

THE
IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1915.

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NOTES

Last week I dealt with Mr. Birrell's reply to Mr. Ginnell. I had already exposed the use which Dublin Castle made of Dr. Starkie. Mr. Birrell kindly clinched the nail by repeating the Nathan-Norway-Starkie formula with a slight change of words. The Castle plot against the Irish Volunteers was fully formed last March, if not earlier. It was this, to work up a special case against us on the good old lines of Parnellism and Crime, for the Government of Ireland is a continuity, and Birrell has to continue

Balfour. The same old machinery is still available. Having decided on the sort of case that was wanted, instructions were duly circulated to procure the evidence at all costs. Mr. Birrell on December 9th was able to announce that "the evidence is now voluminous." It is supplied by such agencies as the policeman who took his notes in the dark, "not at the window but under the window," and the four policemen whose machine gun swearing failed to convince a bench of magistrates at Foynes. It is a wretched thing to think that Irishmen can be got to swear away the liberty of Irishmen, but their instructions come from the honest and honourable men who have to do the neces-

sary work of English government in Ireland. It is a glorious system.

The object of the plot in which Mr. Birrell is engaged is to enable the Government to draw a line between Unionist Volunteers, supported by English money and by Mr. Birrell's Ministerial colleagues, and Irish Volunteers, opposed by Mr. Birrell and his colleagues from the first day of their formation. The object of the Unionist Volunteers, for which we have the word of their commander-in-chief, is to send to the Devil the Home Rule Act, to whose enactment Mr. Birrell is pledged, and Mr. Birrell has announced in the same Parliament that the loyalty



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of these allies of his honour "has not been questioned." He has now been engaged for the best part of a year in collecting "evidence" which may enable him, when he finds it opportune, to declare the Irish Volunteers an illegal association, and to have their blood if they refuse to disband and yield up their arms.

All Volunteer associations in Ireland are illegal. The Ulster Volunteers are illegal, and can boast Sir Edward Carson's motto—"There are illegalities that are not crimes," to which may be added the counterpart, "There are legalities that are crimes." The National Volunteers under Mr. Redmond are illegal. We may even read of a Lord Lieutenant holding a review in Trinity College Park of another Volunteer Association, without troubling to have the law amended. Therefore if the Government strikes at the Irish Volunteers, or if Dr. Starkie or any other Castle instrument strikes at individual Irish Volunteers, it is not because the Irish Volunteers are an illegal body, but because they are politically obnoxious to a combination of Unionist and foresworn Liberal statesmen. The value of Mr. Birrell's "voluminous" evidence is proved by the fact that it is most of a year, or more, since he made up his mind to have the evidence he wanted.

Mr. Birrell's statement of December 2nd was rapidly followed by the long article, dated December 4th, which I reprint from the "Times." That article is not avowedly written from the Government standpoint, and a few phrases are introduced to give it the appearance of being written by an outsider. It is written, nevertheless, on behalf of the Government, partly to explain what it calls "the Government's attitude of vigilant inactivity," and partly to prepare and provide pretexts for a change of attitude and for "developments which would be highly undesirable at the present time." The writer of the "Times" article contrives to suggest that the Government has all the good will in the world for the destruction of the Irish Volunteers, and only wishes that the time and circumstances were more favourable. The destruction of the Irish Volunteers would mean placing Ireland once more at the complete mercy of the combination which enabled the Liberal Government two years ago to break its pledges to the Irish Party and the Irish electorate. It would lead, indeed, to far graver consequences for Ireland. Every million of added taxation imposed on Ireland means a further huge reduction of our population, and a further impoverishment of the remnant. The Irish Volunteers are Ireland's best political safeguard. They are also Ireland's best security against a new era of constitutional pillage which would in-

volve in economic ruin not only Irish Nationalists, but nine-tenths of the purblind people who call themselves Irish Unionists.

The writer of the "Times" article is well informed from the Government standpoint, and when he says what is not true he does not say it accidentally. He would like to prepare the way for the suppression of the Irish Volunteers in view of "the recognised necessity of enforcing National Service in Ireland." "National Service" is the "Times" word for compulsory service in the British Army.

The British Prime Minister opened the recruiting campaign in Ireland by announcing in the Dublin Mansion House that what he asked for was "the gift of a free people." That was a year and a quarter ago. Where is the free people? The other day the head of the British Military Command in Ireland issued an edict under the Defence of the Realm Act forbidding everybody in Ireland to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or any ammunition for firearms, without the express permission of the said military commander. This is nothing short of an edict of slavery, purporting to reduce Irish citizens to the condition of slaves who are not allowed to acquire any kind of arms, even such as would be effective for the defence of their houses and lives.

The Government announces its programme through the "Daily Independent" in the following words: "The order is mainly intended to prevent arms and ammunition getting into the hands of Sinn Feiners or Irish Volunteers. It is understood that the military and police authorities are in possession of information of what may be regarded as grave events occurring behind the scenes." This may be quite true, behind the scenes in Dublin Castle. So far as I know, the "Independent" has not gone elsewhere for its information.

The finishing touch to this particular scene in the drama is supplied by a member of Parliament who has put down a question asking the Government how they intend to follow up their announcements against the Irish Volunteers. The questioner is one of those who are pledged to resist the Home Rule Act by armed violence!

EOIN MAC NEILL

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Cumann na mBan

At the meeting of the Executive on Tuesday, the 7th inst., a resolution of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mrs. Fred Colum (B. Cassidy) was proposed by the President, Mrs. Wyse-Power, and seconded by Mrs. Tuohy, and the vote was passed in silence.

It has been decided that Cumann na mBan will hold a flag-day as soon as all arrangements can be made. Country branches who wish to know particulars will get the necessary information from the Sec., 2 Dawson Street, as soon as arrangements have been concluded.

