

POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN

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MURDERED?

The Free State official announcement of the deaths of Brigadier Seamus Devins, Col.-Comdt. Brian MacNeill and seven of their comrades needs elaboration. No details, not even the date, of the action in which these brave men fell are given and it would seem that no casualties were suffered by the F.S. forces in the engagement. These sinister features may be due to difficulties of communication but we cannot forget that at three recent inquests F.S. General Headquarters have been convicted of issuing reports describing prisoners murdered by their troops as killed in action. We ask then for a full account of the deaths of two gallant officers who fought against the British with all their splendid strength and skill and have now sealed their devotion to the ideal which sustained them through five dark years. We know from the manner of men these were that if armed they would have died a thousand deaths before surrendering, and the enemy would have paid dearly for their lives. If they did fall in battle we do not grudge their loss knowing that by killing such men the Free State kills itself and knowing too that Brigadier Devins and Brian MacNeill by their high example of valour, chivalry and tireless service to the Republic will have raised up men among their comrades to fill their places. But the assassination of helpless men has been so often connived at by the F.S. Government and the F.S. Press that we must know the facts of this case. The only fact we do know was that P. Carroll reported yesterday as one of the dead was reported in Thursday's Press as having been taken prisoner by F.S. troops. And that fact is sinister enough.

F.S. War—I.R.A. Murder.

The F.S. junta plead in the King's Bench, Dublin, that a "state of war exists in Ireland" and that they have consequently the right to fill the jails with untried men. The King's Bench agrees and the junta goes on filling the jails. But in other courts—Coroners' Courts—the same junta appeals for murder verdicts against the I.R.A. who oppose troops admittedly engaged in war. We are glad to say that during the last few days Coroners' juries have stoutly refused to play the part allotted to them by Mr. Cosgrave in this farce.

In view of the persistent failure of the F.S. "Sweeps" in the South we suggest that Ald. Alfred Byrne should be put in charge of them.

Giving the Game Away.

"IRISH TIMES" AND THE SECRET CENSORSHIP.

The following is an extract from the editorial of the "Irish Times" on Thursday:—

"There was an unpleasant 'scene' in Parliament yesterday, and while we deplore the conduct of those who created it, we cannot hold the Government entirely free from blame. . . . Recently we were informed that the military censorship had been abolished, and the newspapers, with a sigh of relief, ceased to submit their proofs to the official pencil. It appears, however, that a sort of censorship, which we know not whether to describe as military or civil, still exists. The newspapers have been ordered on several occasions during the last fortnight to omit passages from reports which their staffs had prepared in the ordinary way. One of these reports concerned the alleged ill-treatment of Republican prisoners. Another contained the evidence and verdict at an inquest in Dublin. We do not profess to understand the causes of these suppressions"

We can supply the "Irish Times" with 'the causes of these suppressions.' Like all murderers the F.S. gangs prefer to murder in the dark—inquests hamper them; and like all prison torturers the F.S. "Camp Commandants" think they can work better in private. Both are very natural preferences.

"The Blood of My Son . . ."

The following letter, written by the mother of Comdt. Sean Cole of the Fianna, has been sent to each member of the Partition Parliament:

"22 Lower Buckingham Street,

Dublin, September 7th, 1922.

Dear Sir,

My son Sean, who served Ireland faithfully since he was 14 years old, was on Saturday, 26th August, foully murdered by men in the service and pay of the military junta which calls itself a Government.

Had he fallen in combat, I would freely have given his young life in the sacred cause of the Republic. But he was taken out by this murder gang and shot like a dog because he was faithful to the Republic and refused to be dragged into the British Empire.

Not content with his life, these men who hire murderers to do their evil work, sent a paid public servant of theirs to try and take away his honour.

This letter is to inform you, Mr. ———, that if you support this "Government," you are conniving at murder, and the blood of my son will be on your head.

Signed, (MRS.) JULIA COLE."

THE MURDER OF MANNION.

WHY THE INQUEST WAS SUPPRESSED.

By order of the "Will of the People" Government Oriel House men seized the short-hand notes of the reporters who attended the inquest on Capt. Patrick Mannion, I.R.A., held in Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital Dublin, on the 18th. But truth will out and we have received from another quarter a full report of the proceedings. According to the official report Mannion was killed on the 17th at 10 p.m. in an attack on a F.S. patrol at Mount St. Bridge and two "irregulars" were captured "in possession of revolvers and discharged cartridges."

An eye witness described this "action" and "capture" at the inquest. He proved there was no firing "nearer than Brunswick St." on the night of the 17th until a F.S. patrol opened fire on some young men in Mount St. The men dispersed but one of them fell wounded under the arc lamp outside witness's window in Mount St. This was Mannion. He was wounded in the leg. A dozen F.S. troops came up to the wounded man who was lying on the ground and in the hearing and view of witness questioned him as to "what he was about." They then shot him dead through the head. Two unarmed civilians passing at the time saw the murder and sickened by the callousness of it rushed at the troops and, beating them with their hands away from their victim, one said: "You bloody murderers" and the other called the murderers "Black and Tans." The troops took these unarmed civilians into custody and they subsequently appeared as armed "irregulars" in the official report. In face of this evidence the Provisional Government's solicitor at the inquest would not address the jury. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the troops in question. We regret to state that the Coroner, Dr. Louis Byrne, seems to have done everything in his power to get the jury to return a non-committal verdict.

The F.S. garrison at King's Inns Dublin have been changed because they stole silver plate (tea-pots and cutlery) to the value of hundreds of pounds. They have been transferred to the Hammon Lane Foundry. We think the punishment too severe. Pig-iron is such a difficult thing to carry away.

