

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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NOTES

In December, 1913, a few days after the first Irish Volunteer meeting in Dublin, the Liberal "Home Rule" Government issued two illegal proclamations to prevent the arming of the Irish Volunteers. The "Freeman's Journal" of that time was innocent enough to tell its readers that the proclamations were aimed against the arming of the opponents of Home Rule. As soon as possible the Irish Volunteers began to buy arms and ammunition. When the Liberal Home Rule Government got the chance, it stole their arms and ammunition. All this time there was no European war, and no Pretence of the Realm Act. Some months after the Proclamations were issued, and in apparent defiance of the Government, but really with the connivance of some of its members, a cargo of arms was purchased with English money and shipped to Ireland. The purchasers intended these arms to be used by Irishmen against Irishmen for the disgrace and degradation of Ireland and to supply the world with proof that a continuance of humane and civilised English domination in Ireland was necessary in the interests of humanity and civilisation. The voyage of this cargo of arms was announced in the Press while the ship that carried the cargo was still in the North Sea on its way from Germany. Notwithstanding this announcement and the Proclamations, the cargo arrived safely in Belfast Lough, and was discharged without interference at Larne and Bangor. Any officials of the Government who were thought likely to interfere or to be undesirable witnesses were held in custody. The arms were afterwards distributed without any show of interference in various parts of Ulster. Meanwhile, so far as the Government could contrive, the Irish Volunteers were prevented from acquiring arms.

I remind the reader of these facts because of the lying pretence to the present hostility of the Government to the Irish Volunteers is on account of the present war. For my own part, as a quiet student of the spirit and methods of English Government, Whig and Tory, in Ireland during my time, I have long been free from illusion on this matter. When I first decided to take part in organising Irish Volunteers, I felt perfectly certain that the project would incur as much hostility from the Whig Government as that Government would deem politic and opportune.

If the present war had not broken out, the Government would have done its best to kill the Irish Volunteer movement. As a matter of fact, for months before the war broke out, the Government was already doing its best. For what the Government is now doing, the war and the "Defence of the Realm" are just a convenient pretext.

Irish Volunteers without arms, and without the firm purpose to get arms and have arms, are a manifest humbug. Either we have no right to be Irish Volunteers at all, or having that right, and being Irish Volunteers, it is our right and our duty to arm ourselves as best we can, and to keep and defend our arms when we have got them. If our arms are demanded from us, we shall refuse to surrender them. If force is used to take them from us, we shall make the most effective resistance in our power. Let there be no mistake or misunderstanding at that point. As I said last week, we may be taken unawares here and there, but when we are not taken unawares, we shall defend our arms with our lives.

If there was law, justice, or civilised government in Ireland, the County Inspector of Police who led the attack on the Irish Volunteers at Tullamore would now be on his trial. The Press reports are of one accord in stating that he was present during a disorderly outbreak, in which the aggressors were a small rabble, who were previously supplied with a quantity of Union Jacks, presumably not to blow their noses in. This rabble, variously estimated at from sixty to a hundred individuals, does not represent the people of Tullamore. That this small rabble were entirely the aggressors against a few men and women, is the universal testimony of the newspapers. The County Inspector, according to the newspapers, instead of preserving the peace by removing the peacebreakers, used their

conduct as the cover for a direct onslaught on a handful of Volunteers, and as the occasion for an attempt to disarm the Volunteers. His conduct, to my knowledge, has been condemned not only by supporters of Mr. Redmond but by Unionists. Of course, any legal trial of the County Inspector conducted by the protectors of Mr. Walter Harrell would be only more of the hypocritical sham, and we may content ourselves with the educative effect on the public if this man is not put in the dock, where he ought to be. His untainted testimony can be added by Mr. Birrell to the rest of the voluminous evidence.

When the Government ordered the Volunteer organisers out of Ireland and sent them to jail for refusing to go, its action was condemned by Nationalists of all shades of opinion all over Ireland, and was not commended—which was significant enough—by any body of Irish Unionist opinion. Since I wrote last week, the Government has again pounced on two of our organisers, Liam Mellows and Ernest Rythe, and imprisoned them, on what pretext it has not yet announced. Ernest Rythe is particularly objectionable because he is an Ulster Protestant. There is also a special reason in the case of Liam Mellows.

