

THE

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1915.

Price One Penny.

NOTES.

The armed and trained military force, which goes by the name of a police force in Ireland, is manned for the most part by the sons of genuine Irish parents. But the discipline is so thorough and the training, especially the mental training, is so systematic that our Continuity Government always relies on being able to use these men in any way desired for the suppression of liberty among their own kith and kin, the people from whom they spring. The divine law forbade the Hebrews to boil a kid in its mother's milk, but the Thing that rules in Ireland has no regard for any law, divine or human. The Continuity, however, learned at Clontarf on the 26th of July, 1914, that there were limits to the violation of decency even when the victims were its own trained policemen.

These thoughts come uppermost when now and again complaints are heard about the action of the police. We fall into the snare of our would-be conquerors and exploiters whenever we lose sight of the real criminals and vent our anger on their instruments, whether those instruments be played upon through appeals to hatred for the love of God or controlled by a disciplinary system, by hopes of reward or fears of punishment. No sane man, finding a burglar on his premises, will attack or scold the burglar's tools, while he allows the burglar to go free. We have read how travellers pursued by wolves, having spent all their ammunition, have thrown away their guns, and how the wolves have stopped from the pursuit to break their teeth on the discarded weapons. We are banded together, not to fly from a barbarous and degrading regime, but to put it to flight, and our attack will not be diverted.

There is a branch of the police that is not uniformed, and is supposed to be mainly engaged in the detection and prevention of crime. As Ireland is comparatively crimeless, this branch of the police is compelled to devote

most of its time at present to facilitating the crime of alien misgovernment in Ireland. I have heard some speak indignantly about this sort of police activity, but what are people to expect? Do they imagine that the evil tree can bear good fruit? As for the police themselves, uniformed and otherwise, they show me that trained and disciplined Irishmen are the equals of any men and superior to most. I look forward with confidence to the time when such men will be the invincible guardians of Ireland's honour as well as Ireland's peace.

Ireland has been restored to a normal state of as good health as a country under the rule of external force can expect to have. For some time back, she had been living in state of stupor, stupefied by Liberalism, doles, jobs, and trust in the British Democracy. Now we cannot open a daily paper without reading about prosecutions, fines, imprisonments, suppressions, all arising out of discontent with the suspension of our national rights and liberties. That is one of many signs that the reign of stupefaction has come to an end. And not one hundredth part of the evidences of restored vitality finds notice even in small print in the inconspicuous corners of the newspapers.

Mr. Dillon and Mr. Devlin have held a private and a public meeting at Castlebar to ward off danger from the political machine. It is now plainly confessed that the political machine has still a difficult task to accomplish, that the mandate of the Irish Party is still unfulfilled and cannot be fulfilled without another fight. Mr. Dillon again insisted on a hearing for his grievance against "cranks and sore-heads," but a few months ago, when Mr. Redmond was going round the country proclaiming that we had now got Home Rule and the best Constitution we ever had—a kind of language that has got a rest lately, like Mr. Redmond and the votes of confidence—anybody who said the contrary was a crank and a sorehead.

Mr. Dillon also returned to the subject of the thirty-five years' services of the Irish Party

What about the thirty-five years' services of the Irish people? Let the Party get all the credit they are entitled to. Let their services be engraved on brazen tablets, and if gratitude should take any other form, let it be so. But let us realise that the present and the future are our concern.

Without a clear issue and a clear programme, all the efforts to hold the political machine together will only help to clog it and jam it until it breaks down completely.

The Nation's will is not doubtful. Let it be embodied in a well-defined demand:

1. National self-government and a complete renunciation by British politicians of the policy of interference in Irish affairs and inflammation of Irish quarrels.
2. No surrender on the partition question. The six years' concession, which should never have been offered, was offered as the price of agreement and was rejected. Let it therefore be definitely withdrawn.
3. The complete emancipation of Irish land and town tenants from the remains of English feudalism. This will have to be a drastic measure. All prospect of completing the extinction of feudal landlordism by the means hitherto provided has been extinguished by the finance of the war.
4. The complete exemption of Ireland from any additional burden of taxation in consequence of the war.

