

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EGIN MAC NEILL.

Vol. 2. No. 65 (New Series).

SATURDAY, MARCH 4th, 1916.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

NOTES

The "Irish Times" played a very amusing game over the North Louth election. During the contest it printed an inspired paragraph in its London letter, saying that the Irish Party leaders were anxious about the result, and intimating that the support of the Unionist vote for the Party candidate would be very gratifying. It also published a letter from a Mr. Moore, a Unionist, claiming the support of the Unionist voters for the Irish Party nominee. Then when the election of the tried and experienced representative man from a different part of the country was announced, and the family financial difficulty triumphantly settled, and when faction, which received its death-blow in North Louth four years ago at the hands of Mr. Hasleton, had received another final blow at the hands of Mr. Hasleton's nephew, the "Irish Times" turned right round and administered a long editorial lecture to Messrs. Redmond, Dillon and Devlin, on the enormity of endowing their latest young man with £400 a year instead of sending him to fill a gap, avert disgrace from Ireland, and prove that Ireland is, or may yet be, worthy of Home Rule and the Act which rests securely on the Statute Book and guarantees Ireland the right of paying for years to come Eighteen Millions of annual taxation and as much more as may be added in future Budgets. It is all very well for the "Irish Times" to jibe at Mr. Dillon and Mr. Devlin, and to forebode the readiness of the Unionists to Limerick the Home Rule treaty when their chance comes. But why did the "Irish Times" make itself the channel of advice to the Unionist voters to vote for the Young Man who ought to be defending the Empire in the trenches? If these things are done in the green wood, what will be done in the dry? Already we have plain enough proof of the intention of smothering the men whom Mr. Redmond has induced to man the sandbags. At the same time we read that a man who has previously sat in Parliament as a Liberal is now going forward for a vacant English seat as a Unionist, and that his unopposed return is expected.

Sir Morgan O'Connell writes from Killybegs to the London "Times": "Recruiting," he says, "in this county, with a population of 165,000, is dead. Many cut-throats have helped to kill it." Sir Morgan is modest enough to name only one of the many causes. "The open and avowed pro-German, anti-recruiting, Sinn Féin element has been allowed to spread and to spread until every village in Kerry is rotten with it." Sir Morgan thinks that 165,000 is too large a population for Kerry. In Daniel O'Connell's lifetime, Kerry had a population of more than 300,000. Since then some O'Connells have become what Daniel O'Connell used to call "base Whigs." Sir Morgan need not be downhearted. Things are not quite so bad in Kerry as he imagines. The population figures which he gives are those of the Census of 1901. Since then there has been a great improvement. In 1911 the disgraceful surplus has been reduced by another 5,000, and there is no reason to believe that this rate of progress has not been maintained up to date. Altogether, in Sir Morgan's own time, the over-population of Kerry has been reduced by from 40,000 to 50,000. Sir Morgan says that he wrote to the Lord Lieutenant last May warning him to suppress public meetings. He prints the Viceroy's reply, which he plainly thinks unsatisfactory, for he follows up with a ferocious jibe at the Chief Secretary. Perhaps, if the public interest permits and there is no fear of imparting undesirable information to the enemy, now that Sir Morgan has published the Viceroy's reply, the Government will be induced to publish the letter to which that reply was written. Though Kerry is rotten with Sinn Féin, and Sir Morgan from his comfortable home in Killybegs writes urging the British Government to dragoon the county as the best means of getting recruits and backing up Mr. John Redmond, whom Sir Morgan commends, the only danger that Sir Morgan lives in is the danger of explosive laughter. Let Sir Morgan console himself with the reflection that all the despatch he can reasonably expect is provided for by the new taxation of Ireland.

Right alongside of Sir Morgan's letter, the "Times" happened to print these words in a letter from an eminent English Unionist lawyer,

Sir Edward Fry: "We are fighting for liberty abroad whilst we are stranding it at home by a series of enactments which place the liberty of the subject in the hands, not of the Judges, but of the officials of the Government." And Sir Edward Fry quotes the authority of Hallam with reference to Habeas Corpus: "If ever temporary circumstances, or the doubtful plea of political necessity, shall lead men to look on its denial with apathy, the most distinguishing characteristic of our Constitution will be effaced." The Government has found no difficulty in keeping men imprisoned without trial here in Ireland. No matter what Hallam or Sir Edward Fry may say, the Castle lawyers know that "our Constitution" in Ireland is and always has been a Hypocritical Sham.