We are glad to announce that a branch has been started at Athlone with a considerable membership. This week we can publish the November Report of the Cork Branch.

On Sunday, 7th, the first Field Day was held, which passed off very successfully. The casualties were not many. Only a few men got scratches in the fray. The open air practice was of great service, and they hope to repeat the experience early in December. On November 8th Mr. P. McDonnell gave a very interesting lecture on Patriotism.

On November 21st two members of the Committee were deputed to form a new branch in Ballinadee. The meeting held at Miss Walsh's house was very successful. Girls came from all directions, many of them distances of three and four miles. The objects and work of Cumann na mBan were explained, and a branch was then formed. Miss Coleman visited them subsequently to give the newly-formed branch a preliminary lecture on First Aid, and she hopes to continue the work after Xmas.

On Sunday, 28th, Cork celebrated the anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs. Cumann na mBan organised the Irish Flag Day Collection in conjunction with the meeting, and the result exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the Volunteers. A ceilidh was organised by the Cumann na mBan at An Grainain after the big concert in the City Hall, and thus a very happy day was brought to a close.

Several new members have given in their names, and squads and sections are being organised.

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Strategic Points of the Irish Counties.

VI. ANTRIM—ANTRIM.

The military importance of the town of Antrim was abundantly proved by its having been made the scene of the fierce battle of the 8th of June, 1798. It arises from the fact that the town is so situated as to command all the main routes between Belfast and the western portion of the province of Ulster. For at Antrim all these routes converge on the narrow shelf of level ground between the mountains and the broad expanse of Lough Neagh. The main Belfast-Derry railway line comes from Carrickfergus Junction down the valley of the Six Mile Water to Antrim and then turns north by Ballymena to Coleraine; another line comes due north from Lisburn skirting the shore of the lake; and a line runs due west by Randalstown and Toome Bridge, linking up with the eastern parts of Derry and Tyrone. All these lines are paralleled by good roads which also converge at Antrim. In point of resources Antrim is not very remarkable, being only a small town; it possesses, however, certain agricultural produce in fair quantity, and Lough Neagh is, of course, celebrated for its large supply of fish.

VII. ARMAGH—PORTADOWN.

Every route into the western two-thirds of Ulster which is not controlled by Antrim is controlled by Portadown, which is a very important railway junction. Through it runs the main Dublin-Derry line by Dungannon and Omagh, as well as a subsidiary line by Armagh and Clones to Enniskillen and Cavan. But of course the most important line by far passing through Portadown is the main Great Northern line from Dublin to Belfast. Portadown being such a considerable junction, has naturally large railway supplies. As in the case of Antrim, all the railways are paralleled by roads; and in addition Portadown is midway by water (River Bann and Canal) between Lough Neagh and the sea near Newry. The town further possesses considerable industries, as does Lurgan, another large town only five miles away on the direct route to Belfast.

VIII. CARLOW—BAGNALSTOWN.

Bagnalstown is not a place of any great absolute importance, but any other point of County Carlow is of still less. A line of railway runs through it from Kildare—Carlow to Kilkenny, and there is a branch line by Borris to the junction of Palace, in County Wexford. None of these lines, however, are important communications. Similarly the roads—corresponding roughly to the railways, with an additional road running east to Newtownbarry—are only secondary. Some addi-

tional importance arises from the existence of the railway and road bridges in the neighbourhood over the Barrow, which even here is a river of some size.

IX. CAVAN—CAVAN.

Like Bagnalstown, Cavan can only be considered a secondary point; but it is easily the most central point in the county of the same name. It has also some importance by reason of its situation midway between Enniskillen and Mullingar on one of the very few railways in Ireland that run in a north and south direction. It is well linked up with all the surrounding districts by road, and the country around furnishes certain kinds of agricultural produce to a fair extent. The nature of the country around Cavan is, however, of considerable tactical interest. It is a maze of small hills, small valleys, and small lakes, and in parts is remarkably well wooded; in short, it offers rare opportunities for the activities of small bodies of irregular or poorly-trained troops. It is a country in which sound local knowledge would be of the very first importance.

X. CLARE—ENNIS.

Hardly any county in Ireland is so completely dominated by a central point within it as Clare is by Ennis. This town is situated almost in the centre of the county at the head of the Fergus estuary. Thus it lies on that line where the width of the county in a north and south direction is least, and at that point all the roads running east and west converge. Moreover, the pattern of lakes to the north in the direction of Corofin further narrows the extent of ground along which it is possible to pass. The Fergus estuary is navigable for small ships as far as Clare Castle, a couple of miles below Ennis. Ennis lies on the important branch of the Great Southern line which connects Limerick with Galway, Sligo, and all the West of Ireland; and the West Clare Railway is a narrow-gauge line connecting the town with the seaboard parts of the county.

XI. CORK—MALLOW.

Strategically Mallow is one of the most important points in Ireland. This has always been the case, but since the construction of the railways its importance has been doubled. Mallow is like a common inner door into Ireland if we regard the southern harbours as so many outer doors. The main road from Cork to the interior of Ireland passes through Mallow between the Boggeragh and Nagles Mountains; the main Great Southern line follows the same route. Both these communications cross the Blackwater at Mallow. In addition to this Mallow flanks the secondary road line by Fermoy, Mitchelstown, and Caher. The town is also the starting-point for the railway line to Killarney, which is the only rail-

way into County Kerry; and there is also the important line by Fermoy, Lismore, Dungarvan to Waterford. Mallow has platforms, engine-houses, turntables, housing for rolling-stock, etc., etc., proportionate to all the needs of a railway junction of its importance.