These demands should not be put forward as a programme of all-round reform, but as matters of vital urgency arising out of the actual situation.

Let us hear no namby-pamby about a political truce. Neither the Government nor the Opposition have observed any political truce in Ireland, and if a political truce means the strangling of Ireland during an Imperial crisis, then Ireland's first duty is self-preservation. The return of European peace must not find this nation a political and economic wreck.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

Field Training.

These columns will contain a series of articles intended as a guide to Company Commanders in training their Companies in field work. They should, of course, be read also by minor officers and by the rank and file. Every officer must preserve these notes, as they will be constantly referred to in Regimental Orders.

CHAPTER I.

ELEMENTARY TRAINING IN EXTENDED ORDER.

A—EXTENSION ON PARADE.

The Sections will be extended separately, each forming its own line, by the command "To the right (or to the left, or from the centre), to 2 paces—Extend." The centre man, or the man on the flank opposite to the named flank, will stand fast, and the remainder will double out to the named flank, or outwards from the centre, as the case may be, to the required distance, rear rank men coming up on the left hand side of their own front rank men.



R = LEADER OF RIGHT RANK

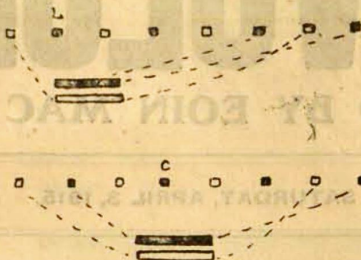
On the command "On the right (or otherwise)—Close," the man on the named flank will stand fast, the remainder turning in the named direction, and marching thither in quick time. They will then, on reaching their places, halt, turn to the front, and stand at ease. The Section is now formed up in two lines as before.

Repeat this three or four times, and then let the Section Commanders extend their Sections separately. Insist on Section Commanders giving the command correctly.

The manoeuvres must be carried out smartly. In extending, there must be no pushing or jostling among the men. Those who from their position in the ranks know they have a good distance to go must double out without hesitation, not shuffle out sideways, as so often happens. There is no time for shuffling in action.

When the men have learnt how to extend from two lines, they will be taught how to extend from file. In this movement the only difference is that "extension" is united with

"forming section" on the named flank. Thus, in extending to the right, the leader of the right rank will stand fast, and the remainder will make a half right turn and double out as before, coming up on a line with the leading man. In extending from fours, the men will first form two deep, and then proceed as from file.



FRONT RANK BLACK
REAR RANK WHITE
L = LEFT HAND MAN
C = CENTRE MAN

B—PRELIMINARY FIELD WORK.

When the extension order has been mastered on the parade ground, the Company should be taken out to the fields, and there extended and closed by whistle and signal. They should then be taught advancing and retiring, noticing that at the halt they must face in the direction of the enemy.

Section Commanders should lead their Sections in file along the hedges, and then extend them either along the hedge or across the field. When the Section is advancing in single file or in line in open order, they should see that the intervals (at least 4 paces in the field) are properly kept.

It is important that men should learn to obey surprise orders promptly. It has been noticed in the Volunteers, even in the case of simple movements, that, unless instruction is given beforehand, unexpected orders are hopelessly bungled. To cultivate the faculty of keeping awake, the Company Commander should lead his men in column of route along a road, and on a suitable opportunity give the order to extend into a single line across the adjacent fields. Of course, mistakes will be made at first, but promptness will be learned in the end.

It would be well to mention here that quick extension will save many a disaster.

C—ELEMENTARY TACTICS.

Not until skirmishing lines can always be thrown out without mishap should any tactical manoeuvres be tried. At first it is only neces-

sary to practice the use of firing line and support. Half the Company under the First Lieutenant should form the firing line; the other half, under the Captain and Second Lieutenant, forming the support. They should be trained to advance over broken ground, so as to obtain practice in preserving continuity of each line and communication between them. The Second Lieutenant should be taught to be on the look-out for signals for reinforcement from the commander of the firing line. Reinforcements should then be sent up at the double.

