

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

Vol. 2. No. 57 (New Series).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1916.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

NOTES

It should interest Irish people and be a lesson to them to watch how the British Oligarchy is working out things in the neighbour island at present. I may remind the reader of the account of this great institution, the British Oligarchy, given in these columns some months ago. At that time we were getting advice to trust the British Democracy. There has not been just so much talk lately of trusting the British Democracy. The formation of the Coalition Government gave a setback to the value of Democracy shares. The British Democracy is an excellent beast of burden, not quite as docile as a horse or a milch cow, but generally quite manageable by those who study how to manage it. The rulers of the B. D. have found a very successful plan of dividing themselves into two "parties" and exhibiting different programmes and policies. Anything in the shape of a contest captivates the British Democracy and some other democracies. When twenty or thirty men turn up on opposite sides to play a game, the Democracy turns up in its thousands and tens of thousands and pays its hard-earned money at the gate for the privilege of looking on and applauding its favourites. There you have the root principle of party government by the British Oligarchy. They provide the game, the Democracy pays the expenses and looks on from behind the barriers.

In ordinary times, the game of opposite parties has all the appearance of being played in earnest, even though the part of the Democracy is still to pay the expenses and keep off the ground. We may even suppose that the opposing teams believe themselves to be in earnest. It is about a century since Tallyrand discovered that one of the chief traits of English character was an infinite capacity of self-persuasion. I think it was Carlyle, a Scot, who once summed up the difference between the great Disraeli and

the great Gladstone. Disraeli was an Englishman by adoption, and became ruler of England by making a study of English character and acting accordingly. He studied them all, from the Crown down to the Cornerboy. When I was a youngster, the Cornerboy learned to sing ditties in honour of Disraeli. Some of us remember the chorus beginning "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo! if we do," and ending "The Russian shall never enter Constantinople." Disraeli's notion was to captivate Court and Cornerboy with the glories of Empire. Gladstone was all for truth, honour liberty and conscience. Carlyle said that Disraeli had no conscience, but that Gladstone had a tremendous conscience, a grand and glorious conscience. Every day and every hour he offered up adoration and incense to his conscience, and the consequence was, his Conscience was so gratified with all this devotion and worship that it never refused Gladstone anything he demanded of it. Whether that was true of Gladstone or not, it is true of British statesmen in general. They are most honourable conscientious men. They never do anything that is not entirely virtuous. You have only to read their speeches and writings to be assured of this. Take Mr. Birrell for an example. He is the Liberal Minister "for" Ireland. He has declared his belief in the right of Ireland to self-government. He is pledged in honour to a measure of self-government for all Ireland. And his chief, Mr. Asquith, came to Dublin a year and a half ago and announced that we Irish were a Free people. And at this moment, any free Irishman who sells, presents, or otherwise disposes of a common fowlingpiece or a cartridge to fit it to any other free Irishman, unless he has previously got the special permission of General Friend, is liable to be locked up with—I was going to say the common burglar.

The touchstone of the English game of party government and managing the Democracy is English foreign policy, which includes English policy in Ireland. Our benevolent Birrells will have no hesita-

tion in declaring, conscientiously, that any statement to the effect that England is foreign to Ireland or that Ireland is foreign to England, is a "disloyal" statement which requires to be blue-pencilled and fled away among other "voluminous" evidences that are to justify certain measures at the appropriate time. So I confine myself to stating the fact, for which the evidence is voluminous, that English policy in Ireland, even under Mr. Birrell and since we became a Free People, is a foreign policy. The proofs are up to date. One of them is that, the British State being at war, no British subject may properly sell, give, or otherwise dispose of munitions of war to foreigners without British Government approval; but in this case, Irishmen are more foreign than foreigners, for it has been made unlawful for any Irishman to sell or give a sporting gun or a sporting rifle to any other Irishman without the express and special permission of British authority. I presume that Mr. Dillon has not been consulted about this, for I remember chronicling specially and with satisfaction in this paper a declaration in which Mr. Dillon pledged himself to maintain the right of Irishmen to arm themselves.