IRELAND, IRELAND OVER ALL

A SONG OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS, 1915.

I.

Ireland, Ireland, dear old Ireland,
Ireland, Ireland, over all!
Leinster, Ulster, Connaught, Munster,
All together stand or fall.
Ireland claims our sole allegiance,
We know none but Ireland's call;
Though we love our brother nations,
Ireland's love is over all.

II.

From the coasts of northern Antrim
South to Kerry's rock-bound shore,—
Let our deeds, our lives proclaim it—
Ireland's ours for ever more.
Ages long she's lain in bondage;
Free her now from alien thrall,
Bring her back her ancient glories,
Ireland, Ireland, over all!

III.

Know no other flag but Ireland's,
Shed your blood for her alone;
God has marked her ocean frontiers,
God has named this land your own.
Stand united, Sons of Ireland!
'Gainst her foes an iron wall.
God save Ireland, Holy Ireland,
Ireland, Ireland, over all!

BRATAIR NA GATLA.

MR. SHEEHY-SKEFFINGTON.

Mr. Sheehy-Skeffington has completed his lecture tour in the Eastern States, and is sailing on the 11th December from New York on the St. Louis, to arrive in Liverpool on December 18th. Sir Matthew Nathan is of opinion that his conduct in America and his propaganda there has "aggravated his original offence," and threatens to enforce the Cat and Mouse Act against him on his return: by this Act he is liable, his "licence" having expired, to be re-arrested and imprisonment without trial. A British Secret Service agent in New York came to him with a proposal that if he dropped his "anti-British and anti-War" propaganda for the rest of his stay in the U.S.A. there would be "no trouble" on his return; if not, that he would not be permitted to land in the United Kingdom. The "deal," needless to say, did not come off. At a recent lecture in Worcester a copy of Mr. Skeffington's speech from the Dock fetched twelve dollars for the funds of the Irish Volunteers.



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The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1915.

On Organising

Every Corps of the Irish Volunteers should seriously take up the organising of the country between it and the nearest Corps. It will not do to leave all organising work to Headquarters. Headquarters has its hands very full, and it cannot organise the whole country without the co-operation of the corps that are already in active existence.

Every Sunday the Cork City Battalion has men out drilling small corps in half a dozen outlying places. We know fifty other corps in Ireland that could do the same thing, and do it well. There is hardly a corps in Ireland that could not do something towards further organising the country round.

Very rapid and satisfactory as is the progress of the Irish Volunteers at the present time, it could be made much more so if the officer in command of every corps will make it part of his business to get in touch with every village where even a section can be started. He could send a couple of his cyclists out once a week to organise and train them. He will find that so far from interfering with the training of his own corps, his own corps will grow more rapidly and do more work from the fact that the country all round is roused to action.

In the Volunteer movement Headquarters must provide the technical training, but the country must provide the enthusiasm and hard work necessary to transform the undisciplined mass into a national Army of Defence.

We look, therefore, to every company officer in Ireland to take up the organising of the districts round him, to make his corps a centre round which radiates a network of Volunteer Companies. This can be done, and ought to be done without delay. We must have a corps of the Volunteers in every parish in Ireland, and we will get them if our existing corps would each do its part in spreading the movement.

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Hedge-Fighting for Small Units

It will sometimes be possible for a solitary cyclist sniper well posted on a road to enfilade transverse hedges for the road. This would help to frustrate turning movements by small parties in the immediate neighbourhood of the road. A good cyclist should be able to spring on his machine instantly and sprint off at top speed from such a position when once it became untenable.

Cyclists in case of necessity are not absolutely confined to roads: they can wheel their machines along paths and thus escape across country if cut off. In those circumstances—bar accident—they stand a good chance of getting away unmolested. If the cyclists are laying an ambush their safest way of retreat may be across country for some distance and then by cycle on a different road. In that case the best place for their machines to begin with would be the second road.

LEFT-HANDED SHOTS NEEDED.

In the case of delaying actions on roads the men will commonly have to fire round corners, gate pillars, etc. Clearly in such a case it will be necessary to have men able to shoot from the left shoulder—otherwise the men will be able to get cover on one side of the road only, whereas it may happen that the best cover

and positions are on the other side. With this end in view it should be the aim to put all the left-shoulder men of a company into one section or squad so as to have them to hand when wanted. If none of the men fire naturally from the left shoulder a squad should be trained to do so.

ROADS LEADING INTO A POSITION.

There is one other matter of great importance in connection with Roads, which forms a special case. This is the case of roads leading from the direction of the enemy into a fortified position. If these were suitable and the enemy were prepared to face the losses entailed, it might be possible to drive forward strong columns along them into the heart of the position. This would need to be specially guarded against.

For this purpose the position should be so traced that the stretches of such roads leading to it would be long and straight, so that the advancing columns would be under fire for a long time. Picked shots in well-protected positions would be told off to command the approaches. Barriers of thorn bushes and barbed wire should be placed in front to hold up the attacking troops. No other barricades should be used, as they would simply mask the fire of the defenders.

Another useful defence is thus described in a recent account of Turkish defences in Mesopotamia. These are "trous de loup" or pits with spikes at

the bottom. "These looked just like a honey-comb, only the tops of the holes were circular. They were four to five feet across, from seven to eight feet deep, with sharpened stakes in the bottom, and were shaped like an inverted cone. At the top the edges were about nine inches apart. Over one lot I saw there was a barbed wire entanglement." These would hold up a column under fire, and in all probability cause the assault to fail.

CHAPTER III.—DEFENDING POSITIONS. MATERIALS.