Lastly, the bayonet charge should be practised. This is never carried out correctly by the Volunteers—at any rate by the Dublin Regiment. An irregular skirmishing line, tired with running and torn with rifle and artillery fire, will make no impression with the bayonet against a solid defending force. The men must therefore be trained to concentrate, while they run, into a solid line. Good runners must not be allowed to run ahead and impale themselves on the enemy's bayonets before their comrades get into action. The charge should never be made over a greater distance than 150 yards, and the average should be only 100 yards.

In all these manoeuvres ready obedience on the part of the men is an essential. They should always look to their immediate commander for orders, and the commanders should on their part cultivate a sense of responsibility, so that the confidence of the men may not be misplaced. Every officer, from the Captain to the Squad Leaders, must be able to handle his unit independently and in co-operation with others. On marches, for instance, a minor officer should be sent with his detachment on some special task (reconnaissance, etc.) to be accomplished in a given time, and in any kind of field work an officer who lets his unit get out of touch with the others should have his mistake pointed out to him and, if possible, be shown how it occurred.

Every Company Commander must see that his Company fulfils all the requirements of this chapter before going on to Chapter II., which will be published next week. Otherwise he will find that he can carry out no manoeuvre without confusion.

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Roll Call.

An Cumann Cosanta, the new Insurance Society for Irish Volunteers, has been explained to most of the Dublin Companies during the past week. It has been taken up with enthusiasm and large numbers are joining.

It will gradually be extended to the country, and local committees will be organised in Cork, Limerick, Belfast, and Derry very shortly.

It is expected that the Volunteers throughout Ireland will avail themselves of the security it offers, and so become independent of any coercive action on the part of any class of employers.

Several Irish Volunteers have already been dismissed from their employment on account of their connection with the Irish Volunteer movement, and many more have been threatened with dismissal if they did not cease to be Irish Volunteers. If the Volunteers throughout Ireland rally to AN CUMANN COSANTA this kind of coercion won't have much effect.

The Volunteers of County Limerick are organising an Officers' Class at Ballylanders, which will be attended by the officers and selected men from all the corps within a radius of fifteen miles. The class will be conducted by Captain Montieth, and will do a great deal for the Volunteer Movement in County Limerick.

Every County in Ireland might make a similar arrangement with very great advantage. Officers' classes should, whenever possible, be started in suitable centres.

The week's special training in Cork conducted by Captain O'Connell was a great success. Captain O'Connell was much pleased with the efficiency of the Cork Battalion, and his report to Headquarters praises them highly.

Several of the Organisers will during the Spring conduct special courses of training in different parts of the country, and those corps that wish to be visited should forward their applications without delay to Headquarters.

Arrangements are now being made to have a special week's training in Kilkenny, New Ross and Waterford City, and great developments in the work of these corps may be expected shortly.

The Volunteers of Tullamore and Athlone have joined hands and secured the services of a competent instructor in the person of Mr. P. E. Maguire. Mr. Maguire is already hard at work in Tullamore, and more new corps have already been started as the result

In Kerry the membership of some of the companies is rapidly increasing, and many who remained neutral at the time of the split or who went with the National Volunteers are finding their way back into our ranks.

A Camp of Instruction for Volunteer Officers.

A permanent summer camp for Irish Volunteer officers would probably be more beneficial to the force as a whole than any other single measure that could be adopted. A thorough course in such a camp would be a powerful factor in bringing about a community of doctrine among them, and would go very far towards uniting and solidifying the force. Besides this the technical knowledge learned, the habit of discipline acquired, and the increased physical fitness obtained would be a very important acquisition to the individual officers themselves. Any officer who had passed through the course would resume his duties with his unit with greatly increased vigour and confidence; and would have acquired a status with his men that would have the effect of making them, on their part, more willing and competent.

If a suitable headquarters were obtained it would be a simple enough matter to establish a camp for a couple of months. Any officer who wished would then be able to spend a week or two in the camp during his summer holidays. Exact details of the expenses could be given—they would not be high—and a statement of the equipment necessary could be issued. The camp would of course be run on a very strict system of discipline. This would be distinctly understood, and any officer not falling in with the system should be promptly relieved of his command.

