

# THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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Price One Penny.

## NOTES.

The Imperialists of the "Home Rule" Government, who connived at the threats and organisation of "rebellion" by their brother Imperialists of the Tory Party, were from the outset entirely hostile to the Irish Volunteer movement. Only a fool could have expected anything different from them. They did not leave the fools long in doubt. Having winked at Tory anti-Constitutionalism for two long years, they did not wait a week after the formation of the Irish Volunteers until they summoned the English Privy Council and launched their two-fold illegal proclamation against the importation of arms to Ireland.

The week before last, as Mr. Tennant, M.P., of the War Department, has truly informed the public, the "Irish Volunteer" did not appear owing to a raid on the printing works. It might be inferred that the raid was one of the operations of the European War, and that the hostility of the Government to the "Irish Volunteer" was not due to a desire to prevent this paper from telling the Irish people the truth about the Government's faithless abandonment of its Home Rule pledges to Mr. Redmond, the Irish Party, and the Irish people. Such an inference would be unfounded.

Mr. Tennant went on to tell the Imperial Parliament that "the Editor (of the IRISH VOLUNTEER) may, of course, have been warned against printing anything contravening the Defence of the Realm Act regulations and may have considered it wiser to suspend the issue of the paper." The Under-Secretary for the War Department and all the other Under-Secretaries may make up their minds that there are men enough in Ireland, and women enough, who do not consider it wise to have their conduct as Irishmen and Irishwomen dictated by any form of Imperialist intimidation. Irish people know by instinct that certain kinds of action are always on the wrong side, and the

Government's recent activities are doing more to educate the people and to dispel the confusion created by the compulsory sharp curve than I could hope to do by showing up the Government's broken faith.

If I thought the Government capable of keeping any compact, I would be inclined to make them an offer. The offer would be to ask their Oriental Satrap in the Castle to read my proofs in the interest of the "Defence of the Realm," on condition that there should be no interference with my telling the people of Ireland, and particularly the Nationalists of Ulster, that the Government, which they kept in office on as distinct an understanding as was ever put in black and white, has broken faith with them and has no intention of keeping faith with them. When the IRISH VOLUNTEER is suppressed, its readers may understand that it is suppressed because the Government is afraid, not because the Editor is afraid. We shall see which course is considered wiser in Dublin Castle.

The Government has not sent any sort of warning to me in any form. It has merely prevented publication for one week by seizing machinery. It has deprived the former printer of this paper of a part of his livelihood and intimidated his daughter so that she fainted. It has raided a house occupied by ladies, and driven a widow postmistress into destitution. Mr. T. J. O'Connor was right when he said that Nathan Pasha's experience in climes where, as Kipling says, "there ain't no Ten Commandments" would be turned to good account in Ireland. Whatever may be the Pasha's nationality, he has learned by heart the motto of British seamen, "Women and children first."

The Hon. Treasurers of the Irish Volunteers' Fund acknowledge thankfully the receipt of £60 19s. 6d. (three hundred dollars) from President John A. Gillan of the Society of the Catholic Sons of Derry, Philadelphia, U.S.A., for the Irish Volunteers. Certain people have

been announcing assurances received from the United States that they could rely on having ninety something per cent. of the Irish in America behind them—it was less than a hundred per cent., at all events. There is something in it. It was the late Mark Twain, I think, who told a story about a man who went out in the Rocky Mountains to bag a grisley. Some days later he wired to his wife from a remote telegraph station, "Just arrived here; bear behind."

Two new Irish books have been sent me. They are Irish from cover to cover. One comes from the North-East, from Downpatrick, Patrick's stronghold, the burial place of Patrick, Bridgid and Colum Cille. Downpatrick is still in Ireland, Slemish is still in Ireland, "my Derry, my little Derry" is still in Ireland, and they will be in Ireland and of Ireland in spite of Imperialist plans to rend us asunder. The book from Down is "Toraidheacht ar Iorg Chríosta," the oldest Irish version of "The Imitation of Christ," translated into Irish in the neighbourhood of Downpatrick in 1763, and now for the first time printed. It is written in natural and easy Irish, the Irish that came natural to a man who spoke it daily with his neighbours in County Down and who inherited the literary tradition of his country, Irish that came natural to readers who likewise combined a literary tradition with their own colloquial habit. I venture to say that every page of this book will be read with the keenest zest by readers of Irish from all parts of Ireland. Learners too will find it useful, as versions in other languages are easily to be had for comparison. Messrs. H. Gill & Son, Dublin, are the publishers. The volume is of a handy pocket size, and can be used as a prayer-book. The editor is Father Donnell O'Tuathail of Downpatrick.