When treating of defensive positions it will be suitable to preface the subject by detailing certain materials that although rough and ready, are nevertheless capable of being speedily put to good use for making or improving cover. When time serves quantities of the following should be accumulated. Plenty of opportunities for collecting them will arise, and should never be neglected:—

Wire—barbed if possible, for making entanglements and stiffening hedges. Even short lengths are useful. A supply of staples for fastening it should be provided.

Timber—For rivetting banks and flooring. **Nails** of all kinds.

Stones—All large stones of a couple of stone weight should be used. **Brush-wood** for filling gaps in hedges, corduroying roads, etc. **Bushes**—Strong thorn

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bushes for barriers and abattis. **Sods**—For rivetments and for facing rough walls to prevent splinters flying. **Sacks** are very important, being better than sandbags. They can be filled with earth, gravel, road metal, and are splendid material. They should be about half filled only. It is not necessary to choke or tie a sack if the mouth is carefully folded under it when being placed in position.

IMPORTANCE OF THE DEFENSIVE.

The present European War has emphasised to an enormous degree the advantages of the prepared defensive as a tactical system. Whether we are strategically attacking or not makes no difference. In that case judicious use of localities held on the defensive is the best means of strengthening to the fullest the force available for the counter-attack. Now, there is no country in the world in which a defensive position can be more easily prepared than in Ireland. In most other countries elaborate measures must be taken; the trenches must be traced and dug; supporting points must be properly provided; localities must be prepared for defence, and, in general, considerable trouble is entailed and much technical skill involved. In great part of Ireland, however, good defensive positions will be found ready-made, and much time and labour will be saved.

THE FIELD OF FIRE REQUIRED.

In one vital point the present war has modified former theories of defence in favour of the ordinary Irish terrain: field of fire is no longer the first requirement sought for. It is better to have a field of fire of 100 yards and to be invisible than to have one of 600 yards and to be an easy target for artillery. Cover from view has become more important than field of fire. Fire direction and control thus become simple matters, and all the officers and N.C.O.'s. have to do is to steady their men and make them keep their rifles flat.

Now, in Ireland the wide fields of fire formerly sought after would have been practically impossible to find. The country is so broken and cut up by fences, hedges, and walls that no extended field of fire would be obtainable. The proper use of firearms in Ireland consists of steady, careful aimed fire at short ranges. In short, a force well hidden behind a hedge with a level field of ordinary size in front is formidably posted. These conditions would constantly present themselves in Ireland without any special preparation at all.

LEVEL GROUND THE BEST.

A perfectly level terrain is the one best calculated to get the fullest results from the peculiar defensive capabilities of enclosed country. In level country the hedges obstruct view completely beyond

the first hedge in each direction. On the other hand, a man posted on a hill can see into the fields in the plain, or a man in a plain can see the surface of the fields on a hillside—like butts to a target. A bank position behind the crest of a hill is the best in such a country. This compels the enemy to expose his infantry to your musketry and gives his artillery very little opportunity for observation. In the present campaign in France such positions have been held successfully on countless occasions by both sides.

PREPARING HEDGES.

When posting a firing line behind a hedge the appearance of the hedge on the enemy's side should not be changed at all. The hedge should be trimmed from behind at the bottom to enable the men to crawl right in under the bushes. They will then be able to fire from the front edge and will have a good view, while they will be quite hidden.

PRACTISING MAP-READING.

There are large numbers of Volunteer officers and N.C.O.'s. who are unable to read a map, strange as this may seem. The following hints will be found very useful by them. The best map of Ireland is the 1-inch Ordnance Map, which gives practically all natural features and land-marks:—

1. Having procured the best map of the district you can get hold of, go up on some fairly commanding height from which you can survey a good area of the country around.

2. Take out your watch and lay it flat on the palm of the hand, with the hour hand of the watch pointing to the sun. Halfway from the 12 o'clock figure to the hour hand is the true south—counting forward from twelve in the afternoon and back in the morning. Knowing the south, you can easily find the other cardinal points.

3. The top of the map is the North, the bottom is the South, the left-hand side the West, and the right-hand side the East. Spread the map flat so that its top corresponds to the North as you have ascertained it by the watch. This is called **orienting** the map.

4. Once you know how the map corresponds to the ground you can easily identify the places on it. At first you may find it takes time, but constant short spells of practice will speedily make you proficient. Half-an-hour spent each day in this way for a week will repay you well.

Nathaniel Education.

The subjoined is the conclusion of the correspondence under above heading:—

19 Herbert Park,
Ballsbridge, 1st October, 1915.

DEAR DR. STARKIE—Writing to me on Sept. 13th in reply to my letter of August 31st in reference to Mr. O'Connell, of the Filemore Boys' School, Cahirciveen, you say: "Absolute equality of treatment is scrupulously observed by this department between the Irish Volunteers and the Ulster Volunteer Force, and, I may also say, the National Volunteers," and you add, "by the rules and practice of the Board, National Teachers are not permitted to connect themselves with any of these bodies." Since then I have been favoured with copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Commissioners and the manager of the school.

On June 18th Mr. Dilworth, Secretary to the Board, wrote to the manager, Very Rev. Canon Browne, requiring from the teacher, Mr. O'Connell, "a statement regarding his alleged connection with the Irish Volunteers." On June 24th Mr. O'Connell supplied Canon Browne with a written statement, which was forwarded to the Board. In this statement Mr. O'Connell acknowledged his connection with the Irish Volunteers, "having first satisfied myself," he writes, "that there was nothing contrary to the letter of the spirit of the Rules of the Commissioners." His statement concludes with this request: "If in doing so I have infringed any rule of the Commissioners, I should be obliged if you would kindly ascertain from the Education Office what particular rule I have violated and wherein exactly I have done so."