One of these lawyers, at the trial of Mr. MacSwiney in Cork, accused him of inciting to the murder of Mr. John Redmond. The Dublin "Independent" printed this accusation as though it had appeared in evidence. Mr. MacSwiney wrote a letter of protest to the "Independent." The Editor printed the letter with an editorial note saying that Mr. MacSwiney's protest was "mendacious." Then Mr. MacSwiney's solicitor wrote to the "Independent" substantiating the protest, and the "Independent" was forced to admit that the evidence produced by the Crown did not prove or attempt to prove that Mr. MacSwiney had said anything suggesting, even in the most remote way, that Mr. Redmond should be molested, much less murdered. We have come upon strange times when Irishmen of the highest character are represented as murderers, and when the answer to their protest is to call them liars. It is all so well calculated to make Ireland fall in love with the true Empire patriotism preached by Mr. Birrell.

Mr. Drury is the Dublin Stipendiary Magistrate who did his best some time ago, in conjunction with a Castle lawyer, to intimidate a witness in a grossly and scandalously illegal fashion. Last week Mr. Drury tried a young man for the offence of receiving a rifle from a soldier. The evidence, as reported, was practically this: The defendant asked the soldier to get him a rifle. The soldier got him a rifle, and then became a witness for the prosecution. Mr. Drury imposed the maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment, giving as his reason that the defendant took up a defiant attitude and produced no witnesses. There is nothing like making the British Government thoroughly popular, and it is a real misfortune that we have not many more Stipendiary Drurys.

I am beginning to think that, just as the Ulster Conspiracy and the Curragh Conspiracy exploded the Constitution sham, so the apparently successful domination of the Irish Party leaders by the Whig Ministry has benefited Ireland by luring up a still more dangerous sham. Mr. Redmond's surrender policy has induced the forces of Whiggery all over Ireland to break cover and to fully expose their position. If the Sharp Curragh had been a deep laid stratagem for decaying the Whigs into the open, it could not have been more successful. It has, indeed, been "a test to search men's souls," a surprise inspection, and the results of the test are well and fully recorded.

The Government is borrowing 420 millions to pay for another few months fighting, and is getting ready a new Budget to raise fresh taxes. Ireland is already required to pay ten pounds a house to finance this war, "Ireland's war." Some people may imagine that these taxes will not be required when the war is over. If the Empire was to emerge from the war with all the triumphant success that was prophesied to bulldoze the leaders of the Irish Party, the added curtaxes would still be imposed and, instead of us being alive, would be dead and buried. We no longer read about the Allies dictating terms in Berlin, and Mr. Redmond now knows that he was humbugged. That means that the taxes will have to be borne for many decades. Let the beggarman carry his bag. We never asked for this war, and to make us pay for it is sheer robbery. We are told a lot about the grand part that is being played by the Colonies. The people of Ireland would wait long until Mr. Redmond, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Devlin would stir them up to the fact that while Ireland is being forced for the war, the money taken from us is going in large loans to the Colonies to reward and en-

courage them for their help to the Empire. Oh! they are brave men, and outspoken, and true to Ireland, those leaders! We are denied self-government, and the money taken from us is given to the self-governing Colonies. The Home Rule Act is suspended till St. Patrick's Day.

The London paragraph-mongers have a new version of the old story about Sir Roger Casement. We were told before that Germany offered Ireland complete independence. Independent sounds better than paying Eight Millions a year, and whatever more is to be added, and getting nothing for it. So the story had to be amended, as if it was a real English treaty signed and registered. The new version says that the Germans wish to annex Ireland for strategic purposes, but will give us Home Rule. Silly Germans! Aren't we going to get Home Rule on Patrick's Day? Having announced this programme to the Irish prisoners, Sir Roger was promptly "mailed" by them. Next time the story appears, it will tell us that the Germans have promised to let us off with Eight Millions of an annual tribute, and that Sir Roger Casement, when he told this to the Irish prisoners, was immediately asphyxiated.

EGIN MAC NEILL.

THE DUBLIN BRIGADE.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING
5th MARCH, 1916.