The "Connacht Tribune" belongs to Mr. William O'Malley, M.P., brother-in-law to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., both being producers of the sort of journalism that pleases a not too fastidious crowd beyond the Irish Sea. Another M.P. comes into the performance. On March the 4th, the "Connacht Tribune" printed a leading article partly for the glorification of Mr. W. J. Duffy, M.P. From this article it appears that Mr. Duffy, besides £400 a year for his services in assisting the Government to impose on Ireland eight millions a year of war taxes and whatever more they demand, holds a farm at a place called Cloostoken, near Loughrea. We are not told that it is a grass farm. But Mr. O'Malley's paper shows us what a great and disinterested patriot Mr. Duffy is. Referring to this farm, it asks: "Is there a case on record where a tenant restored to an evicted holding immediately gave the Committee of the League the right to divide the best half of it amongst the small holders?" Before going farther, I express the hope that somebody from Loughrea will let us know for a fact whether Mr. Duffy, M.P., was really a tenant restored to this holding; and secondly, before he got the land into his possession, was the condition made that the rest of it was to be subdivided. The article informs us that, on the night of the 26th February the walls round Mr. Duffy's land were knocked down. "More recently," the honest editor goes on to say, "more recently Mr. Mellows, the Sinn Féin organiser, has been brought to the parish— for what purpose we know not. The fight of the people has been won, etc. Intelligent readers who study these two sets of circumstances will have no difficulty in arriving at the reasons why Mr. Duffy's walls were razed to the ground." There is not enough. The patriot editor adds: "Let there be no mistake about it, these people who try to lead the young men of the country against the Party that rescued their fathers from bondage, are seeking trouble. Up to now they have been treated with a tolerance almost akin to weakness." Accordingly Mr. Mellows, having been in jail before, is now in jail again.

Can anyone wonder, reading such things, that the Irish Parliamentary Party has now become powerless and contemptible in the hands of English politicians? The writer of that article knew that he was lying and he was conscious of the effect his lying might have. We shall see in time what charge Dublin Castle, thus plainly set on, will substitute for the deliberately false charge made by this organ of faction on behalf of Mr. W. J. Duffy, M.P.

Repulsive as such incidents are, let me once more remind the Irish Volunteers and the ever-increasing number of those who are being enlightened by this sort of thing as to the realities of the present political situation in Ireland, let me remind them that one of the objects of Dublin Castle is to divide the people of Ireland into violent opposing factions. We have no indignation to spare for the Duffys and O'Malleys who are now making the running for Dublin Castle. What we have to aim at is to end the whole system that imposes such barbarous degradation on the public life of Ireland. Don't stop the ear for the barking of the dogs.

The principal organ of faction, the subsidised, the Great Unrival, I am credibly informed, has discovered two reasons for not honestly facing the question of the ruin of Ireland by taxation. One reason is that the "Independent" has shown that the chief problem of Irish government under the Home Rule Act now won, achieved, accomplished, and assured, would be the raising of an Imperial tribute equal to the entire cost of Irish administration. The other reason is that the protest against the robbery and ruin of Ireland is associated with such persons as Mr. John Sweetman and myself. Since Mr. Sweetman and I are in the habit of going to Mass on Sundays, I suggest that the editor of the Great Unrival should advise his unreaders to do otherwise, and thereby prove their thorough Imperial affection and add to the debt of gratitude. The view universally taken of his editorial counsel would deprive the advice of all immediate significance, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor could use the occasion to prove that Ireland will go any length to stone for her ungrateful and disloyal past. In any case, better far that Ireland should pay eight or ten millions a year for nothing at all, than that any advantage to her should be associated with Mr. Sweetman or Mr. MacNeill or the "Independent." Can faction go any farther?