In view of the words of your letter to me with regard to the "rules and practice of the Board," this was evidently a reasonable and proper request. The Commissioners, however, instead of complying with it, wrote intimating the stoppage of Mr. O'Connell's salary "until he had satisfied them that he had ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers."

I suggest that Mr. O'Connell was entitled to be informed under what rule his conduct was impugned, and that to withhold from him this information and at the same time to order the stoppage of his salary was such a proceeding as must bring the Board's administration into disrepute among fair-minded people.

In a further letter of July 10th Mr. O'Connell shows that, during the eighteen months of his connection with the Irish Volunteers, his manager had certified in writing to the Board once in every three months that the rules and regulations of the Board had been observed by Mr. O'Connell, who now repeats his request to be informed what rule he has broken. He also points out that the Commissioners must have been aware that many teachers had been "taking an active and prominent part in the Volunteer movement," and asks "why was there not a general warning issued by the Commissioners."

On July 27th Mr. Bonaparte Wyse writes on behalf of the Board to Canon Browne, acknowledging Mr. O'Connell's second request to have the rule indicated under which his conduct had been impugned. Instead, however, of indicating the rule, Mr. Wyse writes that "the Commissioners regard his (Mr. O'Connell's) action in taking part in the work of an organisation which is openly hostile to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown as most improper and unbecoming to a National Teacher, and as very much more serious than a mere violation of any rule of their

AN CUMANN COSANTA

Insures Irish Volunteers
against Victimization by
their Employers.

Write for particulars to the Secretary,
I.V. Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin.

code," and they now proceed to threaten Mr. O'Connell with "summary dismissal."

This letter discloses an extraordinary state of things. It admits at length that Mr. O'Connell is not charged with any violation of rule, but charges him with an offence "very much more serious than mere violation of any rule," and describes this offence as "connection with the Irish Volunteers." This admission and accusation cannot be reconciled with your statement to me that "by the rules and practice of the Board, National Teachers are not permitted to connect themselves with any of these bodies (the Volunteer Organisations)."

You are aware that "open hostility (of any unlawful kind) to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown" comes under the cognisance of the ordinary law, and that the duty of investigating any charge of the kind comes in the first instance and necessarily upon the officers of the law. If there is a foundation for such a charge against any person or persons, it must be gross impropriety for the officers of the law to shirk their own duty and to allow the discharge of it to be transferred to the Commissioners of National Education. It must be a no less grave impropriety under the circumstances for the Commissioners to take upon themselves a duty which belongs to the officers of the law. The Government has tribunals for the investigation and punishment of such offences as the Board has been induced to charge against the Irish Volunteers. The Board itself is not such a tribunal, and has no competency to pronounce judgment and inflict penalties in matters admittedly outside the scope of its own rules, much less to pronounce judgment in a general way on the legality of this or that public organisation. It is not competent to hold a judicial investigation upon evidence into questions of "open hostility to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown," and it is still less competent, without proper investigation and hearing of evidence for and against, to pronounce a decision on such questions and to award a penalty.

The action taken by the Board concerns the liberty of others, including myself, to be associated in a certain way with Mr. O'Connell and other National Teachers, as well as their liberty to be associated with us. The public is entitled, therefore, to be informed on what ground you have arrived at the unwarranted decision that the Irish Volunteers are "openly hostile to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown." If this is merely a political opinion held by members of the Board, then the mere pronouncement of such an opinion by the Board is, to say the least, a grave impropriety, and is calculated to vitiate the relations which should subsist between the Board of National Education and the National Public. Any penal action taken in consequence by the Commissioners can only be an enforcement of their political opinions in the place of the administration of the stated rules and settled practice of the Board. The Board's threat of "summary dismissal" on the charge proposed cannot be reconciled with the terms of your letter to me.

Your statement to me, again, cannot be reconciled with the next letter of the Board to Canon Browne, which I shall cite. On July 31st Mr. O'Connell writes "to ask is it permissible for him to join the National Volunteers under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond." On August 13th Mr. Bonaparte Wyse replies: "The question whether a teacher may be permitted to join the National Volunteers under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond has yet to be decided by the Commissioners."

Here again, instead of rules and practice, we find the Commissioners sitting as a political tribunal, deciding according to their political

lights and leanings in one case, and announcing that another case "has yet to be decided"—both cases arising on questions of conduct admittedly outside the scope of the Commissioners' rules. If such decisions can be enforced it becomes evident that National Teachers, and in a certain measure the public, are at the mercy of the political feelings entertained for the time being by members of the Board.

Following this correspondence, I have to request that you will have the goodness to bring the matter definitely before the Commissioners, to enable them to make it clear to the public, as well as to managers and teachers, that no teacher will be prevented on purely arbitrary grounds or grounds of opinion from being connected with the Irish Volunteers, and that no unfair, improper, and unconsidered discrimination will be allowed to shape the Commissioners' attitude as regards the Irish Volunteers, the National Volunteers, and the Ulster Volunteers.—Yours faithfully,

EOIN MAC NEILL.

W. J. M. Starkie, Esq., LL.D.,
Resident Commissioner,
Board of National Education.

Office of National Education,
Marlbrough Street,
Dublin, 4th October, 1915.

DEAR PROFESSOR MAC NEILL—My letter of September 13th accurately represents the attitude of the Board on the question you raise as defined by a resolution on August 31st last. You will observe that the letters of Mr. Wyse to which you take exception were antecedent to that date.—Yours faithfully,

W. T. M. STARKIE.

Professor John Mac Neill,
19 Herbert Park,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin.

Filemore B.N.S.,
Cahiriveen, 25/10/15.

