admit 1 killed, concealing their wounded. Bundoran, Tirconaill, was also raided and held. In Drogheda the F.S. barracks were bombed by I.R.A. In Dublin, Beggars' Bush Barracks were attacked for 4 hours and several street ambushes were carried out. The enemy sustained losses which he conceals. Civilians were killed and wounded by F.S. fire. In the West, Tuam was raided and held for 3 hours while the garrison was attacked and enemy positions and patrols were attacked in Castlebar and Ballina, Mayo, and Ballysodare, Sligo. Fierce fighting took place in the South, Ambushes were carried out at Castleisland, Spa, Killarney and Abbeydorney, Co. Kerry, (enemy admits 3 killed but hides his wounded), at Kildorrery and Macroom, Co. Cork, (1 enemy killed, 3 wounded), and at Kilfinane, Co. Tipperary from which details are not yet to hand. With each day the national resistance to Churchill's tyranny strengthens.

In the ambush carried out in on the 12th in which 4 of our troops attacked a touring car of enemy officers the F.S. Official report said there were no casualties. Two of the officers were wounded. A third firing from the car wounded a woman.

WAR ITEMS

Of all ways of endangering noncombatant life attacks from the air is the surest. The F.S. Press of the 16th says:

"Capt. Russell flew a Bristol fighter over the town (Buttevant) and used his machine gun with effect."

Churchill supplies the "Bristol fighters" and machine guns. In recognition of the Will of the People Irishmen and women are permitted

"One can understand the destrucsertries with him. P. O'Keeffe is his tion of military barracks and police stations as legitimate methods of warfare."-Mr. Michael Collins in "Sunday Chronicle" August 13th, 1922,

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