Mr. Kilbride, M.P., has written to the Athy District Council on the taxation question. He says: "The Irish Party have watched over Ireland's interests and will continue to watch over them." This boasts even the generosity of Mr. Duffy, M.P. On the model of the "Connacht Tribune," I demand, in these cases, an record where the firing party, having done the duty expected of them by the competent military authority, sat up night after night to wake the corpse? Question is arithmetic: If the watching from the beginning of the war till now has resulted in Eight Millions of additional taxes, what will be the result of the watching till Mr. Asquith is in Berlin? The more thoroughly decomposed the Party herring is, the more attractive it becomes to the nose of faction, and at the last meeting of the Dublin County Council, Mr. Thomas Clarke, on the subject of the ruin of Ireland by taxation, persuaded his hearers to "leave it to the Irish Party." So well they might! Three short years ago, Mr. Clarke would have called his own advice treason to Ireland.

I warn Irish Volunteers to keep all agents of Dublin Castle at arm's length. I am informed that Mr. MacDonagh, of Moycullen, now in jail on a bogus charge, was inveigled into an apparently friendly conversation at the police barrack and there pounced upon and arrested. In some instances, men have not received the usual caution when arrested, and have made statements which were afterwards produced against them in a distorted form. Irish Volunteers should make no statements to the police who arrest them, as they are guilty of no crime. There are decent men among the police, but the corruption of the Irish police has always been one of the methods of Dublin Castle, which has never yet discouraged injury to Crown witnesses in political prosecutions. When Mr. Birrell makes a public demand for a particular class of evidence against Irish Volunteers, we can only guess what sort of demand is likely to be made in private. Dublin Castle has no use for either honour or honesty.

While Mr. Birrell is engaged in various attempts to deprive the Irish Volunteers of arms and to prevent them getting arms, he is permitting armaments to proceed among those whose purpose has been announced to be "to send Home Rule to the Devil." That, however, is merely a natural consequence of the doctrine that "the coercion of Ulster"—always, excepting the Nationalists of Ulster—is unthinkable.

Now that the Government has renewed its campaign of prosecution and imprisonment against Irish Volunteers, I have to ask for renewed subscriptions to the Irish Volunteer Defence Fund. I suggest that collectors be appointed in every locality, and that individual subscribers should ask their friends for subscriptions and forward these along with the sum to I. V. Headquarters. Only moderate subscriptions are expected for this purpose, not on the scale required for the arming of the Volunteers, but the defence of those who are victimised by

(Continued on page 3.)

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

With regard to recent proceedings of the Government towards the Irish Volunteers the General Council of the Irish Volunteers, which met on the 26th inst., wishes to warn the public that the general tendency of the Government's action is to force a highly dangerous situation. The Government is well aware that the possession of arms is essential to the Volunteer Organisation, and the Volunteers cannot submit to being disarmed either in numbers or detail without surrendering and abandoning the position they have held at all times since their first formation. The Volunteer Organisation also cannot maintain its efficiency without organisers. The raiding for arms and attempted disarming of men can, therefore, in the natural course of things, only be met by resistance and bloodshed.

Tionól do bhí ag Comhairle Shóca Féinne fáil ina nDúibhíocht tréadóna D. Céadóin, an 26ú lá de'n mháirt, agus an Ceann Cúta Éamonn Ceannnt ina dathóirleac oíche. Do roghuigeadh neite áiríche do bain le haíomáil.

Do hainmnígeadh beirt tóimrí nua. Tionól do bhí ag an gComhairle Coitctinn D. Dóimnais, an 26ú lá de'n mhí, agus Eoin Mac Néill, tuáscarán, ina ceannur. Do haontuigeadh an nán comhairle do chead-ghaolúcháir céana i dcaois fáirgín fáil ag áiríocht a gcuir arís do bain o'fhianais agus tóimrí na féinne do cuir i ngeábeann.

Do pinneadh a lán gnóca eile.

None of the Irish Volunteers recognise or will ever recognise the right of the Government to disarm them or to imprison their officers and men in any arbitrary fashion. The Council also draws attention to the repeated instances in which the Government's action has been associated with the movements of hostile crowds which are led to believe that they act under Government approval. In the Council's belief this feature of the case is based on a deliberate policy of creating factitious hostility between sections of the Irish people. Nothing need be hoped from remonstrance with the Government, but we appeal to the Irish people to look closely into the facts in every instance and keep a watch on the conduct and policy of the authorities and to fix the responsibility for any grave consequences that may arise.