The foreign policy of a State is usually more or less of a continuity. In this respect, the British policy in Ireland observes the character desirable in a foreign policy. For the past twelve months I have been trying to get people in Ireland to take a firm and clean grasp of the fact that the English government of Ireland is a continuity, a principle laid down in our own time by a Liberal Viceroy under Mr. Gladstone's premiership. Ireland, like other countries to which a foreign policy is applied, is a touchstone of the real metal of British party government. Whatever may be done in Ireland in pursuance of a continuous foreign policy, no matter how nasty it may look, is highly moral and virtuous—of this no greater proof is needed than Mr. Birrell himself. Is he not a man of high character, the honourable associate of honourable men, and above all a Liberal? If, therefore,

he keeps Alfred Monahan in prison on the testimony of a hired witness who was listening not at the window but under the window, you may be certain that Mr. Birrell, who hates jesuitical casuistry, will be able to explain that swearing by instruction is sometimes a necessity, and that, if the end to be gained is necessary, the means to gain it are not to be judged by Sunday-school standards.

When it comes to dealing with foreigners, we see the relations of the British Oligarchy of both parties and the British Democracy in their true light, and we see what the Oligarchy can do and how much the Democracy counts for. At other times we read and hear a lot about that grand free institution, the Press. Just now the tune is not in fashion. We find a Coalition, first of all before the war, when the foreign policy embodied in the Home Rule Bill reached a critical stage; then after the war began, in a Council of Imperial Defence; then in the Cabinet—and the end is not yet. We find a cautiously worked up and creeping policy of Conscription. At first there is plenty of denunciation of what they call the Northcliffe Press. Lord Northcliffe was brought up in Irish Unionist circles, which, to do them justice, have never reached the higher models of political self-righteousness. What the Northcliffe Press does is to find out in advance the private tendencies of the Oligarchy, and then to advocate what it knows to be intended. For months past it has advocated Conscription, and now at last the announcement is made that the Cabinet is in favour of Conscription. No doubt we shall have highly moral explanations, and a fine exhibition of the art of handling the British Democracy. A year ago the British Democracy was so adverse to Conscription that even the most ardent Conscriptionists were afraid to call a spade a spade and talked piously about "National Service." Now that the cant of National Service has served its turn, the "Times" itself has no use for the pious phrase.

How does all this concern us, who are on the foreign side of British policy, though it would be "disloyal" on our part to call an Englishman a foreigner? It concerns us to this extent—Mr. Redmond's policy still rules the Irish Parliamentary Party, and Mr. Redmond's policy is summed up in one phrase: "Trust the British Democracy." Does Mr. Redmond, after being compelled to the "ifs" and "buts" and "present circumstances" of his recent speech on Conscription, does he still ask us to believe that the British Democracy will have the decisive voice on the fate of Home Rule? Does he guarantee that the British Democracy will be less manageable by the British Oligarchy in regard

to an Irish question than in regard to a question that comes home to every household in Great Britain? Does he guarantee that, at the end of the war, the question of Home Rule for Ireland will be an issue of any importance at all for the British Democracy, at a time when the men let loose on a disjointed industrial England from military service and services subsidiary to the war will be more numerous than the whole population of Ireland? What do the Irish people think about it? There is no longer in existence a Ministry or the shadow of a Ministry pledged to Home Rule. The British Democracy has ceased to think about Home Rule. We are asked to believe that they will be on fire for Home Rule because Irish regiments have fought as Irishmen can fight. It is a pity that Mr. Redmond has not read the history of his own country.

Nearly seven centuries ago, an English Viceroy brought an army of Irishmen from Connacht to crush the liberty of Wales. He came back to Ireland and spent the rest of his life trying to crush the liberty of Ireland. Six centuries ago, an Irish army went to help Edward I. of England to crush the liberty of Scotland. A few years later large English armies were sent to Ireland to crush the liberty of Ireland. At Agincourt, Irish forces formed a large part of the army which helped Henry V. of England to crush the liberty of France, but Ireland gained no respite. "Ancient history," perhaps. Let us come later down. Two centuries ago Mr. Winston Churchill's ancestor brought an army to Morocco, hoping to secure Tangier at the gate of the Mediterranean. Where did he get that army? By Churchill's order, the ordinary words of command in his expeditionary force were given **in the Irish language!** After that we had the Penal Laws in Ireland, the most barbarous policy ever devised for the degradation of any people. Is that too ancient? We are still feeling the effects. Very well; a century ago Rodney's English fleet won a great victory over the French in the West Indies. The Irish poet, Eoghan Ruadh O Súilleabháin, fought under Rodney in that engagement, and wrote a ballad in English, "Rodney's Glory," which bears evidence that the men who bore the brunt and won the day were mostly Irishmen. The independent Irish Parliament voted 20,000 Irishmen to the British Navy, and the British statesmen of that time planned the destruction of that parliament. Richard Lalor Sheil, in the forties, reminded the British Parliament of the victories won by Irish valour in the Napoleonic wars, and within a few years of his eloquent appeal the British Parliament ruined Irish agriculture at one stroke in the interests of British manu-

facturing industry. Accordingly, when this war is over, we are asked to believe that the British Democracy, disregarding the British Oligarchy, will think of nothing but gratitude for the sacrifices made by Mr. Redmond and the Irish Party.