1. Classes as usual.
2. Usual Lectures for Officers on Tuesday and Saturday, at 8 p.m.
3. Tuesday, 7th March, will be a closed night for drill, as the Eisteddfod Commemoration Concert takes place on that night.

E. DE VALERA, Brigade Adjt.

Cumann na mBan

Perhaps it will not be unreasonable at this time, when there is so much talk of recruiting, to say a few words on the subject from our own platform. Within the past few months several new Branches of Cumann na mBan have been started, and as "nothing succeeds like success," let us now gather up all our strength for the work that is before us let us throw in all our efforts and let us bring in everyone we can with us. As individuals we can do much, but far more can we do by forming ourselves into Branches of Cumann na mBan and working towards the one end which we all have so much at heart. The Executive meets every Tuesday at 2 Dawson Street, at 3.30. Their work depends almost entirely on the activities of the Branches, and as they are always ready to direct and attend to the needs of the various Branches, they hope the Secretaries will not be shy in putting before them any questions about the organization or asking their advice as to any suggestions they may have in furthering the objects for which we stand.

I would advise the Secretary of each Branch to keep the constitution of the organization constantly before the minds of the members, so that they can see if they are really carrying out what is incumbent on them. Take, for instance this week, one important item of our programme—i.e., the arming and equipping of the Irish Volunteers. Now every Branch of Cumann na mBan ought to put it before themselves to do their share of this with regard to the local corps of Volunteers. Therefore, for this reason alone, it is most important to have branches of Cumann na mBan all over the country. Existing Branches should send for leaflets, which set forth the aims and activities of Cumann na mBan and which we possess in abundance, and distribute them at church doors and at fairs and markets and all round the country, as they are an opportunity, in order to spread the propaganda. Send up any names and addresses of people who are sympathetic and the Secretary can send down literature and any information required. There are hundreds of ways of forwarding the movement. So to work seriously and we can do much. A pamphlet setting forth our aspirations is being written, and will shortly be on sale. Put such literature in the hands of your friends who have not yet come into the "fringe-line."

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do dí 25 Comhainle Shéda Féinne Fáil na nDúnpórt tréidóna D. Céadain an 23ad lá uéin m'í go agur an Ceann Caca Pádraic Mac Piarais ina cácaoirleat ónta.

Do molaí puaiceantair ar son uréun-eaicta 'í oo haoncuigeaí na coingeallata ar a mionnóir é. Do haoncuigeaí leir ceircear do bponnaí ar son feadair i gcáca-chearuagá.

Do haoncuigeaí a raib reorúige 25 an mDúrbín Ceannuir i gcómarí Loe Féile Pádraic.

Dúnpórt na Féinne,

Át Cliaic, 23 Feab., 1916.

AINMNIÚE.

SLUAÍ ÁTA CLIAIC—AN CEAO CAC.

An lear-Ceapáon Pionnairí Ó Dálaí (Lear-Ceapáon Innealtóirí cum beir ina Ceapáon Innealtóirí).

An cúlac Liam Ó Slóicáin cum beir ina lear-Ceapáon Innealtóirí.

AN DARA CAC.

An Ceann Roinne R. Scócar cum beir ina máigirín Coma Conganta.

Mhre,

Pádraic Mac Piarais,
Ceann Caca,

Riaraíde an Oronúige.

Dúnpórt na Féinne,

Át Cliaic, 23 Feab., 1916.

AN SAEBEAL.

Dad maí leir an mDúrbín Ceannuir dá nócáiní Fianna Fáil an oipeaí dá ngó ar Saebail agur ir féirín. Ní Saebail go Saebailéoir.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

As noted last week, it is the wish of Headquarters that all public holidays should be availed of by Volunteer bodies for the purposes of special training or recruiting work. Being Volunteers, and not professional soldiers, we can as a rule devote only a few hours a week to the business of training ourselves. Whenever a general holiday gives us a chance of pulling up for this necessary handicap we should avail of it. St. Patrick's Day next should use us all in the fields or on the roads. The holiday should first be sanctified by the Church Parade ordered in the General Order published this week. By parading for divine worship as Volunteers, bearing the arms we have won the right to carry, and then by putting in a few hours' hard work perfecting ourselves in the use of those arms, we shall be celebrating St. Patrick's Day in a very holy and wholesome way. If there can be a concert or a ceilidhe in the evening, so much the better. One other word. Let no Volunteer disgrace his uniform by drink.