REVEREND SIR—The Commissioners of National Education have now, it appears, decided that their teachers are not to be allowed to become members of any of the Volunteer organisations in this country. Had they come to this decision when the Volunteers were first started in Ireland it would have prevented my dismissal and all the trouble attendant thereon.

But I saw that teachers were not prevented from becoming members of the Ulster Volunteers; and the Board expressly stated to you in their letter of the 31st August last that they had not yet decided whether it was allowable for teachers to become members of the National Volunteers, or, in other words, that they had not so far forbidden membership of that body.

To me this appeared unfair differentiation. I could not see or understand why the Commissioners should concede to one set of teachers a right or privilege which they denied to another. I considered that I had as good a right to my opinions and was as much at liberty to translate these opinions into action as any other teacher in the Board's service. I objected to distinctions being made, and claimed that all should be put on the same level of equality.

It appears that this has now been done, and the justice of my claim has been admitted. But I was dismissed from my position in ignorance of the fact that the Board had in the meantime made a General Order, or what was equivalent to a General Order, on this question of teachers' connection with Volunteer bodies.

Teachers now in the Board's service are aware of the existence of this order; they know that it applies equally to all the different Volunteer organisations. None can feel aggrieved then at the application of the rule to himself

when he knows that it is impartially employed all round. Those teachers then enjoy an advantage which was denied to me.

I very respectfully ask that you would point out to the Commissioners how very unfairly I was dealt with, and how I was taken at a disadvantage, in having all knowledge of this decision of the Commissioners withheld from me when my dismissal took place.

Under these circumstances I claim re-instatement in my school, with salary without intermission, so that my case may be re-opened and again considered, and in order that I may be placed on a footing of equality with every other teacher in the employment of the Board and given an opportunity of complying with the general order of the Commissioners.—I am, reverend sir, your obedient servant,

JEREMIAH O'CONNELL.

Very Rev. P. Canon Browne, P.P., V.F.,
Cahiriveen.

Co. Kerry—12701, Filemore B.N.S.
27th October, 1915.

REVEREND SIR—I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., enclosing a communication from Mr. Jeremiah O'Connell, in which he furnishes a statement respecting his non-compliance with the requirement of the Board in reference to his connection with the Irish Volunteers, and requests re-instatement as teacher of the above-named school antecedent to his ceasing his membership of the body referred to.

In reply I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they cannot accede to Mr. O'Connell's request, but that should he furnish them immediately with evidence that he has ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers they will be prepared to consider the question of his reinstatement as a national teacher and the recognition of service given by him in the Filemore School since the 25th September, the date from which salary was withdrawn.—I am, reverend sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. DILWORTH,

Secretary.

Very Rev. P. Canon Browne, P.P., V.F.,
Cahiriveen.

DUBLIN BRIGADE.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 19th.

1. Special Classes as usual.
2. Training for Sub-Officers and selected men at Camden Row on Wednesday and Saturday, 4 p.m.
3. Lecture by Commandant O'Connell for all Officers of Brigade at 7 p.m. at Headquarters. Hour altered to enable officers to attend Aonach.
4. The examination for Officers, Sub-Officers, and selected men of the Brigade will be held during the month of January.

EAMONN DE VALERA,
Brigade Adjutant.

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATION.

In the syllabus printed last week there were a few misprints. The only one that is worth correcting is "nine" for "some" in paragraph 3.

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FIRST AID CLASSESFor Members of Cumann na mBan, Thursday
afternoon 4 to 5.30, beginning October 29th.
Those wishing to attend should apply by letter
to Hon. Secs., Cumann na mBan Executive, 1
Dawson Street.Printed for the Proprietors at Mahon's Printing
Works, Dublin, and published at the Volunteer
Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street, Dublin.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do b'as Comairle Snóta Féinne
Fáil ina nDúnport trádnóna D. Céastaoin,
an 8 dá lá de'n mí ro, agus an Ceann Cota
Pádraic Mac Piarais ina ádsoirleas
oiftea.

Do glacad na gnát-éaspargbála.

Do hainmniúad pinnic cimeití agus
máinteoirí nua.

Tus Riapáiré an Oronúige cunnar uad
an Sluag Copóirge 7 an Sluag Ciapraige.
Cúis Cota agus reacr 5Complécta vés
an dá pícto Uon Sluag Copóirge. Ceintre
Cota i Sluag Ciapraige Tus Ceann an
Infiúcta mion-cunnar uad an Sluagreacr
na hoibre ran oircear ó deas agus go mor-
mon an réad Sluag loe 5Capman.

Fliot réadla go nábcar cap éir Doro
Connatae do cup an bun i 5Connatae an
Cáshain agus ceann eile i 5Connatae Cill
Coinnig.

Do rocpunúead go vconónlpar an Com-
airle Coitcéann D. Dómnais, an 19ad lá,
mí Mheádon Láe.

Dúnport na Féinne,
Át Cluac, 8 M. na n., 1915.

FORFÓERA COITCEANN.

Blod a Cápta Uail 45 5ad 05lác v'
fiannaid Fáil an 5ad rluagrad, agus é
péir cum a Cairbeáca v'áon oifiseac
ceannuir dá n-áppairé an é.

Pádraic Mac Piarais.
Ceann Cota.
Riapáiré an Oronúige.

Dúnport na Féinne,
Át Cluac, 8 M. na n., 1915.

Notes from Headquarters

THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the new General Council will be held on Sunday, the 19th inst., at 12 noon. Many counties which were not represented at last year's Council are represented on the new Council, the organisation having extended itself amazingly since the first Council was elected. There should be a full attendance at the forthcoming meeting, the business of which will be important.

TWO NEW COUNTY BOARDS.