While in camp the officers would receive the theoretical instruction suitable to officers and the practical work of the private soldier. That is to say, indoor lectures would be on a fairly advanced plane, but out of doors each officer would have to do the actual spade-work, &c., inseparable from field service. In the latter case each officer would rank as a private normally. But occasionally a lieutenant might have command of a section in which were three or four captains and *vice versa*, so that everyone would acquire the habits of command and obedience.

The actual course of instruction would include every branch of the military art necessary to the Irish Volunteer officer. Field exercises would be thoroughly discussed, and all would be encouraged to exchange opinions and offer suggestions of any kind. The training would be as far as possible complete within each week, but circumstances might occasionally cause an exercise to extend over the end of one week and the beginning of the next.

Of course, the scheme could not come into

operation until the summer when the weather would allow of the fullest advantage being taken of it. But the further ahead preparations are made, the more profitable will the scheme prove to those coming under it.



FEILS CAHIR MOR,
TULLOW, CO. CARLOW.

TO THE EDITOR, "THE IRISH VOLUNTEER."

DEAR SIR,—I shall be grateful if you will kindly allow me space to notify intending competitors of the following additional arrangements in connection with above:—

1. In addition to those already announced, there will be special trains from Athlone, Thurles and Drogheda.

2. In addition to prize in Volunteer Competition, we shall give a valuable banner, to be made to order of winners.

3. String Band Competition and Ladies' Competition (Seniors) will be held on June 27th, not on 29th.

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All communications re Advertisements to be addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1915.

Headquarters' Bulletin

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 24th March, Commandant P. H. Pearse, Director of Organisation, presiding.

Reports dealing with Organisation, Training, Arms, Finance, and Insurance were submitted and considered.

It was agreed that the Headquarters' Staff should present a report on its three months' work to the meeting of the General Council on 28th March.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 24th March, 1915.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT.

The following regulations and recommendations come into force from this date:—

(1) Officers will wear uniforms, if possible, but no Volunteer will spend money on a uniform until he has provided himself with arms and ammunition.

(2) Squad Commanders may be distinguished by a strip of dark green serge or cloth, two inches by a quarter inch, sewn on the left breast of the tunic; Section Commanders by two such strips; and Company Adjutants by three such strips.

(3) All buttons on uniforms are to be dark green in colour. Brass or other bright buttons are not to be worn, and all such buttons on existing uniforms are to be replaced as soon as possible by dark green buttons.

(4) White or other bright coloured haversacks are not to be worn. All haversacks are to be dyed green or some other colour which will not be conspicuous against the tunic or coat. All shiny metal or leather surfaces in the dress or equipment are to be dulled.

(5) While a dark green soft hat is recommended as the most suitable for active service, the regulation cap is still to be regarded as the official headdress of Irish Volunteers, and should be worn by all ranks at parades, unless otherwise ordered.

P. H. PEARSE, Commandant,
Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 24th March, 1915.

DUBLIN BRIGADE.

EASTER MANŒUVRES, 1915.

(1) The Easter Manœuvres will comprise

the sudden mobilisation of the four Dublin Battalions and of the auxiliary Fingall Battalion, constituting the Dublin Brigade; the attack and defence of a position in North County Dublin; and the despatch of a flying column to a point South of Dublin.

(2) The mobilisation of the various Companies will be carried out under orders which will be issued to the Company Commanders by the Battalion Commandants.

(3) The mobilisation of the Battalions will be carried out under orders which will be issued to the Battalion Commandants by me, on behalf of the Headquarters' Staff.

(4) The flying column will be made up of five men from each Company of the four Dublin Battalions, selected by the Company Commanders in accordance with the instructions already issued to them. The selected men will carry the equipment and rations specified in the detailed instructions to Company Commanders.

(5) Men other than those selected for the flying column will carry ordinary equipment and light rations. They will not be required to be absent from home for more than six hours.