At the beginning of the war we were told that the old saying, "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity," was out of date. But what if Mr. Redmond had said to Englishmen, "England's difficulty is England's opportunity—now is your time to prove your goodwill to Ireland, not in pledges or promises, or in statutes hung up for amendment, but in the actual performance,"—who would have dared to find fault with him? He has phrased about Ireland keeping faith. Ireland has never broken faith. Ireland never undertook to do anything in return for promises and postponements. What does the present English attitude of promises and postponements and amendments mean, if it does not mean that the old anti-Irish spirit is still the ruling spirit in the counsels of Englishmen? And if that spirit rules now—now after Flanders, now after Gallipoli, now after Doiran—what are we to expect at any time? What are we to expect when these things have receded into the past, and when all England is in the throes of her domestic difficulties following the war? A renewal of pledges and promises from the Asquiths and Birrells at this stage might have some journalistic effect, but whatever their words might be worth—and words are cheap—we do not hear as much as would provide a text for a convention harangue or a leader in the "Freeman's Journal."

One thing we do know for certain, and that is that the taxation of Ireland, already far too great, is being increased by the million. Every million added to Irish taxation will compel hundreds of thousands of men and women to emigrate from Ireland.

While Mr. Redmond is at "ifs" and "buts" and "please convince me" in Westminster, his lieutenants, the Tommies without khaki, Messrs. O'Donnell and Lundon, are commissioned to go about in Ireland reviling and denouncing the Irish Volunteers, under the pretence of assisting Recruitment! The idea is to strengthen Ireland's position and earn still more gratitude from the British Democracy. No doubt the testimony of these reputable gentlemen and their platform companions, with the tacit approval of Mr. Redmond, will be duly added to the Voluminous Evidence which is to enable Mr. Birrell to strike a blow at the Irish Volunteers when America is not looking. From the first inception of the Irish Volunteers I never doubted that they would have to meet the hostility

secret or open, of Mr. Birrell and his associates, but I must confess that I felt a deep anxiety about Irishmen claiming to be Nationalists, and in particular the members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, lest they should be manoeuvred into the position of sharing the responsibility. That is now the very position into which they have been manoeuvred.

By the time these words are printed the Government's present plans regarding Conscription will have been made public. The London Correspondent of the "Irish Times," on Monday, writes: "I fancy that, when the terms of the Bill are revealed, it will be found that the Prime Minister has constructed a golden bridge, along which Mr. Redmond will be enabled to make a more or less graceful retreat." We now see the estimate in which Mr. Redmond is held by the Unionists, after two years of more or less graceful retreating.

Eoin Mac Neill.

Cumann na mBan

The Thursday afternoon First Aid Lectures at Headquarters will be resumed on Thursday, 13th January, at 4 o'clock.

MUSKETRY.

Target practice is optional to Branches, but the cleaning and care of the rifle, and practice in loading and unloading should be part of the Ambulance training. When a wounded man has been lifted on to the stretcher No. 6 must collect his rifle and other equipment. She should at once find out if the rifle is loaded, and if so remove cartridges. She then follows in the rear of stretcher. Several different types of rifle are in use, and members of Stretcher Squads should be familiar with all, if possible.

Target practice, both outdoor and indoor, is interesting, with .22 miniature or converted rifles. Revolvers are the most suitable weapons of self-defence for Ambulance members, and practice may be got with a .22 revolver, starting at 6 yards and increasing to 12 yards.

A VOLUNTEER PLAY.

We welcome the publication of the little play, "Ireland First," which is, we believe, the first dramatic effort that deals with and was stimulated by the Volunteer movement. Written by Mr. P. Kehoe, who was bred in the traditions of County Wexford, it evidences a first-hand acquaintance with the rural Ireland of to-day.

"C" COY., 3RD BATTALION.

Prize Drawing result:—1st Prize, No. 22553; 2nd, No. 29410; 3rd, 21113; 4th, 29418; 5th, 4210; and 6th, 432.