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 22nd March, Commandant Eamonn Ceannnt in the chair.

Certain matters connected with equipment were dealt with.

Two additional Organisers were appointed.

The General Council met on Sunday, 20th March, Professor Eoin Mac Neill, President, in the chair.

A statement, which is published elsewhere, was adopted as to the tyrannical action of the British Government in attempting to disarm Irish Volunteers and in arbitrarily arresting Irish Volunteer Organisers.

A large amount of other business was transacted.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

NO SURRENDER.

The Irish Volunteers have, since their inauguration, avowed their intention to resist forcibly any attempt to disarm them. The men in Tullamore who forcibly resisted an attempt to disarm them last week did well. They showed both discipline and courage. Their action has set a headline which must be lived up to by every individual Volunteer and by every body of Volunteers against whom a similar attempt is made.

MORE ARRESTS.

Two of the Headquarters' Organisers—Commandant Liam Mellows and Lieutenant Ernest Blythe—have, in each case for the second time, been seized by the enemy. In prison or out of prison, these men represent a power which the enemy can no more crush than he can daunt the souls of the men themselves. Mellows' and Blythe's work for the Irish Volunteers is not over. Both of them will be heard from again. In the meantime Headquarters has appointed two new Organisers, who will speed the cause.

EASTER MANOEUVRES.

As was mentioned recently in these columns, it is the intention of Headquarters to utilise the Easter, the Whitsuntide, and the August Bank Holiday periods for field training. Last year's Easter manoeuvres were devoted to testing our powers of mobilisation and our capacity to carry out combined movements in accordance with a

time-table. The September manoeuvres of the Dublin Brigade were intended to test the staff work of Headquarters and of the Battalions. At the forthcoming Easter manoeuvres it is proposed to test mobilisation again, mobilisation being understood to mean the making available of all the men's equipment and all the Company and Battalion equipment as well as of the men and Companies and Battalions themselves. It is also proposed, to a certain extent, to test quartermastering, and for this purpose one-day or two-day bivouacs or camps will be arranged in suitable localities. At Whitsuntide the operations will partake more of the nature of regular manoeuvres, combined exercises between Battalion and Battalion, and, in some cases, between Brigade and Brigade being in contemplation. Preliminary details as to the Easter manoeuvres will be announced in Orders which will be published next week.

EQUIPMENT.

Headquarters is issuing this week two important Leaflets on Equipment. One deals with the Field Kit of the individual Volunteer, and the other with the Field Equipment of a Volunteer Company. Copies will be sent to all affiliated Companies.

AFFILIATIONS.

So many Companies, otherwise earnest and vigorous, are remiss in the punctual forwarding of their affiliation fees that the General Council has instructed Headquarters not to recognise, for training or other purposes, Companies whose affiliations are in arrears. There was really no other way out of it.

A MILITARY CAUSERIE

MORE HEALTH NOTES.

Drinking bad water has sometimes done more damage to an army than a hard-fought battle. Even in well-disciplined armies it is difficult to prevent the men from occasionally having access to bad water, and in irregular forces engaged in irregular warfare the difficulty will be even greater. Volunteers, therefore, should try to realise the danger in advance, and a few words on the subject will be of some value.

The brightest, clearest, most sparkling water may be the most dangerous of all, swarming, perhaps, with the germs of cholera or some other equally fatal fever. Therefore, never drink at wayside wells or streams unless the water is pronounced safe by a medical man. For camps and bivouacs an absolute rule is laid down that all water must be considered impure, and must be boiled before drinking, unless certified pure by the medical officer. In connection with this we may add that the "flat" taste given to water by boiling can be removed by rapidly pouring it, when cool, from one vessel into another. When on the march you do get to water which is certified wholesome, be sure to fill your water bottle, and always set out on a march, or go on outpost duty, with your water bottle full.

"To ascertain if water is free from organic pollution, place a lump of sugar in a bottle nearly full, and cork up, and if after thus excluding the air and keeping the bottle in the light for two or three days a milky cloud is apparent, but the water remains clear, it may be considered free from sewage matter." (From "How to Keep Fit.")