(6) The Headquarters' Staff (with the Brigade Chief of Engineers) will constitute the Brigade Staff for the occasion. I will act as Brigade Commandant-General, with Commandant Thomas MacDonagh as my second in command. Vice-Commandant Thomas Hunter will command the 2nd Battalion in the absence of Commandant MacDonagh. Lieut. William Clarke will command the flying column.

P. H. PEARSE, Commandant,
Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 26th March, 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ARMS.

Even yet the importance of providing themselves with such arms as are available has not been grasped by some of the Companies. Some of them are deferring the matter in the hope that the particular type of gun which they affect will be on the market shortly; others are waiting until they have more money; some few are procrastinating through sheer failure to appreciate their obligations as Volunteers. None of these reasons, nor any other conceivable reason, can be sufficient to excuse from a duty which is paramount and urgent. Without arms we are not Volunteers at all. We came into existence with one sole object, that of arming ourselves in our country's defence. Should it become necessary for us to take action in our country's defence, the Company or the individual that is unarmed will simply be out of it. There will be nothing for it or for him to do. The part of an onlooker in that day will not be very glorious. At any rate, it is not the part for Volunteers.

OUR DUTY.

The time has come when it is the duty of

every Irish Volunteer to put what money he can spare from the immediate needs of his family into arms and ammunition. A five-pound note will give a Volunteer a sufficiently good gun and a sufficient stock of ammunition. He is not asked to pay the five-pound note down at once. He can pay it at a shilling a week, at sixpence a week. There is no man among us who cannot afford this tax. The poorest among us spends as much each week on some luxury. The average man among us spends five times as much each week on luxuries. The Headquarters' Staff seriously puts it to each Volunteer that it is his duty to stint himself, if need be, in order to pay for his gun and his ammunition. Our movement lacks reality until it is armed.

TO OFFICERS.

The Company Officers have an important responsibility in this connection. Every officer must see to it that his own unit is armed. What good is it to lead an unarmed Company or an unarmed Section? Let it be repeated that unarmed Companies and Sections may be armed even now, late though it be; not, perhaps, at the moment, with magazine rifles—even men who will take part in the present war are being armed with single-shot Martinis—but at least with guns which will shoot and kill. Company Commanders whose Companies are not yet fully armed should enter at once into communication with the proper quarters, so as to put an end to so unsatisfactory (and dangerous) a state of affairs.

TRAINING.

It is to be hoped that recent orders and notes from Headquarters are having their effect, and that helpful and educative training schemes are being put into operation everywhere. As has been so often insisted upon, the really essential part of our Volunteer training can be got almost as well in the absence of a skilled instructor as in the presence of one. Marching, shooting, and scouting (including the taking of cover), these, with a workable mobilisation scheme, form a sufficient and valuable programme for the average Company which finds itself without expert assistance.

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VICTORIES OF IRREGULAR TROOPS.

II.—THE GATE PAH.

A very little known war was the struggle waged in the sixties of the last century by the New Zealand natives, the warlike Maories, against the British. And yet the conditions of that contest were such that many very valuable lessons in tactics can be learned from it suitable to be applied to the nature of much of the ground in Ireland. Accordingly we publish an account of the notable defence of the Gate Pah by the native warriors in April, 1864. The scene of the fight was near the town of Tauranga on the eastern coast of the North Island, New Zealand.

THE OPPOSING FORCES.

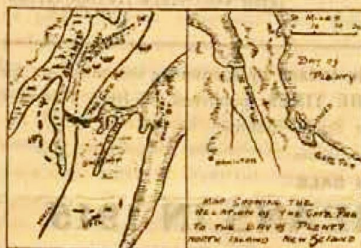
General Cameron, the British Commander, landed at Tauranga with some 1,700 men—a naval brigade of 400 and the remainder English infantry regiments. He had also a strong train of artillery—two 40-pr. guns and two 6-pr., two 24-pr. howitzers and 8 mortars. In addition he landed a great 110-pr. gun from one of the ships, which was handled by some of her crew. The Maories were exceedingly expert in the construction of entrenchments, and it was hoped that this formidable display of cannon would—if it failed to terrify them and make them believe resistance was hopeless—at least render their works absolutely untenable.