S. O'Donoghue, Sec.

A MILITARY CAUSERIE

It is now a commonplace of criticism to say that the scouting of the Volunteers is their weakest point, but it has not yet been shown wherein it is weak. Recent observation has shown me that there are two separate points of weakness, each associated with one of the two great classes into which the Volunteers may be divided. Roughly, it may be said that the country corps are fairly good at scoutcraft, but fail to apply it to the military situation, while the townsmen, with a pretty good idea of what military information is wanted, lack the scoutcraft that should enable them to obtain it. In other words, the country man knows how to look, but doesn't know what to look for, and the townsman knows what to look for but cannot find it.

One cannot learn much on scoutcraft from books. Only constant practice will make townsmen proficient in this. But it is a pity to think of the scoutcraft of the country corps being wasted for lack of knowledge of how to apply it. We have a few words to say to these, which may also be read with profit by the townsmen; for, though we have said that they generally have a fair idea of what to look for and what to report on, we have said no more. Their ideas are only fair.

In the first place, a scout should know that he is sent out for a particular purpose: it may be to reconnoitre the ground; it may be to discover the enemy; it may be to obtain some particular piece of information. Then, realising that, he must conclude that it is his duty to achieve that purpose or die in the attempt. Coming back without information is no use to anyone, whereas (as a militarist friend of mine remarked) not coming back is information.

It is a common delusion among Volunteers that scouts are sent out to take the scouts of the other side prisoners, frequently with comic results. A sham fight frequently consists for the most part of a game of hide-and-seek among army-corps of scouts, and an umpire may be called on to decide which of two men holding each other up with empty revolvers has captured the other. Sometimes a Volunteer officer, anxiously awaiting information from his scouts, is gratified by the sight of half-a-dozen of them returning, each leading a prisoner. Once, when acting as umpire in a small affair, I stopped a scout rushing in breathless excitement to the rear, and asked him what was his report. "I've seen a scout of the enemy," he said.

Unless an enemy scout actually crosses your path you can generally disregard him; but, if he really does obtrude himself unpleasantly on your view, bayonet him. Don't take him prisoner. You have your information to get.

If you are sent out to discover the enemy go on till you do so, and then take careful observation of his position, direction of advance, numbers, etc. If you have to reconnoitre the ground you look for the best line of advance for your own side (if you are on the offensive), or for the enemy (if you are on the defensive). This line will be decided by the nature and extent of cover available, the obstacles in the way, such as rivers, marshes, etc., or by the strong and weak points in the defenders' position.

Having found out what is wanted, return and report. Just as you are not to shirk danger in getting information, so you are not to risk losing it by trying Cuchulain-like exploits on the way home. Give your report fully, directly, and briefly, and if possible illustrate it with maps.

As to how you are to obtain your information, or how to learn how to obtain it, I can only refer you to Padraic O Riain's page.

E. O'D.

Connrad na Saebhige—The Gaelic League

BRITISH RAID

ON

IRISH EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

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By the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction will be

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EOIN MAC NEILL WILL PRESIDE.

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HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do bí ag Comhairle Snóta Féinne
Fáil ina n'Ódúpoirt trádóna D. Ceardaoim
an 29 d'ó Lá de'n mí ro, agus an Ceann
Cata páraic Mac píapair ina catáioilead
orta.

Do príot na snát-tuapargála agus do
pinneab a lán oibre d'fár orta.

Do príot tuapargála fá leit an
gluaiseacht na hoibre i gContae na
Sailtíne, i lán na héineann i agus i
gContae an Cabáin.

Dúnpóirt na Féinne,
Át Clac, 29 m. na n. 1915

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening the 29th inst., Commandant P. H. Pearse in the chair.

The usual reports were received and a large amount of business arising out of them transacted.

Special reports were received on the progress of the movement in Co. Galway, in the Midlands, and in Co. Cavan.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 29th Dec., 1915.

Notes from Headquarters

TARGET PRACTICE.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the recent General Order of the Director of Training on the subject of target practice. There was a real need for such an order, as information which reaches Headquarters shows that in many centres the men are getting only occasional practice at the target. In future every man is to get **weekly** practice under supervision of the Company officers, and every man is, moreover, to be asked to avail to the full of such opportunities for private practice as he has. Every man who has a miniature rifle or an air-gun (or who can beg, borrow, or steal a miniature or an air-gun) should take three shots at a target every morning after his morning prayers. A thick board in one's bedroom or a tin can in the back yard is all that is necessary in the way of accessories. Where practice with a miniature or an air-gun is not possible a few minutes spent at "snapping" is the next best thing. Officers are urged to see that this order on target practice is taken seriously by the men. The Organisers and Organising Instructors are expected to report on the matter in the areas in which they are at work.