There is a common delusion that the addition of wine or spirits counteracts the poisonous effect of bad water. Remember that this is not so. The only sure remedy is boiling. Finally, remember that the less water you drink on a march the better for your marching powers; and at all times be careful lest any act of yours should foul any source of water supply.

Perhaps an even more fruitful source of disaster to the amateur army might be the common fly. These beasts, breeding and living as they do among filth and refuse, carry all kinds of contamination to the food on which they alight. A place that is infested with flies may be assumed to be unhealthy. In camp and bivouac cover up all food religiously, and kill any ones you can. Refuse must be burnt or buried deep in the earth.

These two possible sources of trouble to Volunteers are mentioned in the hope that all readers will notice and remember them. As individuals each of you must try to keep yourselves fit, and those of you who have commands of any size have the responsibility of keeping them fit. On this point the more the men realise the dangers and the remedies the better, as there will then be less difficulty in maintaining discipline, but even the best and most intelligent men may make fatal mistakes in a matter like this, and therefore supervision by officers of all grades is essential. We may mention that on route marches we have seen a fair amount of indiscriminate drinking at wayside streams, so far, fortunately, without evil result, but who knows that we shall always be lucky?

Cumann na mBan



CUMANN NA MBAN UNIFORM.

N.B.—The skirt should be cut much shorter than it appears in above. It should be at least 7 ins. from the ground to be of really practical use.

Congratulations are due to the members of Cumann na mBan at Tullamore who behaved so splendidly in the face of such a trying ordeal last week.

Several new Branches have been started since the last issue of Cumann na mBan Notes. One has been started at Bray, one at Mitchelstown, one at Lisool, Co. Roscommon; one at Kilkenny, one at Kilfinane, Co. Limerick; one in Dublin, called Craobh Columille; and one at Ballyferrier. Reports have arrived from Cork, Athlone, Carrickmacross and Tralee.

IRISH FINANCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The Executive meeting was held on the 25th inst. at the Mansion House, Dublin.

A large number of letters were read dealing with the spread of the movement against the over-taxation of Ireland, and asking for speakers to address local meetings through the country.

It was announced that protests against increased taxation had been adopted by the following bodies:—Dublin Corporation, Limerick Corporation, Kilkenny Corporation, Queenstown U.D.C., Kilmacthomas Guardians, Carrickmacross U.D.C., Clonmel Guardians, Omagh Guardians, Naas Guardians, Galway U.D.C., Dunlin Trades Council, Wexford Town Tenants' League, Macroom R.D.C., Thomastown R.D.C., Monaghan County Council, Athy Guardians, Thurles Urban Council, Athlone Guardians, Mountmellick Guardians, Tralee Guardians, Cotehill U.D.C., Carlow U.D.C., Carrick-on-Suir Guardians, Naas U.D.C., North Dublin Guardians, Athy U.D.C., Middleton U.D.C., Ennisceorby Guardians, Gorey Guardians, Celbridge Guardians, Balrothery District Council, Cork Consumers' League, King's Co. Committee of Agriculture.

It was decided to issue a second edition of Leaflet No. 1, "How Ireland is Plundered." The draft of Leaflet No. 2, "Why Ireland Claims Exemption," was approved. It was reported that Leaflets 3 and 4, "The Effect of Over-taxation on Districts," and "Industries Crippled by Unjust Financial Regulation," were in course of preparation and would be issued shortly.

The subject of the forthcoming Budget was discussed, and it was resolved to take immediate action on the publication of its terms.

B. J. Goff, M.A.,

J. E. Lyons,

Hon. Secs.

THE GAELIC PRESS,

30 UPPER LIFFEY STREET DUBLIN
(Though the premises were raided by the military and police on Friday, 24th March, and the machinery dismantled), begs to announce that, with kind friendly co-operation and assistance, the firm will continue to carry on

BUSINESS AS USUAL

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NOTES.

(Continued from page 1.)

the Government and who are unable to defray the expense imposed on them must be recognised as a patriotic duty. Sports, concerts, and other public gatherings give good opportunity for collecting small subscriptions; but don't let everybody expect everybody else to do it.