The opposing Maori force garrisoning the Gate Pah consisted of something under 400 men. They were armed with double-barrelled shot-guns, which they loaded with slugs, bullets or buck-shot; and which were very effective at short range. For fighting hand to hand they carried spears, tomahawks or small axes and war-clubs. The Maori tactics were to avoid as far as possible decisive encounters on a large scale, and instead to pursue a system of guerilla fighting in the thick bush, high grass and ferns with which the country was covered in great part. One result of this style of fighting was that the officers were picked off at close range, and their losses were proportionately very heavy.

In one respect the Maories were far in advance of most irregular warriors of a similar stamp—their skill in constructing stockades and earthworks. The stockades or "pahs" were very strong and well-made fences of stout branches, giving perfect concealment from view and considerable cover from shell-fire. The entrenchments were skilfully constructed rifle pits, roofed over, and leaving only a sort of loophole line between the roof and the ground. Commonly there were several pahs so placed as to protect each other by flanking fire, and the trenches were given a zig-zag trail to prevent serious enfilade fire. This object was further served by banks thrown up as traverses.

THE POSITION AT THE GATE PAH.

The position selected by the Maories was in itself exceedingly strong, and no pains had been spared to make it still more formidable. It extended across a swelling ridge of land over which passed the road from the coast into the interior, and which measured a little over a quarter of a mile wide. The left rested on a swamp and the right was covered by an inlet of the sea, along the shore of which ran another belt of swampy ground. In front of the position was a fairly wide and deep trench which extended down to the swamps on each side. As a second defensive line a stockade was constructed some distance in front of the main system of trenches to hold up a storming party—much on the principle of the modern barbed-wire entanglement. The trenches were well roofed over with wattles and rods concealed by branches.



On April 27th and 28th, General Cameron was occupied getting his artillery ashore and into position, and he sent the 68th Regiment (Col. Greer), some 700 strong, round to cut off the retreat of the natives. This was done by sending the troops along the beach at low water on the night of the 28th, under cover of a brisk fire from skirmishers pushed well out in front of the main body for this purpose.

THE ATTACK AND ITS FAILURE.

Early on the morning of the 28th the entire English artillery opened fire on the pah, and continued until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The great 110-pounder fired 100 rounds, and its ammunition was exhausted. So excellent were the Maori works, and so well and patiently did the men lie under cover that their losses were very small. Many of the shells buried themselves harmlessly in the soft ground, and the vast majority of the splinters of those that burst were harmless against the works. However the stockade was breached sufficiently, as was thought, for an assault. A strong storming column of 600 men was ordered forward. It consisted of two divisions, 300 in each—partly from the Naval Brigade, partly from the 43rd Regiment.

A swell of the ground gave considerable cover until the vanguard was quite up to the stockade, and the leading ranks pressed in.

But inside the work among the shelters, banks, branches and trenches their ranks became disordered. Suddenly from every dug-out, gun-barrels were thrust up and a fearful fusillade poured into the stormers, who dropped in bunches. Immediately the Maori warriors sprang out of their works and fell on them with spears, clubs and axes: while at the same moment a reserve held at the rear of the works rushed up to complete the counter-stroke. A sudden panic seized the English, all in confusion as they were, and they fled in utter rout.

The 68th made a vain attempt to advance against the work from the other side, but were stopped by a well-directed fire. After that only occasional shots were exchanged. The Maories had inflicted a most bloody repulse on the invaders, and in the night evacuated their position, realising that their numbers were inadequate to hold it permanently. The English losses were: Killed, 9 officers and 23 men; wounded, 5 officers and 75 men—a total of 112. The native warriors lost about 40 killed and wounded.

COMMENTS.