Messrs. Gill & Son are likewise the publishers of the other book, the "Life of Saint Brendan," drawn from ancient sources. Saint Brendan was a Kerryman, and the author of this



modern life of Saint Brendan is also a Kerryman, Seán O'Ceallaigh. "Seelg" writes Irish on the same natural principle as the translator of the Imitation wrote it in 1762: he combines the literary tradition with modern usage. The "Life of Saint Brendan" was once as widely known in Christendom as the "Imitation" in later times, and is believed to have inspired men to conquer the mystery of the ocean and to find the New World. The Irish of Saint Brendan's time were the greatest seagoing people in the world, but they braved the ocean to bring Good Tidings, whosoever they went, to give great gifts, not to plunder, exploit and dominate. "Seelg" has done well to bring us back to those old and high and pure ideals, which give invincibility to those who are faithful to them, when a deceitful alliance with the sordid enterprise of Mammon offers only decay and ruin. "Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they? Thy waters wasted them when they were free, and many a tyrant since." In these days of greed and violence, Ireland's part is to remember the days of old and to be faithful to herself.

Mr. Dillon's Belfast speech indicates at all events that Mr. Dillon is not yet numbered among the extinct volcanoes. He said some things indeed of a kind that the public are fairly tired of. He complained of cranks, soreheads, critics, the King's County, and the "Irish Independent." If I were in Mr. Dillon's place, which is not my ambition, I think I should welcome a good deal of independent criticism from any national standpoint. I have noticed that men who are subjected to treatment that goes far beyond the bounds of the severest criticism, when they meet it without resentment and give it rope enough to hang itself, do not come worst out of the encounter.

Mr. Dillon insisted strongly on the necessity of maintaining political machinery in full working order. On that point all reasonable men who agree with Mr. Dillon's political creed will agree with Mr. Dillon. There was

a story once written with the title "When we were Boys," showing what certain youthful patriots thought and did before they had got their wisdom teeth. A sequel to that story would now be in order, showing what such people did after they had lost their wisdom teeth and all their other teeth, so that their bark was more noticeable than their bite, but that is neither here nor there. There was a gardener in the actual story, whose prescription for the cultivation of raspberries was to "let them grow wild to the devil." Whatever might happen with raspberries, this prescription would certainly not work in politics. For politics, political machinery is a necessity, and must be kept, like a rifle, in good order.

But the sort of political machinery that is necessary and justifiable is not machinery for the machining of public opinion. If public opinion is not up to the mark, it should be educated up to the mark, not manipulated. It may be all very well for Imperial statesmen, whose purpose, however great, is always sordid, to pay much attention to the manufacture of favourable opinion. Such a policy will never succeed with a struggling nationality, struggling for rights which it holds sacred and for which it cherishes a high and pure enthusiasm. Between a national leader and his people there should be a complete understanding and a full and perfect confidence on both sides. There should be no need for such appeals as "Trust me though I lead you blindfold." To do Mr. Dillon justice, though he dislikes independent criticism, I do not think he believes in mystification, and know that he does not believe in any policy of impotent and toothless conciliation.

Mr. Dillon's oft repeated appeal to the record and achievements of the Irish Party during the past thirty-five years is not effective. A political party is a means to an end, and the public mind is well able to realise that the end must not be made subordinate to the means. The achievements of the Irish Party have all been gained by reliance on the

national fighting force of Ireland, when that force was brought fully into action or wholly or partly in reserve. To replace reliance by reliance on the British democracy can only be a fatal error. The British democracy once sent us Oliver Cromwell, and could send us a second Cromwell. But, giving credit for the best of good intentions, British democracy has an exemplary way of getting absorbed in its own immediate concern when we might expect it to be interested in ours. For instance, last year was to have been the Home Rule year, and instead of Home Rule we got Sir Matthew Nathan from Borneo.