THE AUXILIARY.

Are you a centre of the auxiliary? If not, why not? Do you mean to say that you have not got ten friends willing to pay sixpence a month for the furtherance of the objects of the Irish Volunteers? What have you been doing all these years if you have not earned the confidence of ten of your friends? It is a confession of ineptitude, of lack of character, for a man to say that he does not know ten people who, on his mere request, will subscribe sixpence a month. Do not make such a confession. Write to the General Secretary at once for an Enrolment Form. The form contains spaces for ten names. Get ten of your friends to inscribe their

names and then collect their sixpences. If you can collect five shillings from each in one sum it will save you trouble. There is absolutely no reason why every reader of the IRISH VOLUNTEER should not become a Centre of the Auxiliary.

The inevitable slackness of the Christmas time is over, or ought to be. A New Year is with us. This may be our year. With all the earnestness of which we are capable we urge every Volunteer Battalion and Company, every Volunteer officer and man to put on a spurt. Speed up the field training; get plenty of target practice; perfect the mobilisation schemes. This is the message of Headquarters to the Organisation at the beginning of 1916.

A CLONDALKIN RALLY.

A splendid concert was held under the auspices of F Coy., 4th Batt., Dublin Brigade, at the Public Library, Clondalkin, on Sunday evening, 2nd inst. The audience was exceedingly large and enthusiastic, the fine hall being crowded to its utmost capacity. The Very Rev. Canon Baxter, P.P., and all the local clergy were present.

Commandant P. H. Pearse delivered a short address. He said that the Irish Volunteers had armed to secure the rights of the people of Ireland, and the first right of every people was national freedom. Their fathers had defined freedom, and there could be no new definition. He directed attention to three matters which, he said, might become urgent at any moment. One was the question of food supply. They must not allow the food of the people to be removed from Ireland to such an extent as to threaten a repetition of 1847. Another was the muttered threats of some of their enemies as to disarming the Irish Volunteers. Let them try it. The third was Conscription. As to that they were absolutely resolved not to allow a single Irishman to be removed from Ireland without his free consent. The place of all who agreed with that policy was with the Irish Volunteers.

The Dublin Brigade

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING 9th JANUARY, 1916.

- 1.—Classes at Headquarters as usual.
 - 2.—Lecture for Junior Officers on Saturday at 8 p.m.
 - 3.—Inspection of 3rd Batt. at Camden Row on Sunday by the Brigade Commandant. The Battalion will assemble at 10.45 a.m.
 - 4.—Officers will hold themselves in readiness for immediate examination.
- EAMONN DE VALERA,
Brigade-Adjutant.

RESULTS OF FIRST AID EXAMINATION.

The following have been successful in the First Aid Examination recently held.

1ST CLASS.

Vol. J. Byrne, C Coy. 3rd Batt.	100%
Vol. W. Stapleton, B Coy. 2nd Batt.	96%
Vol. V. Gogan, B Coy. 1st Batt.	92%
Vol. M. Kavanagh, C Coy. 3rd Batt.	92%
Lieut. G. Murphy, C Coy. 2nd Batt.	90%

2ND CLASS.

Vol. J. Daly, C Coy. 3rd Batt.	88%
Vol. J. Doulan, A Coy. 4th Batt.	88%
Vol. H. Ridgeway, C Coy. 2nd Batt.	86%
Vol. E. Sweeney, F Coy. 2nd Batt.	86%
Vol. D. O'Brien, C Coy. 4th Batt.	86%
Vol. G. Mahoney, C Coy. 1st Batt.	84%
Vol. J. F. Brooks, C Coy. 1st Batt.	84%
Vol. P. Fuhery, C Coy. 2nd Batt.	84%
Vol. J. Hannon, E Coy. 2nd Batt.	84%
Vol. J. Bracken, A Coy. 3rd Batt.	80%

3RD CLASS.

Vol. L. Cassin, E Coy. 2nd Batt.	76%
Vol. J. McKenna, C Coy. 4th Batt.	74%
Vol. P. Walsh, G Coy. 1st Batt.	74%
Vol. J. O'Gorman, A Coy. 4th Batt.	70%

SPECIAL COURSE OF TRAINING FOR SENIOR OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS, JANUARY 15th to 22nd.