Cavan and Kilkenny have formed County Boards. This makes six new County Boards in about two months. The formation of a County Board indicates that the movement in the area concerned has reached a sufficiently forward state to make common action between the various

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 8th inst., Commandant P. H. Pearse in the chair.

The usual reports were received.

Several additional organising instructors were appointed.

The Director of Organisation made a report on the Cork and Kerry Brigade Districts. In the former there are now five organised Battalions, with a total of fifty-seven active Companies. The Kerry Brigade is organised into four Battalions. The Chief of Inspection made a detailed report on the progress of organisation and training in the South-East, more especially in the Wexford Brigade District.

Reports were received of the formation of County Boards in Co. Cavan and Co. Kilkenny.

It was decided to summon a meeting of the General Council for Sunday, 19th inst., at 12 noon.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 8th Dec., 1915.

GENERAL ORDER.

Every Volunteer will have his membership card at every parade, and will be prepared to produce it at the request of any superior officer.

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

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 8th Dec., 1915.

Companies possible. The County Boards in their turn will prepare the way for Brigade Councils, which come into existence when the county units are completely organised as military forces.

CORK AND KERRY.

A recent report on the Cork Brigade shows five organised Battalions and fifty-seven active Companies, of which a large number are not yet grouped into Battalions. Six other Companies are in process of formation. This is splendid. In Kerry the groups are necessarily less numerous, but the spirit is equally good. A forward move in the organisation of Kerry is projected.

THE SOUTH-EAST.

The Waterford City Company has made great progress in the face of peculiar difficulties. In the County too there is now a stir our way. Kilkenny, City and County, as already noted, are work-

ing up. The three Battalion areas of the Wexford Brigade have splendid material and the men are well armed. More field work—combined manoeuvres between Company and Company and occasionally between Battalion and Battalion—would benefit the Brigade. Indeed more field work would do all our Brigades and Battalions and Companies good. Training is what tells in the end. It is more important than numbers, and almost as important as arms.

JOIN THE AUXILIARY.

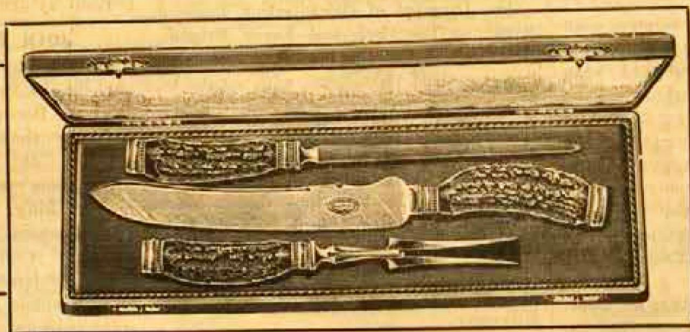
If you can't be in the Volunteers you ought to be in the Auxiliary. Why? Because it is the best way to help the Volunteers. How does it help the Volunteers? First, it gives them your moral support, which is something. Secondly, it gives them your financial support, which is better. Thirdly, it links you with them for mutual defence, as against Conscription and Economic Pressure. These are three solid reasons. There is no use in pretending that you are a friend of the Volunteers unless you join hands with them, either in the fighting line or in the reserves.

THE AONACH

The Great Irish Industrial Exhibition which has now been in progress since the 9th inst. will close to-night (Saturday, 18th) at 10 o'clock, and those who have not yet paid it a visit would be well rewarded by doing so during the short time that remains. The Aonach Committee, who have the use of the Concert Halls up to Wednesday night next, are arranging a great programme for next week. On Monday night there will be two dramatic performances, one in Irish and one in English, the former being Piarais Beaslaoi's excellent little play, "Fear na Mill-lun Punt," and the latter Miss Lily M. O'Brennan's beautiful little opera, "A May Eve in Stephen's Green," which deals with the bust of Clarence Mangan in Stephen's Green. In addition vocal and instrumental items will be contributed. On Tuesday night the Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, C.C., late of Clif-foney, Co. Sligo, will deliver a lecture entitled "How to Feed the Irish," and will be followed by a programme of vocal and instrumental items. Father O'Flanagan, who is one of our greatest national orators, may be relied on to deal with his subject in an eloquent and trenchant manner, and as there is sure to be a huge attendance, those wishing to be present should make it a point to secure their tickets in advance. They may be purchased at the Aonach up to closing time on Saturday night. All other particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

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Fox's Heather Colour Diagonal Puttees, 4/-; post 4d.
Regulation Spiral Fox's Puttees, 6/6; post 4d.
White Metal Wolfe Tone Medals, 6d. and 1/-; post 2d.
1782 Thomas Davis Repeal Irish-made Buttons, 7d.; post 2d.
Post Office Oilskin Capes, 3/6; post 5d.
Bowie Knives, Leather Sheath, 2/-; post 4d.
Web Rifle Slings, 9d. and 1/-; new, 2/-; post 4d.
Catapults, 1/6; post 4d. Knuckleduster, 6d., 9d., 1/6; post 4d.
Life Preservers, 1/6, 2/-, 4/-; post 4d.
Sword Canes, 1/6, 2/6, 4/6; post 5d.
Block Leather Ammunition Pouches, 1/-. Flat Leather, 9d.; post 4d.
Fenian 10 Dollar Bill, 1896. Republic of Ireland; very rare, £2 10s.
Irish-made Leather Rifle Slings, 1/6, 2/6; post 4d.
Coat Carriers, 10d. and 1/-. Haversacks, 1/-.
Sam Brown Belts, 2/6. Rifle Cycle Clips, 2/6, 7/6; post 4d.
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Knapsacks, 9d. and 1s; post 4d. Sleeping Bags, 5/6; post 6d.
Military Pocket Knives, 6d; post 2d.
303 Pencils, 6d; post 2d.
B.S.A. Rifle (air), 45/-; new condition.
Pocket Flasks, 2/-; post 3d.
Web Money Belts, 1/6; post 4d.
Officers' Whistles, 6d, 1/4. Lanyards, 2d. to 1/-.
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Short Leather Army Leggings, black, 2/-; post 4d.
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COMMUNICATIONS.