EQUIPMENT AGAIN.

The list of articles prescribed by Headquarters for the personal equipment of Volunteers which we summarised a fortnight ago contains nothing superfluous. Nevertheless, some of the items in it are more important than others. Next in importance to arms and ammunition come provision

NIGHT OPERATIONS.

5.—NIGHT ASSAULTS.

Night assaults have, as a rule, proved disastrous to irregular troops, but there have been a few brilliant exceptions. To be on the safe side we would lay it down as a maxim for Volunteers that night assaults should rarely be attempted by a force larger than a battalion acting against a single objective.

RECONNAISSANCE. The same rules hold as for night advances, which see.

PREPARATIONS. (1) As the enemy will in all probability counter-attack at dawn, your attack should be timed so as to leave you a few hours of darkness for fortifying the ground you may gain.

(2) A place of assembly will be selected beforehand, at which march formations will be abandoned. Its position depends on circumstances—nature of ground, enemy's vigilance, size of force, etc.

(3) A place of deployment will also be selected. Here the columns will deploy for attack.

(4) Both the place of assembly and the place of deployment must be easily recognizable at night. From the former position to the latter, and from the latter to the point to be assaulted compass bearings should be taken and noted. Distances must also be noted.

(5) If two or more points are to be assaulted care must be taken in selecting the places of assembly and deployment for each, that the

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, the 23rd inst., Commandant P. H. Pearse in the chair.

A badge for marksmanship was approved of and the conditions on which it will be awarded were agreed to. It was also agreed to award a certificate for proficiency in First Aid.

The arrangements made by the General Staff for St. Patrick's Day were approved of.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson St.,
Dublin, 23rd Feb., 1916.

GENERAL ORDERS.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 1916.

1. Every body of Irish Volunteers will, if possible, hold a Church Parade on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.

2. Brigade and Battalion Commandants will be responsible for the arrangements in their respective Districts. In areas not yet organised as Battalion Districts the Company Commanders will be responsible, and may co-operate with Commanders of adjoining Companies.

3. The Parades may be by Brigade, Battalion, or Company, as the Brigade or other Commanding Officer of a District may determine.

4. After the Church Parade each local command is to carry out a field operation, a march, or some other piece of training, directed or approved by the Brigade or Battalion Commandant, or in the case of smaller units by the Company Commander.

P. H. PEARSE, Commandant,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 23rd Feb., 1916.

for cleaning the gun and provision for carrying the ammunition. Every Volunteer needs a pull-through, flannel, and oil. They are to be regarded as **indispensable**. In the category of indispensable also is a bandolier or pouch to hold the ammunition. It will not do to carry your ammunition in your pocket; it may wear a hole and fall through. (Volunteer pockets, by the way, should in any case be made very strong; existing pockets in ordinary coats or uniforms can be strengthened with canvas.) Other indispensables are a haversack and a first field dressing. We commend these four items to the attention of Company Commanders this week—

1. Provision for cleaning Rifle.
2. Bandolier or Pouch.
3. Haversack.
4. First Field Dressing.

NEGLECTING THE OBVIOUS.

We are insisting on these obvious things because we know that so many officers and men are neglecting them. There are some Companies, otherwise well-equipped, whose men have not half-a-dozen pull-throughs between them. We hear of whole districts in which there is hardly a haversack. Portion of a certain expeditionary force during the present war is said to have arrived in the firing line minus its ammunition, because the men had not been provided with pouches or bandoliers, and it had fallen through their pockets! If leather pouches cannot be had everywhere, strong canvas pouches could at least be made. Volunteers should set their wives and mothers and sisters working on these and other items of their equipment.

different forces do not cross or hamper each other.

(6) A distinguishing mark should be ordered for the troops, and a watchword given. The C.O. and Staff should wear recognisable badges.

(7) Materials and appliances for surmounting obstacles, etc., must be provided.

(8) Rockets, flares, or bonfires may be used as signals for the assault.

PROTECTION. It is considered advisable, to ensure surprise, to dispense with advanced troops. This, of course, is on the assumption that the ground has been thoroughly reconnoitred and already laid down.