One main cause of the English disaster was the mixing of units in the attacking force. Thus the vanguard and support in the assaulting column were each half infantry and half Naval Brigade. This split up the control of both: it would have been the proper course to find the vanguard entirely from one unit and the supports from another. The tremendous artillery bombardment was entirely injudicious and useless—injuring neither works nor garrison. The native warriors acted throughout with true tactical judgment—altogether apart from their choice and preparation of the ground. Their steadiness under the long bombardment was beyond praise: and the way they held their fire until the English were close up and disordered, and then poured out one overwhelming volley was an example of the most commendable kind. Then there is to be noted their vigorous following up and falling on the English to complete their overthrow. Finally, the Maori leader had taken the precaution to hold a fraction of his force in reserve in the rear of the pah, thus enabling himself to strike a concerted blow from an unexpected direction and making sure the victory.

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Comparisons are Odious.

History, we are told, is apt to repeat itself; and no human conditions, however unprecedented they may seem, will be found to be without parallel if you search far enough back in the annals of the world. Let us try for a few moments to forget this distracted country, and turn our eyes towards the land of Hellas—vulgarly known as Greece—and consider it as it was some eight hundred years before the Christian era. In those days it was divided into numerous independent states, and it is with one of these, Sparta, that we are now concerned.

Sparta was the ruling city of the district called Laconia, and it was inhabited by a stern, silent unlettered race, the Spartans, who from this stronghold governed the surrounding country. For the Spartans were invaders. In prehistoric times they had conquered Laconia, occupied its chief city, and reduced the native population to a condition closely resembling serfdom. But, acting no doubt on the sound principle "divide and conquer," they did not degrade everybody equally, creating instead an invidious distinction by treating some worse than others. They divided the conquered people into two classes, known respectively as Perioikoi and Helots.

The Perioikoi was not treated badly on the whole. He was not a citizen of Sparta, but he was allowed a free hand in governing his own township—within certain limits. The Perioikoi township—within certain limits. The Perioikoi received orders from Sparta, and had no voice in determining the policy of Sparta. A Spartan bailiff, in some cases, resided in the township as administrator. Deprived thus of nearly all the advantages of freemen, the Perioikoi nevertheless had to bear all the burdens which full citizenship brings with it, and which full citizenship alone can make tolerable. They took their share, and more than their share in war, and were sent by the Spartans on enterprises deemed too dangerous for their own citizens.

It was unpleasant enough to be a Perioikoi, but for a Helot life was hardly worth living. The Helots were serfs bound to the soil, who tilled it for the Spartan, or even the Perioikoi owners. They dwelt in villages or detached farms, and had no political rights at all. They underwent a special education to fit them for their position in life, which, for those who were not farm labourers, was that of domestic slaves, although they were not regarded as slaves. In war time they had to serve as light armed troops, when conspicuous bravery might win them partial freedom.

Though downtrodden, they were a brave race, always ready to revolt, and the Spartans lived in terror of such a possibility. Every effort was made to break this spirit. The general attitude of a Spartan to a Helot was one of ostentatious scorn. It is said that they were whipped once a year to keep their condition of serfdom before their minds. Helots

were forced to appear drunk before Spartan youths as a moral lesson to the latter. In peace time they were always disarmed. As a further precaution against a rising the Spartans raised a force of young men called the Secret Police, whose duty it was to assassinate any Helot who showed signs of discontent. Even loyalty on the part of a Helot was liable to be punished in this way. Once, for example, a rising was expected at any moment, so, in order to single out the bravest and strongest Helots, a proclamation was made that all Helots who considered their services in a recent campaign were worthy of reward should apply for freedom. Thousands applied, and two thousand were freed. They were garlanded and led in procession round the temples in honour of the event. Not one of them was ever seen again. They were mysteriously done away with by the Secret Police.

It was part of the Spartan constitution annually to declare war against the Helots, so that the murder of those who were obnoxious might not be considered illegal on the part of the young Spartan felon-setter, and distinguished personal beauty or ability, quite apart from political aspirations, were crimes to be punished in this way.

A Helot who earned his freedom—if he managed to escape assassination—did not attain the rights of Spartans, or even of Perioikoi. He formed part of a separate class, the Neodamades, who, as they ceased to till their master's land and could own none themselves, had to be disposed of in other ways. If the government considered them dangerous they were sent on foreign service, or planted as settlers on foreign soil. Otherwise they had to come to Sparta and act as civil servants.