"Get off Ireland!" is the order of the British Imperial power to the imprisoned Volunteer Organisers. "Get out of Ireland! You have a right to be in Ireland, your own country, but we have might against right." These are the heroes who want to save the world from Prussianism. The last time they tried the banishment policy, it failed. Then they got the English Privy Council to confer new powers on them, the powers of forcible banishment. There is an Irish Privy Council, but war is a great thing for tearing the disguise off humbug, and showing that the Union means Ireland under England. The liberty of Ireland is absolutely at the disposal of the English Council, a body of whom Ireland knows as little as she knows of one Grand Lama of Tibet. Down with Prussianism! At the previous prosecution of the organisers in Belfast for refusing to exile themselves, the "Crown" expressed the pious wish that these men should be sent to England, where they would be treated as Irishmen who are not servile deserve. So just a week after Mr. Redmond was decorated with shamrocks, an order is issued to Irishmen to exile themselves to England. The order permits them to reside in Harrogate, where legislators go for the cold cure, or Knarborough, Pateley Bridge, Settle and Wetherby only, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; or to Gloucestershire, except certain parts; or to Oxfordshire; or to Worcestershire, except the neighbourhood of Birmingham; to Herefordshire, Radnorshire, or part of Shropshire. Each of the Organisers was conveyed to Dublin by a strong posse of police armed with carbines. The show of force will intimidate nobody, and make nobody lose heart with excitement. The organisation of the Volunteers will go on as it went on after the last Government outbreak, which did so much to improve and strengthen the national position. I have just been reading that, when the arms of Ireland were added to the English flag, the Earl of Northampton said the harp was a suitable emblem for Ireland—it cost them more to keep it in tune than it was worth. The Earl was a wise man. Two years of unmasked Imperialism have made the prospect of conquering the national spirit of Ireland more remote than ever in our time.

Let the tyrant bribe and lie,
March, threaten, fortify,
Loose his lawyer and his spy,
Yet we'll have our own again.
EORS MAC NEILL.

Training Notes for Beginners.

I.—TERMS, COMMONSENSE AND A STORY.

No language lends itself so easily and so commonly to vagueness, to wooliness, to obscurity, as English. Irish Volunteers who have to use English must keep themselves wide awake in order to be sure that they understand the military terms that they use. Irish Volunteers who use Irish must make no mistake about saying what they mean, in terms of things and actions which are clear to them. They must not use word-for-word translations of English terms and phrases. In lecturing to officers I have discovered that while all know that both in attack and defence a reserve must be kept in hand, some do not understand clearly or are misled by the three terms I emphasise. The word *reserve* is a bad word. The principal thing about it in the beginning is that it is kept back, but that is not the whole of the matter. A force is reserved for a time and for a purpose. The main or general reserve is the main fighting force, reserved only until the others have developed the fight and given the commander an opportunity to strike a decisive blow. It is not a force to be reserved all the time, as some seem to think. In order to be able to strike the decisive blow, or any blow, at whatever spot the best opportunity offers, the main reserve must not be deployed until necessary. That is what is meant by keeping it in hand. But that again is not the whole matter. Ask your 2nd Lieutenant where it is to be kept, and why at that place he indicates. You may find that he has not a clear rule to guide him, a formula that he can make up for himself every time. He may not remember that, as the reserve may have to be deployed in a direction at right angles to the line of defence or of attack, the position at which it is to be kept is chosen with reference to that fact. (With reference to what other facts?) (With reference to freedom of movement. What does that mean?) Walk it out with him on a table with a box of matches—one match for every man you have; no imaginary forces. At every parole get him to tell off your Company as an Advanced Guard—Point, Flankers, Van-guard, Main-guard, with connecting files. He may this time imagine a Main Body that does not appear. Ask him how he is to calculate the distance between Van and Main-guard, between Main-guard and Main Body, and even if he has not a new light from some previous exercises. Then ask him if he would have a Van-guard be right as Point and Main-guard. Walk the two things out with men and observe

the differences between men and matches, between a countryside and a table.