FORMATION OF COLUMNS. (1) The troops will be infantry, assisted by engineers, for the removal of obstacles and the fortification of ground gained.

(2) Lines of scouts 80 yards ahead or on the flanks are the best protection before deployment.

(3) At the place of deployment the formation to be used in the assault will be made.

(4) This formation will, of course, vary. We may suggest the following—

The force is divided into three lines.

The first line moves in line, or in line of Company columns at deploying intervals. (The latter is only advisable for a few of our better-trained units. Connecting files at 10 paces will be required.)

The second line moves in the same formation at 100 yards distance.

The third line follows at 200 yards in any convenient close order formation.

(This subject will be continued.)

Görgei and the Hungarian Army.

III.—ARGUMENTS AGAINST A PREMATURE ADVANCE.

"Troops intended to act on the offensive must be capable of manoeuvring; that is to say, each division must have the dexterity to execute the movements ordered in the prescribed time, and in unison with the adjoining divisions. Only a very small part of our army is capable of manoeuvring. The few regular troops and one or two Honved battalions excepted, it consists of divisions which fall into confusion in the simplest movements on the exercise ground. And they are in general commanded by men who, from their inadequate military knowledge, are calculated only to heighten the confusion when once introduced.

"Every offensive, to be carried on successfully, further requires certain regular supplies for the troops; otherwise it miscarries from their physical weakness. Disciplined troops can be furnished with provisions for several days in advance; not so the undisciplined. It seems burdensome to the National Guard, as well as to the Volunteer, to drag with him his own rations for some days on the march, already tedious enough without this. He anticipates his present hunger, and sells or gives away the rest, or even, without hesitation, throws it away.

"The offensive requires, finally, troops hardy and accustomed to fight. The majority of ours belong not to this category. On the battle-field two opposing powers contend for the mastery over the steadfastness of the soldier. Honour, patriotic enthusiasm, perhaps also the fear of punishment which the articles of war decree against the cowardly soldier, urge him forward; while the death thundered against him from the enemy's artillery frightens him back. The history of war teaches us that young troops more frequently experience the latter fate.

"As I might, however, be reproached with exaggeration, I will run the risk of a harmless test, the result of which will show us whether we can stand up to the proposed offensive. Let us issue an order, for instance, that the whole camp be ready to start on the day after tomorrow at five o'clock in the afternoon, and let us convince ourselves how far this order has been executed. If we find the whole camp prepared, though not just precisely at the fixed hour, yet say two hours later, then will I unconditionally vote for the offensive."

Kossuth was evidently displeased with my declaration, and put to me the question: "How high did I estimate the enthusiasm which his address would call forth among the troops?"

"In the camp, and immediately after the address, very high; but after the endurance of hardships, and in presence of the enemy, very low," was my answer.

"Then you think," he asked again, irritated, "that we shall not bring back a single man of our army?"

"For the safety of the National Guard and the Volunteers," I replied, "their mindless is to me a sufficient guarantee; but the few good troops which we possess might be ruined by it, and with them the material which we so presently need for training up a useful army."

In spite of all Görgei could do, however, it was decided to make the advance. As he had foretold, the greatest confusion, mixing of units, and counter-orders took place on the march, and by the time the unfortunate levies came into the presence of the enemy at Schreckst, a little outside Vienna, they were already half beaten.

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NA FIANNA EIREANN

CONVENTIONAL SIGNS (continued).

In a hedge-intersected country like ours, it is important that our scouts should thoroughly understand the use of the different kind of fences, in attack and defence. The value of a bank with a hedge and drain, and its superiority over the plain hedge is obvious to anyone who has

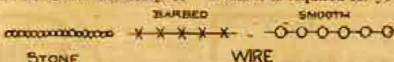
spent an hour on manoeuvres; it is likewise clear that the bank is better than the hedge as a protection against rifle fire, and so on. A rough sketch showing the fences intersecting the country around, say, an enemy's camp or a position about to be occupied by your own force will often form an invaluable adjunct to the reconnoiterer's report.

FIELDS AND FENCES.



In the above sketch the signs for all the different fences are shown. It is not necessary to

write the nature of the cultivation in the sketch, unless it is required for your report.