I will go so far with Mr. Dillon as to admit that criticism can be overdone, and I have more pleasure in commending part of what he said in Belfast than in finding fault. I am certain, too, that the part which pleased the Belfast Nationalists best to hear. It was, however, and drew a reply from the great English general who is paid by the Tory Party not for fighting the Prussians but for keeping up the good old cause of barbaric hatred among Irishmen. The great general's reply has faded from my memory almost as rapidly as the effects of his eloquence faded from the mind of a recent audience in Monaghan. The Ulster question will enter on a new phase when a question is placed on a footing of equality and the sooner that is done the better. It will

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have to be done whether the Home Rule Government likes it or dislikes it.

The official report of the Government's reply to Mr. Ginnell's question regarding the IRISH VOLUNTEER is printed elsewhere in these columns; also the Government's reply to Mr. Ginnell's question regarding the suppression of "Scissors and Paste." The Government's information about its own proceedings appears to be singularly defective. The "Irish Worker" is spoken of as if it were still in publication. It was suppressed by the Government soon after the Government's announcement of the breaking of the Government's pledges to Mr. Redmond, and it was never printed in the same office with the IRISH VOLUNTEER; but I suppose the statement is made with some object.

Some weeks ago the IRISH VOLUNTEER drew special attention to Cardinal Mercier's pastoral on the duty of patriotism, and recommended the Cardinal's instructions to Irish readers, at the same time drawing attention to the case of the Archbishop of Lemberg, a Catholic diocese in Galicia, and quoting the "Catholic Times" of Liverpool, which suggested that Sir Edward Grey should use his influence in the Archbishop's behalf. Mr. Ginnell appears to have taken up the suggestion, and two questions by him, with Sir E. Grey's replies, which I have not seen in any Irish newspaper, are printed in this paper from the official record.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

19 Herbert Park, Ballsbridge.

## Tactics for Volunteers.

The first thing for a soldier to learn is that if a bullet hits a man it generally puts him out of action. If, on the other hand, it goes over his head, or hits the ground a hundred yards in front of him, or buries itself in a haystack in another field, it causes him little, if any, inconvenience. Having mastered this principle, together with the art of Forming Fours, our soldier will find a little knowledge of the elements of Tactics very useful.

The object of tactics is to beat your enemy. No amount of glorious defeats can compare for a moment with the most inglorious victory. Discretion is therefore the better part of valour. It is wiser, for instance, not to make a frontal attack on an enemy more than five thousand times your strength. Of course we all know that ten thousand Athenians routed a hundred thousand Persians at Marathon, but even then the odds were only ten to one. So if you find yourself in your shirt in front of a battery of artillery supported by an infantry brigade or so, don't be ashamed to make a strategic retreat.

The same principle of tactics applies to the smallest kind of encounter. We have heard a

great deal of talk lately about the importance of guns. Now a gun is no doubt a useful article, but it has its limitations. It requires a man to use it if it is to attain its maximum of efficiency. Therefore, if an unpleasant person comes at an inconvenient time to take your gun from you, and you have not been clever enough to think of a better hiding place for it than the chimney, don't refuse to let him take it except from your dead body. He doesn't mind what sort of body he takes it from so long as he gets it, and there is more than one gun in the one bright spot. You suggest killing the unpleasant person? Better not. These pests come not singly but in swarms. Moreover, their bodies are hard to hide.

Position is nine points of the war. When you have chosen the ground you mean to fight on, don't let the slaughter of a few of your advanced scouts draw you on to a disadvantageous offensive. This mistake has been made far too often. In this connection it is well to observe that, while snipers are of enormous value acting in conjunction with ordinary fighting forces, a single sniper cannot hold up an army.

The object of tactics, we have said before, is to beat your enemy. To beat your enemy it is not always necessary to fight him, even if the odds are less than five thousand to one. Great victories have been won by judicious running away. Only, when you run away don't leave your supplies or despatches behind.

The young tactician should cultivate a sense of proportion. A mile, no matter where it is situated, will take about quarter of an hour to march. Rivers are broader and deeper than you would imagine from the map, and hills are steeper and rougher. No matter how brave and disciplined your army may be, it can't cross an unfordable river without building a bridge, and it can't pass through furze and brambles waist-deep.