The Special Course for Senior Officers will comprise conferences and lectures on Organisation, Military Geography, Military Engineering, Night Operations, Defence of Buildings, Orders and Reports, Lessons of the War, and kindred subjects. There will be frequent staff-rides.

As previously announced, the course is open to Senior Officers of all Ireland. Every battalion in the country should send at least one officer to the class. Officers other than Commandants and Vice-Commandants are to be chosen by the Battalion Councils, and the names of officers intending to follow the Course are to be reported, before January 12th, to the Director of Training.

THOMAS MACDONAGH,
Commandant,
Director of Training.

Hedge-Fighting for Small Units

THE POINTS WHERE FENCES INTERSECT.

Intersection points of hedges are of the utmost importance. These are the only proper posts for outlying scouts and snipers. One man concealed at such a point can enfilade both sides of every one of the four hedges meeting at that point. He only needs to have a small clear space for the muzzle of his rifle. He is also admirably placed to pick off any hostile troops moving across the middle of the fields. It is very easy for these solitary outlying scouts to fall back unobserved from point to point. In this way they can easily keep up a running fight, halting successively at each intersection point of the hedges. It must be remembered that in the circumstances one man will be always able to fall back faster than the others will dare to follow. For these outlying snipers will be readily able to give one another mutual support when falling back.

When these outlying scouts are posted at or near the flanks of a position they must be specially alert and watchful. It is their duty in such a case to give warning of and hold off any attempt at a turning movement. Snipers picked for this service should be specially trained men, and should be detailed for the same work on manoeuvres and field days.

The manner in which the Germans in the present campaign occupied such localities as the famous "Labyrinth" at Souchez gives on a big scale an idea of the kind of action that in Irish hedge combats would be pursued on a small mobile scale. There the points held were the intersection points of fire trenches and communication trenches, and they were held by machine guns instead of by individual snipers.

THE FIRE ACTION REQUIRED.

The action of the advanced snipers would be quite distinct from that of the main strength of the infantry. The latter would occupy suitable positions in accordance with the principles previously indicated. They must be always ready to open a burst of concentrated fire at a moment's notice and at close range. If they can always do this there is no danger of their being rushed and overwhelmed. Evidently for these short, sharp bursts of fire at point-blank range revolvers and automatic pistols are quite suitable; any ordinary assault would be shattered be-

fore the pistols were empty. Coolness and steadiness are required to secure the needed fire-discipline in the men: for this purpose Section Commanders of a resolute stamp are needed. They need only be able to ensure steady fire, which does not need elaborate training on their part. The practice of volley firing by sections is the best peace training for this kind of action. The tactics of Wellington's infantry in the Peninsular War should be carefully studied.

SNIPERS.

The snipers who would be detailed for the holding of advanced points should be picked and specially trained men. They would all be armed with rifles, even in those cases in which the bulk of their companies were not so armed. Their musketry training should be such as to render them dead shots at ranges of a couple of hundred yards; quickness in catching their target being essential. They should also be men of quick intelligence and resource, and these qualities should be developed by constant practice on manoeuvres.

SUPPORTS AND LOCAL COUNTER-ATTACKS.

Opportunities will frequently offer themselves for small local counter-attacks. These should be resorted to on every possible occasion. With a view to them supports should be held well concealed in suitable covering positions. As a general rule the supports should depend entirely on the bayonet or pike, rushing in when the firing line is being attacked. The tedious, complicated nature of the advance in hedge-intersected country renders the attacking troops particularly liable to be disorganised by the determined onslaught of even a small body of men. It may happen that a section of the line is forced back, and this might be thought to involve the withdrawal of units to the right and left of the gap. This should not be tolerated. The enemy just where he is successful exposes his own flanks by pressing forward. This exposure of his flank must at once be seized on as the signal for a prompt and energetic counter-attack, which has every chance of success.

All Officers and men of the 1st Batt. wishing to attend the Special Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Capt. Thomas Dolan, "C" Company, will assemble at 41 Parnell Square at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday the 9th inst. Full equipment. No rifles.

pleat

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nooLaz

On Saturday, 8th January, 1916
in Round Room, Mansion House

Dancing Commences at 8 p.m.