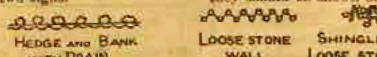
A STONE WALL FENCE of solid masonry is indicated by the above sign.

WIRE. Note the different signs for barbed and smooth wire fences.



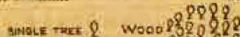
A BANK is shown by a straight black line. **A HEDGE** is drawn without lifting the pencil. Note the difference between a plain hedge and a **HEDGE** and **BANK** represented, as it were, by a combination of the two signs.

A DRAIN is represented by a wavy line, and is drawn on the sketch exactly on the side of the bank or hedge it really is. In many cases drains are on both sides of the fence, and in such cases they should be shown on the sketch.



HEDGE and BANK with DRAIN. Note the combination of signs. **A LOOSE STONE WALL** is a common form of fence in the west of Ireland.

SHINGLE, loose stones, or road metal may be represented as shown above. It is important for the reconnoiterer to note whether the church has a tower or spire.



WOODS. The nature of the woods must be marked in writing on the sketch thus: "PINE," "BIRCH," etc., and whether it is "Passable" or "Impassable" for troops, transport, etc.

OBSTACLES, Abatis, or barricades of any kind are shown by above sign. State in writing the nature of the obstacle.

PADRAIC O'RIAIN.

(A continuation of this article will appear in next week's issue.)

Cork Volunteer Officers' Training School.

"A soldier's life the life's for me,
And a soldier's death so Ireland free."

"It beats all my expectations." Such is the Commandant's opinion of the Cork Volunteer Officers' Training School, and when that is so how can a mere Quartermaster describe the pioneers who gathered for a fortnight from the counties of Cork and Limerick to learn not alone the soldier's trade but to perfect themselves in the art of teaching others, and learn all there was in the art of commanding those anxious to fight for a small nationality. No small sacrifice to leave their homes at such a time, but then the chance was there, and when the Cork Corps made the suggestion the response was such as to exceed the most sanguine expectations of the promoters. Even though some failed to come after arranging, enough came to make it possible to keep three squads busy right through the fortnight. An additional number came during the second week, and so delighted with their stay were all that it was with no unfeigned reluctance that all departed from what had proved a most enjoyable and instructive fortnight's training. The improvement in the men was very marked, and the districts which sent men are now provided with instructors fit to put any corps through the necessary drill. Inasmuch that during the last week we had the amusing spectacle of a group of the training school officers correcting the Cork City officers' "mistakes" in squad drill, their delight of so doing being but thinly disguised.

The course included a lark in what a county paper calls "the Cork Sinn Féin Barracks." Sacks of straw were good mattresses after a good day's work, which began at 7 o'clock and lasted to "lights out" at 11 p.m. A sprint before breakfast helped to get rid of the welcome commodity. Then squad drill and lectures till dinner hour, when the commissariat is again tested. After dinner the course was continued to tea-time, and then the Cork Corps were availed of to test the knowledge acquired. Sundays were availed of to have field operations with the Corkmen. And on Sunday, 30th January, the Training Corps joined with the Cork Corps in paying a last tribute to Volunteer J. O'Sullivan, "A Coy., Cork Corps," whose obsequies were carried out with full Volunteer honours.

The only drawback was an outbreak of influenza, which necessitated the opening of an infirmary, which worked so effectively that all kept going. The Commandant of the Camp was the only casualty that was effective, and we lost his services during the last stages of the camp. Commandant O'Sullivan, Cork Corps, having to bear the brunt of the last week's work. Though this was a big upset, the work of the school was carried out with eagerness by all concerned, and the men went home satisfied with the improvement in their knowledge and only sorry that the comradeship begotten of such splendid companions could not be continued indefinitely.

On Friday, 28th January, the Cork Commandant Mr. B. M. M. entertained those who attended the Training School to a very enjoyable evening. Miss McSherry (sister of our Irish comrade) welcomed the country officers, and after an enjoyable night's fun the consent of the Commandant was obtained to a return call, which was held a week later. Both events were enjoyed by all, even the intrusion of the county officers on the city Volunteers' love affairs being forgiven.

The financial side of the camp resulted in a slight loss. Twelve shillings a week was charged for the commissariat, and for this amount a first-class menu was provided daily and done justice to by all. This department was in charge of Quartermaster Tade Barry, while Captain C. O'Gorman assisted Commandant J. J. O'Connell, of the Headquarters Staff, and Commandant O'Sullivan, Cork, in conducting the various exercises.