Thus a minority ruled a majority, occupied the capital of a country and its richest lands, and drove the natives out to the poorer parts, where they kept them submissive by degradation, spying, and murder.

DERRY DEMONSTRATION.

As will be seen in our advertising columns, the Volunteers of Derry are making preparations for a display on a large scale at St. Columb's Hall on Thursday, 8th inst., in honour of Robert Emmet. It is desirable that Volunteers in outlying districts should avail themselves of this occasion to come into the city and meet the Derry Volunteers. Much practical work can thus be accomplished; and one thing is certain, that those who attend the Demonstration will carry away with them the inspiration which is so much needed at this critical hour of Ireland's history. The O'Rahilly will speak, and Mr. A. Newman, who has always been a favourite in Derry, will deliver the Commemoration Address, and this should ensure a record attendance. We understand that the forthcoming meeting is already a topic of conversation among all parties in Derry.

NEWBRIDGE VOLUNTEERS.

It would be hard to discover a more active and sincere body of men than the Volunteers of Newbridge, Co. Derry. The district is a stronghold of sound nationality, and sets an example which might well be followed by companies in any part of Ireland. The local committee deserve every congratulation.

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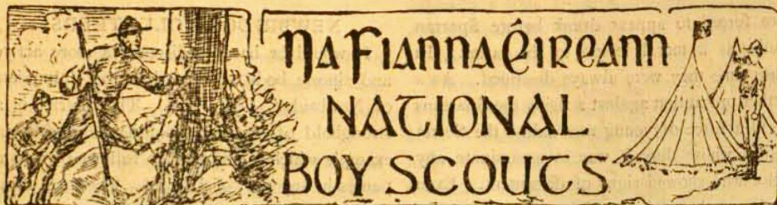
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I do not think that the Fianna, although now five years in existence, can claim to have made very many really efficient scouts. The reason for this is not hard to find. *Fíamhaidheacht*, or scoutcraft as we understand it, includes instruction in musketry, drill, signalling, tramping, tracking, first aid, swimming, camping, chivalry, and patriotism. An efficient scout is not made in a day—or a year. It takes a long time to learn all these things, but the learning of them is a real pleasure. It is only the scout who knows all the little tricks and dodges that win comfort from a camp on the mountain side. His knowledge and ability to do many things will carry him through many a tight corner that would scare the ordinary untrained boy.

For many years scoutcraft had to take a secondary place in the Fianna. The task of organising and building up the organisation absorbed the time and energy of our officers. Without money or patronage they launched their self-governing boys' organisations, in a country used to the discipline of the machine; and so they were left to paddle their own canoe with practically no outside assistance. These pioneer scouts have given to us an organisation on a good solid foundation, and it is up to us to see that the superstructure is well and beautifully constructed.

From this onward, training for efficiency in scoutcraft must take first place. It is not sufficient to know merely drill, signalling and first-aid. These three subjects have up to the present taken first place in our programmes. Let us change for a few months. Concentrate on musketry, tracking, judging distance and night marching until June, and it will be a pleasant break from your programme. It will surprise you when you discover how much you can learn about these subjects in such a short time.

On night marches the officer should make a point to teach the boys how to find the way by

means of the stars. A knowledge of the principal star groups ought to be learned by every boy. The Plough or Great Bear, the Little Bear and Orion are interesting and useful groups, and can easily be seen on almost any night. I was utterly astonished last week when out with my slough on a night parade to find how few of the fellows know where to find the Pole Star. One fellow even declared it to be in the direction of Orion. The Pole Star is the most important of all the stars in our sky, and it alone is fixed in the heavens. It marks the North at all times, and is a most useful star to the night traveller. It is the last star at the end of the Little Bear's tail. The pointers in the Plough also give you its direction.

From this out there will be no excuse for not practising rifle shooting. The open-air ranges, of which there are plenty in almost every part of the country, must be attended regularly by every member of the Fianna over fourteen. There is no restriction on the sale of .22 miniature rifle ammunition. If you become a crack shot with the miniature rifle you need have no fear. **WILLIE NELSON.**

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