Tickets - Single, 3s.; Double, 5s.
to be had at 25 Parnell Square and at all Irish Ireland shops.

leabhar drille d'óglácaí na héireann (Ar leanmáint).

an mion-meáócaint.

Árdaiste an gunna cúpla órlaí
den tálamh san ádh áruaí eile do
deunamh.

Má tusa an t-óruaí "ceirnean" na
no "dear-dálaí," no "clé-dálaí,"
7c., ásur an gunna i ríste, áruaiste an
gunna mar áruaí eile áruaí á
comhlánad an áruaíste.

Cum sunnaí do "áruaí" ásur iad "áruaíste."

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FLEADH NA NODLAG.

The Gaels of Dublin will have a unique
opportunity of spending many a happy
hour together at the Mansion House next
Saturday night. The Committee in
charge have left nothing undone that
might conduce to the success of the
undertaking, and they confidently ex-
pect that Saturday will witness a bril-
liant gathering of the Gaels. A special
prize of £1 or value is offered to the
wearer of the best lady's Irish costume.

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Dáimh."—A Sead Mairbh.

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Training Camps for 1916

Now is the time to discuss ways and
means for setting up training camps
for the coming year. We must look
ahead to these camps as the best system
of training for our officers. We want
such a system to enable Headquarters to
cope with the speedily increasing number
of corps that are springing up all over
the country.

Last summer's camps were an experi-
ment—and a very successful experiment.
This year we want more camps; we want
them in more centres; and we want them
continuing for a longer period. The aim
should be to include in the training every
officer and every N.C.O. that we have in
the country, and for this purpose there
must be camps in several widely-sepa-
rated areas. In no other way can we
cover the ground.

What we must aim at is the taking
over of this camp training by well-es-
tablished county bodies helped out by Head-
quarters. Headquarters should supply
the equipment at cost price and super-
intend the training. The local bodies
should provide camp sites, camp com-
mandants, etc.

At the present time in Ireland there
are a number of localities where the
Volunteer corps are sufficiently numerous
to need the establishment of a camp, and
where a local officer of the necessary

capacity to impart the instruction can be
found. In Ulster a camp could be estab-
lished in Tyrone, in Connaught in Gal-
way, in Munster in Limerick, Kerry and
Cork, in Leinster in Dublin, Kilkenny
and Wexford. The county authorities in
their localities should take immediate
steps to have their camps in working
order in good time. If the matter is
taken in hand early it will be possible to
guarantee the required training to all the
men who should have it.

These camps need not be on a big scale:
a thorough grounding in all the elemen-
tary work—whether drill or field work—
can be obtained if there are enough men
in camp to form a section. And it must
be remembered that these camps are de-
signed to teach preliminary drill and
training to raw officers. Last summer's
camps were attended by men varying
very much in capacity, training, and
rank, and were thus on a different foot-
ing.

Such County Boards as are really in
earnest should immediately take up this
matter and get into communication at
once with Headquarters with reference
to it. Similarly they should try and
work the local end of the business, and
give their officers and N.C.O.'s the oppor-
tunity to make their necessary arrange-
ments to spend—if not a session—at least
a number of week-ends at the camps.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE CRANTS FOR IRISH.

The monster public meeting of protest
which the Gaelic League has decided to
hold in connection with the withdrawal
by the Department of the fees for the
teaching of Irish has been definitely fixed
by permission of the Lord Mayor to be
held in the Round Room of the Mansion
House on Monday, January 17th. Pro-
minent speakers, representative of all
shades of Irish National public opinion
and of Irish education, are being invited.
Already several important meetings have
been held in different parts of the
country. The Committee of Technical
Instruction of Co. Carlow, presided over
by his Lordship Bishop Foley, have
passed a strong resolution of protest
against the mean action of the Board. A
deputation from the County Committee
of the Gaelic League, having waited upon
the County Committee of Technical In-
struction in Co. Kerry, this latter Com-
mittee unanimously joined in a resolu-
tion of protest, as did also the County
Committee of Limerick. Numerous other
public boards and educational bodies
have protested, and it is certain that
when the opportunity arises to put its
views on record Irish public opinion will
show itself as vehemently opposed to the
renewed attempt of the British Govern-
ment's representatives in Ireland to
strangle Irish nationality through killing
the Irish language.

OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CORK.

Owing to the rapid growth of the movement in Cork City and County, and the inability of the City Battalion to supply instructors to all the county corps, the Cork Battalion Council have devised a scheme of training, whereby they will be able to place a trained officer over every corps in the county.