Before breaking camp Captain M. Lynch, on behalf of those attending the classes, presented Commandant O'Connell and the Quartermaster with splendid marching boots, in appreciation of their services to the school.

TADG.

EMMET ANNIVERSARY.

The Annual Emmet Anniversary Commemoration under the auspices of the Wolfe Tone Memorial Association, will be held in the Round Room, Mahon House, Dublin, on Tuesday, March 7th. The commemorative address will be delivered by Mr. Joseph O'Flaherty, Loughrea, and Sean MacDiarmada (Vice-President of the Association) will preside.

GROUPS! GROUPS! GROUPS!

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When Napoleon in 1804 assembled his "Grande Armée" along the coast of the English Channel it was thought possible, though scarcely likely, that Ireland might be the intended destination of the French. Several eminent English officers of that time have written memoranda discussing ways and means for the defence of Ireland in such a case. In one of these the author contemplates a series of possible positions for a final stand and bank of reconnoit, assuming a pronounced French success. Such, for example, were the cases of Wellington in the Torres Vedras position in Portugal a few years later, the Turks at Chatalpa four years ago; and General Sarraird at Salonika at the present time. In all the cases considered it was assumed that the English fleet would command the sea, and that reinforcements and supplies would be reasonably secure. This assumption had been justified entirely by the experience of former wars in Ireland. As far as the English were concerned they aimed at a position with fairly suitable sea approach, the flanks resting on the sea or some strong obstacle, and the front short—either in its whole extent or by reason of impassable ground on part of it. Beginning on the North we shall go round the several suggested defensive lines separately.

I.

From Coleraine to Newry, following the Lower Bann, Lough Neagh, the Upper Bann, and the Newry Canal. Part of the scheme was a flotilla of gunboats to maintain command of Lough Neagh. This line is long and not very strong, being entirely a river line and not very large rivers at that. The points of passage are fairly numerous and either could be improvised. Still it is much the best line in the North-East, has fairly good harbour accommodation, fairly good lateral communications, and flanks that could not be turned.

II.

From Donagall to Derry, following the mountains North-West of Derry, the Finn, and the Foyle. This is a much shorter line than the first, equally strong flanks, and covers much better harbours. On the other hand the communications in the entire district are not so good at all, although fairly good in rear of the northern half of the line. In the South the only lateral road is the one through Barmore Gap just in rear of the general front.

III.

From Galway to Ballina by Lough Corrib and Mask, and thence North to Lough Conn and Killala Bay. Flotillas to be stationed on the lakes. This line would require a large force, and in case of necessity the alternative was

IV.

From Galway to Westport only—an immensely strong line, having a land front of little over a dozen miles. The rest is covered by lakes of considerable size with only narrow isthmuses between them. The only defect of this region is that, being mountainous, the roads are comparatively few. There is, however, one good lateral road, well behind the front, from Galway to Westport by Oughterard and Killybeg.

V.

From Limerick or Killaloe to Kinsarra—covering practically the County Clare. The line being the Shannon, the lower part of Lough Derg and the Slieve Aughy Mountains. This is not a very satisfactory line and would never be taken up by a General who had the chance of selecting IV.

VI.

From Limerick to Limerick. The Blackwater, the Galtees, and the outlying hills of the latter carry the line to within ten miles of Limerick. For a large force this is a formidable line. The area enclosed is large, but the communications are good. Nowadays the railways have vastly improved them. The area covered possesses also many harbours and much natural resources.

VII.

From Wexford to New Ross. This is a twenty-mile line of land front, but the flanks are strong and there is good accommodation for landing reinforcements. In the matter of communications the entire area is thoroughly intersected by a complete network of roads. At the present time the Rosslare-Campile railway adds greatly to the lateral strength of the line, and Rosslare affords much extra reinforcing capacity.

VIII.

From Drogheda to Wicklow. In this case the left flank would rest on the Wicklow Mountains, which would be occupied by detachments only. The main defending army would concentrate in Fingall Plain, being covered in part by the Bog of Allen. This line is by no means strong in itself, but has good landing accommodation and magnificent communications—much superior to anything the assailant would have at his disposal.

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