POBLACHT NA H-EIREANN

WAR NEWS No. 9

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5th. 1922 SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC

ARE THEY MAD?

Are the men mad who began this war and continue it? Even if, by Britain's help and Britain's arms, they were to win it, do they in their blindness hope for any issue advantageous to their country? But can they win it? Never. The Treaty is dead and they know it. The Oath of Allegiance is dead and they know it. These things perished when the first British shell was fired by Irish hands upon the Four Courts. And as the old Castle regime of raids, suppressions, false propaganda and insults to prisoners creeps back feature by feature under the direction of then Castle's Irish pupils, everyone knows that the end aimed at is hopeless. In God's name before it is too late let it be abandoned.

CRAIG BLESSES COLLINS

Sir James Craig has expressed his approval of Mr. Collins' policy of "bringing peace and order to the South and West." "With both of us actuated by the same motive, peace should shortly settle upon the whole of Ireland." We know Sir James' idea of "peace and order". The murdered and starving Catholics in Belfast are proofs of it. He now regards Mr. Collins" policy as being similar to his, and no doubt sees already a similarity in the method. Referring to Mr. Collins, he says:-

> "He appears to take exception to the assistance that the British have rendered in stamping out assassination in the City of Belfast. He himself, however, was only too glad to solicit aid from the British Government in the matter of the supply of arms and ammunition to suppress disorder in his area."

Mr. Collins is dumb. Just as Sir James Craig has armed his drunken Specials with English arms for the slaughter of Catholics, and rewards them with English money, so Mr. Collins has taken English arms to shoot down Republican soldiers and pays his troops with the approval, if not the actual money, of the British Treasury. North and South it is Britain which is warring upon the Irish nation. North and South it is Irishmen armed by her and paid directly and indirectly by her who are carrying on the war. The murdered Catholics in Belfast and the dead soldiers of the Republic on the streets of Dublin are slain by the same hand. "Both of us," says Sir James Craig of Mr. Collins, "are actuated by the same motive" - and, he might have added, are under the orders of the same British Government.

EMPTY PHRASES

When the Provisional Government, with "the will of the people" behind it, is reduced to censoring official statements by the Executive of the Labour Party, it must be feeling qualms about the "will". The daily Press of the 4th. published a report, "as passed by Censor," of an apparently mild protest against the refusal to summon the Dail. We are enabled to publish the actual terms of the Resolution:-

> "The National Executive of the Labour Party and the Executive Committee of the Dublin Workers' Council protest vehemently and emphatically against the postponement of the meeting of Dail Eireann. At this most momentous crisis in Ireland's history the duty of the Government is to call together the people's representatives at the earliest possible moment.
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> "We demand the revocation of the Order postponing the meeting of the Dail until July 15th, and that the Dail be convened immediately."

Professions of faith in the people's will are empty phrases when the people's representatives are treated with contempt.

THE PRESS AND THE WAR

Everybody realises by now, we hope, that the Irish Daily Press, always bitterly anti-National, is now, under Free State Censorship, simply war-propaganda for the Anglo-Free State Alliance. Its main purpose at the moment is to represent by the suppression of some facts and the distortion of others that there is a general Republican collapse.

Under headings such as "Success at all Points" the papers of the 3rd. inst. gave a list of miscellaneous local captures of Barracks in a limited number of provincial areas, and wholly suppress, as on the previous day, any reference to the South-west and the Republican Command of the greater part of thatvital area. Not a word about the defections of Free State Forces in Limerick and Kerry which we report to-day or the proclamation of Liam Lynch as Chief ofaSfaff of the 1st Southern Division. The position in Donegal continues to be grossly exaggerated and the Republican progress in the Dundalk, Drogheda, Sligo and other areas is simply censored out.