During the past three months, up to thirty instructors were sent out every Sunday to the different parts of the county. These men had in some cases to cycle twenty and twenty-five miles before reaching their destination.

So efficient is the work of these men, that now almost 70 corps exist, and still appeals for help are coming weekly to start new ones. At the rate of progress at present the City Battalion expect that, before January of the new year closes, they will account for at least one hundred corps.

Commandant O'Connell, of Headquarters Staff, has been secured to conduct the School, so that nothing will be left undone to make the course a complete success.

The course begins January 22nd, and will continue for a fortnight. It will consist of field work, elementary drill, physical drill, and lectures. Each corps sending a man must defray all his expenses, which will not exceed two pounds.

The course is also open to officers or men from any part of Ireland. Those who intend to avail of this unique opportunity for training should apply at once to the Secretary, Training School, Cork City Corps, Irish Volunteers, Sheares St.

All letters should be sent by hand as far as possible, as letters are being stopped through the post.

CUMANN NA mBAN (Central Branch).

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NA FIANNA EIREANN

TRAINING IN OBSERVATION (continued).

As your powers of observation develop you will be able to take in quite a large stretch of country and to retain a vivid impression of its main features. But this degree of perfection can only be acquired by consistent practice.

Route-marches should be organised for the special purpose of training the scouts in observation. (Officers will be well advised if they take out only one section at a time on such marches. Each boy will have his own idea as to the important points which ought to be observed. Personal explanations will be necessary, and if you parade the entire Sluagh your route-march will be little better than a lecture in the hall.) On the march you should observe the lie of the land as you go along and notice all special features: houses, churches, towers, farm buildings, rivers, streams, bridges, hills, valleys, woods, isolated trees, telegraph-poles, cross-roads, etc. Frequent halts should be made when any important feature in the country which, in the opinion of the officer in charge of the parade, calls for special note or explanation. During such halts you should ask any questions regarding the things observed since the last halt. When you return you should be able to describe the country covered by the march. Write down the main features noticed and try and get a mental picture of the country, so that you will be able to know that road and district again, even after nightfall.

When you are able to do this you should notice, in addition to the sort of country you pass through, the carts, wagons and motors that pass you, and the different tracks they make; also the different people you meet on the road.

With regard to this last point it is not sufficient to observe merely the height of the person and the colour of the clothes worn. This is about all the information the average boy could give you if you asked him to describe the man who had just passed. You must, if you wish to become a highly-trained scout, be able to observe at a glance his face, colour of his hair, height, build and gait, so that you would recognise that man again if you met him. Now

to be able to do this requires special training, and training which may be practised in your spare time. Your training should be carried out on the same principle as I outlined, in last week's notes, regarding the building and the field: notice the details of the object before "taking in" the object as a whole.

Take faces, for example. How often do we forget the faces of those we have met. The reason is that we have merely looked at the person without really seeing him. Begin by observing the scouts in your sluagh, and be sure you are an expert before practising on strangers. Don't stare at anyone or your training may come to an abrupt and painful end. Notice carefully the colour of hair, general shape of head, nose, eyes, mouth, ears, chin, etc.

Sit down now and try and describe the features of some scout in your sluagh with whom you are intimate. If you cannot describe him accurately, how can you expect to be able to remember the persons you meet on a route-march. However, it comes easily after a little practice. I would again warn you to avoid staring.

You can judge the height by a comparison with your own. For instance, if your height is five feet four, and you estimate that Corporal O'Connor is about two inches smaller than you, then you can say that Corporal O'Connor is about five foot two. Nearly everyone has some little peculiarity in his manner of walking. Such peculiarity should be noted. You do not require to be a highly-trained scout to notice a policeman by his manner of walking, even when he is dressed in civilian clothes. Men of different nationality walk differently, and women walk differently from men.

I read somewhere an account of how a detachment of Boers was saved as a result of the observation of a Boer woman. The Boers did not believe the enemy was within a great many miles of their encampment, and a man walking on a neighbouring hill against the skyline did not excite any interest. The woman insisted that no Boer walked in that manner, and they sent out scouts to find out the facts. They returned with the information that the enemy were creeping up under cover of darkness.

Two lessons may be learned from this. One from the observation of the Boer woman and the other from the stupidity of the soldier who showed himself on the sky-line.

PADRAIC O RIAIN.

[These notes on Observation will be continued in next week's issue.]

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