In sending despatches of any kind through the enemy's country (by which we mean country in the enemy's hands), it is a wise precaution to write them in a language unknown to the enemy, or in cipher. It is wiser still to send no despatches that are not absolutely necessary.

To make a successful general you should know something about lines of communication. These are the channels by which supplies and ammunition are sent up to you from the base. They must pass through country over which you have full control, and they must be well protected from raiding parties of the enemy. This is your most vulnerable point; but remember it is also the most vulnerable point of the enemy.

Half of warfare is the art of concealment. When giving your orders of the day, don't shout them from a hill to the assembled hosts beneath. The enemy may overhear you, and, even if you know him to be far away, it is a bad habit to get into. When you have won a battle, don't go about telling people how

cleverly you did it. You may want to do it again.

These are the elements of tactics which every young soldier should know. I have said nothing about the Higher Strategy by which nations are conquered, but for the benefit of our budding conquerors I will add a few words on the subject now. If you want to conquer a nation, take up a Bible, cut out some appropriate texts, and, with these in one hand and a rifle in the other, invade the country. If you meet with any resistance, call the people disloyal, when everybody who dislikes being called names will come over and help you to subdue the others. Now promise to treat the people decently if they'll behave themselves, and immediately three quarters of those who still hold out will take the curve in your direction, and if you then can't crush the remainder you're not the Napoleon I take you for.

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## The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1915.

### Headquarters' Bulletin

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 3rd inst., Professor Eoin Mac Neill, President, in the chair, and again on Wednesday evening, 10th inst., Commandant P. H. Pearse, Director of Organisation, in the chair.

At each meeting reports were received from the members of the Headquarters' Staff, from the Finance Secretary and from the Treasurers, and the necessary orders made.

The Executive desires to impress upon Company Officers the desirability of making determined efforts to complete the armament of their units, and of utilising to the full the increased facilities for training afforded by the spring months. It also desires to point out that valuable training can be secured even in the absence of a skilled instructor.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,

Dublin, 10th Mar., 1915.

THE IRISH FLAG.

Every Company of Irish Volunteers is to provide itself with an Irish Flag, which is to be carried on recruiting marches, at church parades, etc. The authorised flag is a plain gold harp on a green ground, and no other flag, except authorised regimental colours, is to be carried by bodies of Irish Volunteers. Companies should be exercised in saluting the flag.

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,

Dublin, 10th Mar., 1915.

### APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments are made by Headquarters:—

Headquarters' Staff.

The following members of the Headquarters' Staff to be Commandants, unattached: Captain P. H. Pearse, Captain The O'Rahilly, Joseph Plunkett, Bulmer Hobson.

### DUBLIN BRIGADE.

Captain T. Sheehan to be Brigade Chief of Engineering, with rank of Commandant.

#### 1st Battalion.

Captain Edward Daly to be Commandant.

Captain Pierce Beasley to be Vice-Commandant.

Lieut. James O'Sullivan to be Adjutant.

Volunteer Gearoid O Griobhtha to be Quartermaster.

#### 2nd Battalion.

Captain Thomas Mac Donagh to be Commandant.

Captain Thomas Hunter to be vice-Commandant.

Instructor Eimar O'Duffy to be Adjutant.

Coy. Secretary Michael O hAnnrachain to be Quartermaster.

#### 3rd Battalion.

Captain Ed. De Valera to be Commandant.

Captain John Fitzgibbon to be Vice-Commandant.

Captain Patrick Begley to be Adjutant.

Volunteer James Byrne to be Quartermaster.

#### 4th Battalion.

Captain Eamonn Ceannt to be Commandant.

Lieut. Cathal Brugha to be Vice-Commandant.

Lieut. James Murphy to be Adjutant.

Lieut. James Kenny to be Quartermaster.

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,

Dublin, 10th Mar., 1915.

### NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

#### ARMS.

The need for every Company to put whatever money it has at its disposal into arms is obvious. Some Company Treasurers talk very complacently about the balances they have to credit, but no Company ought to have any balance to credit. All the money we have or can raise should be expended forthwith on the one purpose for which Volunteer funds are intended,—the completion of our armament. Beyond the mere routine expenses for rent, stationery, etc.—and these should be cut down to a minimum—there is, and must be, no claim on our resources except the one. Every penny we can command must be put into arms and ammunition. We shall then be in a real sense a force of Volunteers, and shall be in a position to intervene with effect when we are called upon to do so in pursuance of our fundamental object—the securing and the safeguarding of Irish rights and liberties. Let it be understood that our aim is exactly what it was in the

beginning, and that our immediate business is to put ourselves in a position to be able to act in pursuance of our aim should action become necessary. Neither now nor in the future do we intend to go off on any side issue. For the moment, then, the programme is: arm and train.