It is all a matter of commonsense, and technical terms and book-learning are ultimately dangerous only to those who lack commonsense. They are, however, immediately dangerous in this, that they may send the mind to sleep for a time. I have seen officers make lovely little notes and button them away in their pockets while their minds were fast asleep. If, by the technical terms I have used here, the commanders of some of our small isolated Companies and Cycling Sections are discouraged, let them stay at home and study the houses they live in, or any one fairly well held two or three-storied house. How would you defend? Why so? From what windows would you fire on the enemy? Why, where would you get material for sandbags, good supply of water and the like? Now go further and see how you could combine the defence of this house with the defence of others, providing for communications, line of retreat and the rest. It is not necessary to think in the big strategic way. How your own Company local commander can train his men in securing, in taking cover, in moving across country, in the practical and likely things—above all, in observation. An officer who attended the Training Conference on the evening of our last Convention reported that when he had no enemy to work against, he made his men work across a piece of country or along the roads and bring back accurate information as to the number of goats they met. Others had developed good original plans of sending out scouts in fan formation and withdrawing them regularly. Understand that the answer to a problem worked out by yourself is infinitely more useful to you than an answer taught to you. So with things like scouting. Take a piece of country. Examine it. It is a problem ready made. Find how you would send scouts across it in a certain direction, and get them back. Try it with your men. When you have got them to do what you want, once—not the least best out of what you want, once—you will have learned more than can teach you or put in notes. You may say that your men know all their district as they know the palms of their hands. Send them out and see how they keep touch, how they keep direction and how they come back. It is wonderful what men can do in the wrong way. Colonel Hawkins, in his book on "Night Operations," says that he has seen a whole brigade of infantry disappear and remain lost for two hours in an area hardly exceeding a square mile. I have seen a good part of a Dublin Battalion get lost in a bit of Phoenix Park. You can go on learning for a long time in your own fields. You have worked out your first problem by daylight. Take the same men out on a dark night, and get them to make just a march by a track across the same fields, in silence. Then go farther and do an exercise in line. Ask yourself if your men should have their guns loaded during your night operation. (Now of course if you look at that book there is no use in my putting questions of commonsense to you.) When you know the answer, ask your men, and when they know maybe they will be keener on getting bayonets and pikes. General Petain, the defender of Verdun, has a reserve armed with the bayonet only—no ammunition saved out. A man with a pike is a foot or two better off than the man of that reserve.

Encourage discussions of practical questions among your men. (What is a practical question—for you?) Do not let theory run away with them. If some wisecracker still wags his gaiter at you about your lack of artillery, give him command of an imaginary battery placed wherever he likes in your neighbourhood and get him to shoot your men when they are not there. Get him to connect with his artillery through the hedges or even over the roads against you. (By the way, do you know what happened to the British artillery in Kilkenny some years ago during the big manoeuvres that turned out such a fiasco?) If he wants to go up in the air as an aviator, let him go. He will never from there see your men, even when they move about. This is Ireland, and your hedge-bound fields are neither plains nor deserts. If he prefers to go to sea, in command of a Dreadnought, get him to be accurate in his shots, having first made up your mind where your men are, without telling him. You will learn from him. (Have you been thinking about billeting?) But be sure to get him to work against you, not against 100,000 Irish Volunteers in uniforms and close order, paraded at Clontarf. If you have in such whirling post, but are "only" a private mind, divide your force, however small, into two and work out your first problem with them—if you have time to spare from necessary work.

Do not study books like Von Kammennfuter's "Movements of Massed Armies to a Flank," referred to some weeks ago in these columns by E. O'D. Also, do not take E. O'D. for gospel or official. Chew upon what he says and spit out the sandy bits. But do, if you can, read books and notes on the kind of fighting you are likely to do. Do not be afraid of histories of wars like the American Civil War, or even of wars as far off as Caesar's campaigns in Gaul. They are full of information on the little important things—messages that went wrong, mistakes of subordinate commanders, mistakes even of the greatest. They too, being done when in Dublin some time ago, are full of information on the kind of fighting you are likely to do. Caesar seems sure to have mistaken the River Sambre for the S-bidli.