In Dublin, and the same principle applies to the provinces, the conditions of the struggle are sometimes overlooked. Everywhere the Free Staters have an immense superiority in money and war equipment because Britain, which has bought their submission, has supplied and continues to supply whatever her converts ask for - artillery, armoured cars, rifles,machine guns, supplies. Their troops are a paid Imperial army with the resources of an Empire behind them. Our men are true Irish Volunteers of the grand force which established the Republic and are fighting in defence of it, unaided and unpaid, on their own resources alone. They are as unconquerable as when they fought the British alone, because their cause is right and their hearts are true, but in purely military ways they are out-matched against the Churchill-Griffith Coalition. For example men with nothing but rifles and revolvers cannot hold buildings permanently against artillery and armoured cars. That accounts for the evacuation of numerous buildings in Dublin and elsewhere, evacuations carried out in an orderly military fashion, for a definite military purpose with practically no loss in prisoners or arms. Buildings are death traps without the means to defend them. The men are what matter, and the spirit which inspires them. Guerilla war is more formidable than regular war and to whatever extent we have to fight the Imperial Coalition as we fought the British alone, by Guerilla war we shall do it. Nothing can defeat us, because now as then, we defend an immortal principle.

WAR REPORTS

AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY

FREE STATE FORCES RALLY TO THE REPUBLIC

LISTOWEL CAPTURED

The following official reports were suppressed in the Irish press:

Reports issued by the Field General Headquarters, Republican Forces, Mallow:

KERRY

"After the surrender of Listowelby the Free State troops, Brig. Murphy explained to Comdt. Kennelly, who was in charge of the Free State troops in the workhouse, his reasons for attacking the workhouse, When Comdt. Kennelly had heard the explanation the following agreement was signed by Messrs. Murphy and Kennelly:-

"Headquarters, Kerry No. 3 Brigade, 30th. June:- We, the officers of the opposing forces in the Kerry No. 1 Brigade area have decided that Ireland's interests cannot be served by civil war. When comrades who have fought together have shot one another down, neither the Republic nor Free State will benefit.

We differed consvientiously since the signing of the Treaty as to whether the Treaty should be worked or the Republic upheld. Unfortunately the dreaded spectre of civil war is now in our midst. Developments of the past few days have all the more emphasised the necessity for unity as patriotic Irishmen. We have decided to unite in face of the common enemy. We hope that this will be a headline for every other county in Ireland. - (Signed), H. Murphy, T.J. Kennelly. The Free State troops in Listowel having heard Brigadier Murphy's reasons, joined his forces to fight for the Republic."

LIMERICK.

As a result of the agreement arrived at between the officer commanding Executive forces. 1st. Southern Division, and Comdt. Hannigan, officer commanding East Limerick, Brigade Commandant Hannigan withdrew all his forces from the West Limerick area. All posts occupied by the latter were evacuated to-day as a result of this agreement. The impending conflict between other forces is therefore avoided. Both sides have agreed to act in conjunction against the common enemy.

As we go to press the Republicans in the O'Connell St. buildings are still heroically resisting in a fearful bombardment from the enemy.

We understand that Enniscorthy has been taken by Republican troops.

In Waterford parties of Free State troops are joining the Republicans.

Forty of the Civic Guard refused to go out on the night of the 3rd. to attack the Hammam Hotel.

Free State Volunteers who have hitherto not joined the regular Free State army, are being called up and put on a war footing.

An officer and eight men in charge of munitions at Portobello Barracks have mutinied and are in custody. The officer has stated he had had before him a document from the British Government offering for use against the I.R.A. 10,000 rifles and a million rounds of ammunition, six heavy guns and 6,000 shells, 1,000 incendiary bombs, tins of fuses, etc.

St. Ultan Infant Hospital, Charlemont Street, was raided on the 3rd. by Free State soldiers. It was never once raided by the Black and Tans.

Many other raids and searches are being made by Free State troops in Dublin. Baird's in Mercer Street, and houses in Heytesbury Street and Stephen's Green were raided on the 4th.

"NATIONAL" FORCES

We understand that the Provisional Government, in the first instance , ordered the Press to call Republican troops "rebels", and that the Press, with a lively regard to self-preservation, refused, and stuck to "irregulars." The written order to describe the Free State troops as "National Forces" was, however, obeyed, and is now standardised. It used to be "Dail troops" but the Dail has come to be bad propaganda. Before that it was I.R.A., but that title is worn threadbare. "Nationalist troops" would be more appropriate. "Imperial troops" or even "British troops", would be accurate. The Canadian Army is both, and "common citizenship" is the Free State formula.