### WHERE TO GET THEM.

When urged to arm themselves Companies sometimes ask, "But where are we to get arms?" Where there is a will there is a way. They surely do not expect us to publish lists of our depots in the Press. Only the Anti-Home-Rulers of Ulster can afford to do that. It ought to be sufficient to say that it is still possible for Volunteer Companies to arm. At every moment from the start of the movement up to the present arms have been available for every Company that has been able to pay for them. Sometimes the exact pattern that people happen to fancy may not be on the market, but we cannot afford to be fastidious.

### TRAINING.

Several rural Companies have reported to Headquarters that training is at a standstill for want of an instructor. Such Companies show an extraordinary failure to grasp the realities of the situation. By far the most important and necessary part of Volunteer training can be had nearly as well in the absence of an instructor as in the presence of an instructor. As has been so often insisted on in the orders and notes sent out by Headquarters, the three essentials are Marching, Marksmanship, and Scouting. No instructor is required for any of these. Marching can be practised on any Sunday or week-night, and an instructor is quite unnecessary. A competent instructor will, of course, be able to give many useful hints on rifle-shooting, but it is indubitable that one can make himself a good marksman without any instructor at all. As for scouting, it is a thing which can be learned but cannot be taught. An instructor can only give hints; the scout must train himself. The only part of our training for which an instructor is necessary is formal foot-drill, and this, though valuable, is by far the least important item in our programme. In a word, the excuse that training is at a standstill for want of an instructor cannot be accepted as valid. Again and again we insist that for the really essential part of our training the local leader who has his head properly screwed on is just as competent as, in many cases more competent than, the ex-army man. Indeed, apart from some half-a-dozen men of exceptional ability and devotion, it may very well be questioned whether our ex-military trainers are able to give us value for their salaries. Some member of the Headquarters' Staff are strongly of opinion that money might well be saved on instructors' salaries and devoted to arming. Once and for all, Headquarters will not accept the excuse that training cannot be carried on in a district for want of an instructor.



# SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

SATURDAY, 20th MARCH, 1915.

## The Thorny Path, or Trust the People.

By A. NEWMAN, Author of "The Pessimist."

I do not as a rule read the speeches of Sir Edward Carson. While that amazing man was conducting his Ulster Campaigns of eloquence there was a sameness in his speeches, and, after all, even Sir Edward Carson could not avoid repetition in the rôle of an apostle of the Unionist negative creed, "We will not have Home Rule." Whatever versatility he displayed resulted from the fact that he represented a body of Irishmen opposed to an English Cabinet. In so far as he was opposed to England his conduct was that of a normal Irishman. And when a man acts, even in a small way, as a native of his own country his action is bound to have about it that freshness and vigour which is characteristic of anything healthy and natural. Recollect for a moment the things which made Sir Edward Carson's policy so refreshingly original. They were two in number:—a defiance of foreign rulers, and the backing up of that defiance by modern rifles and ammunition. All the same, I am correct when I say that there was a sameness about Sir Edward Carson's speeches after he had hurled his defiance, and had talked about a March to Cork, and the breaking of every law. But Sir Edward Carson addressed his volunteers the other day, and it seems to me that on that occasion he sounded a new note. He commented upon Mr. Dillon's recent speech, and in a rather subtle way he led his hearers to believe that Mr. Dillon had spoken as the mouthpiece of an Irish party abandoned by the Liberal Cabinet. Mr. Dillon and his friends, it seemed, were prepared to do certain great deeds whether the Government assisted them or not. And if I analyse the mind of Sir Edward Carson correctly, it was his desire that the Orange Volunteers should understand that behind them were ranged not only the Bonar Laws and the Balfours, but also the Asquiths and the Churchills; and that opposed to them was the Irish Party, which was engaged in an absurd and hopeless effort to decry and extinguish a body of men who offered the only possible argument which can be opposed to the policy of rifles on one side, that is rifles on the other. That Sir Edward Carson is right in the lesson which he desires to teach, seems to me obvious enough. It was my habit to implore my fellow-members of the United Irish League to distrust the Saxon for ever, and to avoid the exhibition of a touching faith in Mr. Asquith and his friends. Distrust, even in recent days, has been more than justified. When James the first adopted the policy of

