POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN

WAR NEWS NO. 63

Thursday, 21st September, 1922.

Seventh Year of the Republic.

Price Twopence

Blurting Out the Truth.

As Deputy Milroy would say "the cat is out of the bag at last." Last May the Second Dail decreed the election of a Third Dail. When the e'ections had been held this decree was shamslessly violated and instead of the Third Dail the despised Partition Parliament was brought treacherously into being. But the Press kept up the pretence, supported by the F.S. "Ministers" before the Parliament met, that this was Dail Eireann, the Supreme National Assembly. Now, said they, the great work of National Reconstruction can begin! When questioned during the last few days as to why national reconstruction had not been begun the F.S. Ministers blurted out the truth. The "Supreme National Assembly" has no power to legislate! Even the Ministry is only a "kind of Committee" O'Higgins admitted—not a Government at all. By agreement with Britain, said Mr. Cosgrave, the Parliament was merely "a provisional institution" and added that its main function was to fill "a sort of vacuum resulting from the acceptance of the Treaty." In balder and more truthful language the Partition "Parliament turns out to be not even a Parliament for 26 counties but an illegal, powerless provisional body whose only reason for life is to fasten upon Ireland the slave status designed by the Treaty and detailed in Churchill's Constitution, It may discuss this Constitution but can change its vital clauses only at its peril, says Ald. Cosgrave. This, then, is the "Supreme National Authority" to which Mr. Mulcahy orders us to submit or be shot down and the Irish Hierarchy say we will be damned unless we accept. Was ever a meaner farce more meanly staged?

On Sunday last, during Mass, while Rev. J. Nolan C.C. was condemning the I.R.A. in the Church at Corduff. Co. Monaghan, a large body of F.S. troops surrounded the Church and when the congregation was leaving rounded them up and searched them. They arrested four young men but not being content with their "bag" they tramped into the Church and searched it. Thus "the Will of the People must prevail" even against the House of God.

Mr. Jos. MeBride stated in the Partition Parliament on the 13th that the claims for malicious injuries in Mayo totalled almost £250,000 and added "a large proportion of these claims had arisen since the entry of F.S. troops into the county." This is the kind of "protection" the Black & Tans gave also.

The National War.

ATTACKS BY I.R.A. IN 26 COUNTIES.

On Aug. 11th, Cork having fallen on the previous day, the guerilla war in defence of the Republic began in earnest. It is interesting to note that since then there have been battles in every county in the F.S. area, and although Dublin and the Southern Counties, owing to better equipment and greater opportunities, do much of the fighting the other parts of Ireland are bearing their share to a greater extent now even than in 1920-1921. The following are summary totals of engagements which the F.S. Press admits to have taken place with the enemy from Aug. 11th to Sept. 15th, (Owing to the Postal and Telegraph strike the list is not complete.)

COUNTY.		No. of	ATTACKS.
Cork	•••	•••	77
Dublin		•••	69
Tipperary		•••	57
Kerry			50
Mayo		•••	35
Louth	•••		26
Sligo	•••	•••	19
Galway			18
Waterford		•••	13
Donegal	•••	•••	12
Clare	•••		12
Offaly	•••		12
Wicklow	•••	•••	II
Limerick	•••	•••	II
Wexford	•••		9
Roscommo)11		7
Leitrim	•••		6
Meath	•••		5
Westmeat	h	•••	4
Carlow	•••	•••	3
Monaghan		•••	3
Kilkenny	•••		2
Leix	•••	•••	2
Kildare	•••		2
Cavan	•••	•••	I
Longford			I
It should be	national		

It should be noticed that prior to Aug. 11th, at which this table begins, several of the counties where there has been little fighting since had many engagements, the I.R.A. attacking everywhere to relieve the pressure on the South. Thus in Leix there were 12 attacks in July and in Westmeath 13, while fighting was fairly general in Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow and parts of Kilkenny. Also it should be remarked that though the number of attacks in some counties has been small their importance was considerable as at Leitrim where in six attacks our flying columns captured 3 barracks, with all arms and equipment.

I.R.A. Capture Another Barracks.

DUBLIN PAPER'S FALSE REPORT.

Here is an example of how the Dublin Press deceives its readers by false reports. On 16th the "Freeman's Journal" published the following:

"Fire was opened on the National garrison in Oldcastle barracks yesterday morning. The barracks are in the centre of the town. The attackers were estimated at about one hundred. The garrison numbering only 25, replied vigorously until all their ammunition was exhausted. The attackers who used rifles, bombs and grenades. THEN

FLED, but could be observed picking up some of their men as they retreated. The door of the Barracks was blown in, as also some of the windows, and portion of the roof was blown up. The defenders only suffered two wounded."

The truth is that the barracks at Oldcastle was taken by our forces and before they "fled" they had captured the arms and ammunition of the garrison and destroyed the barracks.

The following is the I.R.A. official report:

"Mullingar Brigade, 1st Eastern Division. Sept. 5th, 1922.

"This morning a Brigade column attacked Oldcastle Barracks. Both entrances were completely wrecked by mine explosions. Under heavy rifle fire a third mine was placed in the barracks itself. The garrison retreated to upper portion of barracks but, on being informed by a priest who intervened of the nice situation they were in, they surrendered. The garrison consisted of 25 men of whom the O/C was wounded. 18 Lee-Enfield rifles, 500 rds. of .303, 3 revolvers, 16 grenades and 46 lbs. of explosives were captured. The Barracks was subsequently destroyed."

The I.R.A, strength was less than 30. They suffered no casualties and remained in the town for 2 hours after the barracks was captured.

Hiding Their Defeats

The Press reports the capture of the F.S. Barracks at Drumshambo. This is the third barracks taken in Co. Leitrim within a month. The first was taken at Drumsna on Aug. 24th, and the second at Dromahair on Sept. 4th. And Leitrim be it noted is one of the "very peaceful" counties. None of these captures has been admitted by the F.S. Command, on the contrary the enemy is determined to keep the public in ignorance of the reverses inflicted on him from week to week. No official report has, for instance, been issued about the capture of Ballina or Kenmare, big as these events were. Neither has the capture of the following F.S. Barracks, with all arms and equipment, been admitted:

Foynes, Co. Limerick, Aug. 23rd
Feenagh, Co. Carlow, Aug. 27th
Lanesboro', Co. Roscommon, Sept. 3rd
Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Sept. 6th
Grange, Co. Tipperary, Sept. 7th
Athboy, Co. Meath, Sept. 7th
Tarbert, Co. Kerry, Sept. 10th
Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Sept. 15th
Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Sept. 16th

and scores of small captures of arms and ammunition in various actions. The enemy remains silent about these and, instead, deluges the Press with fantastic stories of captured "flying columns" and a dozen dead "irregulars" in each action. But the names of these prisoners and dead are seldom given for the simple reason that there are none.