Volunteers who have recently received a typed circular are requested to re-read paragraph 8, which is of general application.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS.

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NA FIANNA EIREANN

APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments have been sanctioned by the Headquarters Staff:—

DUBLIN BATTALION.

Capt. Eamonn Martin to be Commandant.

Capt. Sean Mac Aodha to be Vice-Commandant.

Lieut. Philip Cassidy to be Battalion Adjutant.

Lieut. James Pouch to be Battalion Quartermaster.

The Sluagh Commanders to be as follows:—

An Claud Sluagh (Lower Camden St.)—Lieut. Philip Cassidy.

An Dara Sluagh (Dolphin's Barn)—Lieut. Herbert Mellowes.

An 3adh Sluagh (Inchicore)—Lieut. Edward Murray.

An 4adh Sluagh (Ranelagh)—Lieut. Niall Mac Neill.

An 5adh Sluagh (Merchant's Quay)—Lieut. Garrett Holohan.

An 6adh Sluagh (N. Frederick St.)—Commandant Sean Mac Aodha.

An 7adh Sluagh (Blackhall St.)—Lieut. John McLoughlin.

An 8adh Sluagh (Fairview)—Lieut. L. Mac Ionraic.

An 9adh Sluagh (Dollymount)—Lieut. Padraig O'Daly.

Signed,

PADRAIC O'RIAIN.
Righ-fheinnidhe.

Headquarters,
12 D'Olier Street, Dublin.

TESTS AND BADGES.

The following regulations relating to proficiency tests in and badges for Signalling, Musketry and First Aid have been approved of by the Headquarters Staff:—

REGULATIONS.

1. The tests will be conducted under arrangements to be made by the Director of Training.

2. All the proficiency badges are of standard design manufactured to the order of the Headquarters Staff. They are intended for use of Fianna only, and can be obtained only from Headquarters.

3. The wearing on the Fianna uniform of badges other than the official badges is prohibited.

SIGNALLING.

4. Before being classified as entitled to wear the signaller's badge, Fianna must pass the following test:—

Send and receive a message in the semaphore and Morse systems of signalling by flag. Not fewer than twenty letters per minute. Degree of accuracy 95 per cent. in both cases.

MUSKETRY.

5. Before being classified as entitled to wear the musketry badge Fianna must pass the following tests:—

(a) Score not less than 60 per cent. in the following practices, using Fianna .22 bore rifle and standard fixed Bull's Eye target. Distance one hundred yards:

5 rounds deliberate fire, lying.

5 rounds rapid fire, lying (45 seconds allowed).

5 rounds deliberate fire, kneeling.

5 rounds rapid fire, kneeling (45 seconds allowed).

(b) Know how to fire at moving objects and how to fire during wind.

(c) Judge distance of eight objects up to eight hundred yards within 20 per cent. mean error.

i. This test will be conducted on unfamiliar ground, half the objects consisting of skirmishers and half of natural objects marking fire positions such as would be used on service.

ii. A minute will be allowed for each estimate reckoned from the moment when the object is pointed out or a shot is fired to draw attention to the position of the object.

iii. The observers will record their estimates in writing in multiples of fifty yards.

FIRST AID.

6. Before being classified as entitled to wear the first aid badge Fianna must know:—

(a) How to apply the triangular bandage to any part of the body, (b) various methods of arresting hemorrhage, (c) how to treat fractures and dislocations, (d) what to do in cases of poison, (e) methods (including Schaffer's) of artificial respiration, (f) hand-seats and other methods of carrying.

Signed,

SEAN MAC AODHA,
Director of Training.

Headquarters,
12 O'lier Street, Dublin.

NOTES ON TRAINING.

The system of training drafted by Commandant Sean Mac Aodha and ratified by the Headquarters Staff ought to be faithfully carried out by every Sluagh Commander in the Fianna. The first course covers twelve evening parades, and includes instruction in scouting, musketry, signalling, first aid, drill, and physical culture. Each parade is timed for an hour and a half, and each lecture or lesson lasts only twenty minutes.

As most Sluaghte have two parades

weekly, it will be seen that the first three courses of six weeks each can be completed before the end of next spring. These courses are almost entirely confined to indoor instruction, but lead up to the more important work in the field. Although it is quite true one cannot learn scouting in a drill hall, yet it is equally true that, without that preliminary knowledge which can best be taught in the class room, little progress can be made in the field.

In addition to the usual all-round instruction, the Sluagh Commanders should encourage their boys to specialise in at least one particular branch of Fianna work, to secure a proficiency badge. The three badges already sanctioned by the Headquarters Staff are: Musketry, Signalling, and First Aid. Badges for proficiency in other branches of Fianna work will be announced later.

In these columns I will deal from week to week with one or more of the subjects in the week's program laid down in the course issued by the Director of Training.

Next week I will deal with the "Duties of Scouts" and "Training in Observation."

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HERBERT PIM (A. NEWMAN)

will deliver an important address on

"How We Stand To-day in Ireland."

He will also contribute to the Concert Programme in his own inimitable style that stirring song,

"Rory of the Gael."

He will be supported by Brian O'Higgins, Miss Mollie Byrne, Gerard Crofts, Sean Connolly, Miss Florrie Ryan, Miss Lnea McGinley, McHale Dancers, Capt. T. McCarthy, and a host of Irish-Ireland Talent.

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