Machiavelli, in which that master of statescraft advised plantation as the cheapest and safest way of holding a foreign country, the English have held Ireland, and have considered the Irish as a subject people. And that the most liberal among them still so consider us is easily understood, for in these days of free gifts from free peoples, the men who are suspected of a belief in Irish Nationality as distinguished from provinciality are pursued by police garbed in ridiculous disguises, and receive even the direct attention of high officials from the King of England's war office. In bargaining for anything, it is usual for the man who has something to sell to ask as much as possible. Now Mr. Redmond, after a generation of constitutional agitation, appeared by a fluke before the English Cabinet with something to sell. What he had to sell was Irish discontent; and the price, the only proper price, for Irish discontent is Irish freedom!

Mr. Redmond, if he had been a tradesman, would have looked invincible, and demanded Irish independence and complete separation from England for a start! What he actually asked for, and what he would only ask as a matter of fact from the Constitutionalist standpoint, was a liberal measure of Home Rule. The Saxon Cabinet replied on the usual principle of business by drafting a measure of Home Rule with nothing liberal about it; and then Mr. Asquith and his friends, being Englishmen, acted exactly as Englishmen worth their salt would act, they acted in the interests of England. They realized that Ulster had been planted to hold Ireland for England; and they said to themselves:—"If we pass Home Rule as the first act of the session, the men who hold Ireland for us will find themselves united with the rest of Ireland before they have had time to make a proper stand, according to their usual custom; and we shall have the commercial forces of Ulster uniting with the South to develop Irish mines and industries; and we shall have at our very doors a powerful competitor in trade, and a nation which will be bound to realize its nationality; and there will come about another 1783, this time without the hope of effecting a second Act of Union." Being good Englishmen, therefore, the Cabinet offered a paltry Home Rule Bill to Mr. Redmond; pushed him aside, although he had their destiny in his hand; and deliberately postponed the introduction of the Home Rule Bill, placing before it the National Health Bill, and giving Ulster the opportunity which in its capacity of Nation Holder it required. From the start until the present time the policy of the Cabinet has been deliberately to delay the granting of Home Rule, or the measure which is merely a miserable shadow of what Home Rule should

be—embodying as it does the old trickery of Pitt—the Irish member in Westminster: the man whose presence in the English Parliament is designed to produce West Britons, by keeping the eyes of Irishmen fixed on England, and forcing them to continue in the posture of one who begs rather than demands. This is Ireland's darkest hour. It is the duty of every Irishman to assist the Constitutionalist in carrying out the mandate with which the Irish voter presented them. Secret history is being written rapidly in Ireland at this moment. Ireland has, at present, no place for felon-setters and mud-slingers. To meet the forces which are arrayed against us we must be prepared to unite. Let us offer a solid front to the enemy, and if the Constitutionalist is in earnest, let there be an end of paltry denunciation and felon-setting. Let them recognise in us a body of men who claim that a man cannot argue unarmed with one who is armed. The Constitutionalist knows perfectly well that our demand is simply a greater demand than theirs; but that our demand is obviously inclusive of theirs. Let them tell their people the truth about England like honest men; let them trust the great Irish people with what a few of us know are the secrets of the past two months, if the people have not already comprehended those secrets by a consideration of two strange signs in the political heavens—the Committee of Imperial Defence, and the House of Lords opened specially while the Commons is closed, in order that Irishmen may be pilloried and threatened in that ancient chamber, profane to the memory of Ireland's wrongs!

## Mr. Ginnell Questions the Government.

MR. GINNELL.—To ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether the Dublin newspaper called *Scissors and Paste*, suppressed by the military authorities without warning, consisted entirely of extracts from other newspapers, mostly British, and all circulating freely in Britain; whether, in all other cases of suppression or restriction of the press in Ireland, the military authorities gave previous notice, and had an undertaking from the printer of this paper that he would print nothing considered objectionable; whether he will specify the matter in respect of which the paper has been suppressed, the paper from which it was extracted, and what action is to be taken against that paper; whether any other incriminatory matter was found on the premises; and, if an offence under the Defence of the Realm Act is alleged, why those responsible are not given the benefit of such



trial as that Act provides. [10th March, 1915.]