A story—Once upon a time Caesar and Ver-

gingetrix were on opposite sides of a river. Ver-gingetrix had learned a great deal in his fighting against the Romans, but not all that Caesar knew. Caesar wanted urgently to cross the river. Ver-gingetrix wanted to keep him on the wrong side; he destroyed the bridges, he guarded the banks of the river, at a place where a bridge had been. In the morning Caesar broke camp and marched off, apparently with all his forces. In reality, under cover of darkness he had withdrawn a part of his force out of sight back from the river, and marched a narrow column of the usual length. He had discovered what it was that his opponent had not yet learned—to protect his rear. The two armies marched off as usual, like a Dublin Volunteer officer and a G-man on opposite sides of a road. Then, when the rear of the Gaulish column had passed, out came the Roman engineers and ran up the bridge. The rest was easy—for Caesar. Look behind you at times.

TH. MACD.

THE DUBLIN BRIGADE.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2ND, 1916.

1. Classes as usual.
2. Usual Lecture for Officers, Tuesday, at 8 p.m.
3. Meeting of all Officers on Saturday, April 1st, 8 p.m.
4. On Sunday, April 2nd, the 2nd and 5th Battalions will have a Field Day.
5. Eoin Mac Neill will deliver a lecture on Irish Military Organisation at 25 Parnell Square, on Sunday, April 2nd, at 8 p.m.

M. W. O'REILLY, Deputy Adj.

Görgel and the Hungarian Army.

V.—MEASURES OF REORGANISATION.

AFTER the dismissal of Schweduit Görgel was appointed to the chief command of the Hungarian troops and at once set to work to overhaul the system of administration in all branches. With regard to the appointment of officers he adopted the following measures:—
"All favouritism in the promotions must for ever entirely cease. . . . The promotion of officers within certain limits ought to be confined to the commander of the army alone. Either the commander of the army deserves this confidence; and then there is no risk run; or he does not deserve it, and then away with him! Only no half measures. . . . The sergeant-majors of Hussars, V. and II., who have been promoted to the rank of lieutenants, I pray to have removed to another regiment, because these are the persons who, when in Galicia—for the purpose of saving themselves, to return with their men to Hungary—carried along with them their superior officer, whom they bound; and thus committed the greatest military crime, though from patriotic motives. The country rewards their zealous patriotism by promotion; but the service strictly requires that they be removed from the ranks of that body of troops, where they serve only as dangerous examples of rewarded disobedience."

With regard to the reorganisation of the troops generally, Görgel's aim was to bring about, if possible, one uniform of training and efficiency throughout the entire army.

"All irregular bodies of troops must be strictly kept apart from the regular, and placed under their own separate commanders. The best plan would be to disband immediately all irregular troops; to reorganise separately those individuals among them who are bound to military service, and to employ them for completing the bodies of regular troops already existing. . . . Some have advanced the opinion that one battalion of Volunteers or National Guards placed between two Honvéd battalions is equivalent to a third Honvéd battalion. While there is no danger that this may be so, but at the first grape-shot the Volunteer battalion runs voluntarily away, and as a rule carries off with it involuntarily both Honvéd battalions to its right and left. There have been exceptions, but how many? . . . All the divisions of the National Guard which did not engage themselves for the duration of the war must be immediately disbanded. . . . It seems to exist only for the purpose of meeting at the bars, and pestiferously infecting our best-disciplined troops with the bad spirit by which it is itself pervaded. . . . The period of service of the battalion of the Honvéd National Guards expires on the 20th of this month; and already on the 10th have these people demanded to return home. They have repeatedly declared that they will positively not continue any longer; for they are not such fools as to expose again their dear lives in the last five days of their service, after the good God has preserved them hitherto from the fire of the enemy's guns. I have consequently not the least reason to

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lament the departure of these zealous patriots; but certainly cause enough to complain of the loss of so many good muskets and equipments. I have therefore desired the royal commissary at least to retain their arms for the defence of the country, though he dismiss the men. . . .
 "Your army is already weak, and yet you weaken it still further" might be said of my not forcibly detaining the home-sick. I know this well, but still cannot do otherwise; and the less so, as I have a settled conviction that though my small army, by such departures as these, will certainly be weakened in numbers, it will nevertheless be morally strengthened; for in war there is nothing more disheartening to the soldier than the apprehension of being left in the lurch by his comrade."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1st BATT. DUBLIN BRIGADE, I. V.
GRAND CONCERT
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