Mr. Tennant.—*Scissors and Paste* was a sheet consisting of cutting from papers selected for their derogatory references to the cause or military operations of the Allies and for their praise of the methods and successes of the enemy. All the copies of the paper, as well as the printing plant, were seized on the 2nd instant. I am not aware that any further step such as is mentioned in the last part of the Question is necessary or is contemplated. [10th March, 1915.]

MR. GINNELL.—To ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether the military authorities have informed the editor of the *Irish Volunteer* what they have done to prevent the circulation of that newspaper; what action, amounting in effect to suppression, has been taken; having regard to the character of the paper, will he specify the part or feature in it to which objection has been taken; under what provision of the Defence of the Realm Act are those responsible being punished before trial; and, seeing that delay of trial would destroy the paper for an alleged cause which a trial might show to be unfounded, can he say how soon the charge against the paper will be tried. [10th March, 1915.]

Mr. Tennant.—I cannot find that any action against the *Irish Volunteer* itself can be traced, but I am informed that it did not appear last week owing to a raid on the printing works where this paper, in common, I think, with the *Irish Worker* and other papers, is printed. The editor may, of course, have been warned of the existence of the Defence of the Realm Act and the regulations made under it, and against printing anything contravening those regulations, and the editor may have considered it wiser to suspend its issue. [10th March, 1915.]

## A Cyclist Screen.

The idea of a cavalry screen pushed out well to the front is familiar to everyone who has read much military literature. Such a screen obtains information of the enemy, protects its own army, and enables it to advance with greater speed and a greater sense of security than would be possible otherwise. It is proposed to suggest in the present article a system by which the cyclist detachment of a Volunteer force might fill the same functions on a small scale.

We will assume that the command of Volunteers to be protected and informed by the Cyclist Screen is a well trained body, capable of moving at an average rate of 5 miles an hour—by alternately marching and doubling. If the cyclist detachment belonging to it is equally well trained it should be capable of 10 miles an hour. In other words, the cyclists will move as far in one hour as the infantry in

two. This holds good also for units of inferior training.

It follows, then, that the cyclists will be able to move off in advance of the infantry for a distance of five miles, *spend a complete hour in scouting*, and be ready to again move off as before. This will be so if the hourly halt of the infantry is so timed as to correspond with the resumption of the march by the cyclists. As a matter of fact, the occasions on which it will be necessary to spend an entire hour in the reconnaissance of a section of country of the size concerned would be rare. It must, of course, be remembered that *together the main body of cyclists is halted or moving reconnaissance is continuous*.

The ordinary procedure of a large cyclist patrol on such a mission would be as follows: The patrol moves off, throwing out scouts in advance until it reaches an important point, such as cross-roads or the like, well ahead of the infantry column. The main body of the patrol then halts and dismounts. Single scouts or parties of two or three are sent out on all roads to as great a distance as the commander considers advisable. Messengers are sent back to the main body if necessary, and at all events men are dropped at any road forks, cross-roads, &c., to notify the commander of the main body as to the line of advance taken. Some of the dismounted members of the main body of the patrol are sent out from the halting-place as *ordinary infantry scouts* to reconnoitre the country around. These men ascend any neighbouring hills, work through woods, &c., and in general act as infantry pure and simple. It must be distinctly understood that *the cyclists in this service are entirely subordinate to the infantry following them*. Their business is not to press forward quickly, but to hasten the advance of the infantry.

For this reason, the commander of the cyclist patrol should remember that he can do very thorough scouting and still be well ahead of the infantry. When he has definitely explored the country around his halting-place, he pushes on with the main body of his cyclists and repeats the same action further on at another suitable point. This method of advancing from stage to stage enables cyclists to go over the ground very thoroughly, and make good the entire country between them and the infantry. This system of action does not relieve the infantry of the duty of covering itself. It does, however, greatly reduce the number of men required. This is especially so as regards flank protection, for by patrolling the cross-roads and crowning all heights, &c., the danger of large bodies surprising the infantry is done away with. If necessary, cyclists sent out from the patrol at a halt will remain out on their look-out posts until the entire force has passed, will then return to the road, pass out the infantry, and again place themselves under the orders of the cyclist commander.

## Short Field Exercises at Night.

The vast bulk of the Volunteers are compelled to do all their training at night only, and this tends to give some of them the idea that only Sundays and half-holidays are available for field work. This is entirely wrong, and any corps whose headquarters is so placed as to be within fairly easy reach of the country can very profitably spend a large proportion of its evening on the roads, and later—when the men have got the knack of keeping contact—in the fields.

Short night marches of this kind can be carried out by a company which can be divided into three main divisions—Advance Guards, Main Body (which need be only a skeleton), and Rear Guard. Eight men will be sufficient for each of these, and the remainder of the company can be utilised to find connecting-files. These should be double and a distance of fifteen yards should be kept. If the night is bright this may be increased to as much as thirty. If the officers are mounted on bicycles—without lamps—they will be best situated to see that good and uniform distances are kept between the several parts of the column.

Such work as this tends greatly to develop the men's military judgment, and any time devoted to it will be well spent. Later on the men may be employed on more elaborate exercises. The important thing is that the preliminary marches—where the ordinary night-march precautions are observed—will enable the men to keep touch without any trouble, after which the rest is easy.

It must be remembered that each Volunteer unit on active service will be a "Flying Column," moving without reference to any fixed base, and consequently liable to have to march off at any time in any direction. This spirit of absolute readiness is one of the points to be emphasised.

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On Sunday, 28th March, there will be a meeting of the General Council of the Irish Volunteers. The day will in consequence be a free day for the Dublin Regiment.

THOMAS MAC DONAGH.  
Director of Training.







reconnoitre at all. The fate of his detachment was well merited. Loftus made a further grave error in sending M'Manus with his small force *instead of boldly marching to the cannon*. Had he done the latter, he would at all events have saved M'Manus, besides probably arresting the pursuit to a considerable extent. As it was, he simply threw good money after bad.

## Combat Reconnaissance in Ireland.

### II.

In a previous article we drew attention to the danger an attacking line would be exposed to from the great number of fields into which the Irish country is split up. A diagram was given pointing out how very numerous indeed were the opportunities for surprise. So many and varied, indeed, are these opportunities that it would probably not be found possible to escape surprise all the time; but with proper care and a good system of training it should be possible to greatly reduce the risk of them.

We may lay it down as a principle that the only safe method for advancing the main body is by previously clearing the small enclosures in front by small patrols pushed out boldly.

In this way the commander of a force lining a hedge at one side of a field should, before advancing, satisfy himself that the fence at the opposite side is not held in strength and that no small parties are lying in ambush on its flanks. For this purpose he must send forward a few men along the side hedges parallel to his advance. These small patrols must push on resolutely. They will only meet small parties of the enemy, and have support near at hand. A couple of men should suffice for each line of hedge, and these should take advantage of all possible cover.

Evidently the whole line must delay until these scouts either signal "all clear" or draw fire. These delays, repeated at short intervals, will necessarily retard the advance to an appreciable extent, and it is desirable to adopt some system that will prevent this. A very simple way of moving the line forward so as to make up some of the lost time is to double the entire line across the whole width of each field without firing. In fact, they could run across at a considerably higher speed than the double. Behind the next fence they would have ample time to lie down and get their wind, and their casualties while crossing the space of one field should be nil, or very near it. Practice in doubling in extended order is not hard to get, and very little of it would make the men proficient.

Further, as a general rule it should be for granted that any commanding point of view within reasonable distance should be used for the information that may be obtained by use. This does not mean that patrols should wander all over the country looking for vantage points. It simply means that any point of view at hand that clearly has a good field of vision should be occupied by a party. This will, at all events, give ample warning of the presence of any considerable force of the enemy.

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# MARCHING OF THE VOLUNTEERS.

## III.

In the last article the advisability of training the Volunteers to march at the double was pointed out, and some instruction on the subject was given. Cross-country running in football togs was indicated as one of the best ways of training for wind. Very many Volunteers are members of Hurling or Football Clubs, and would take to this phase of the training very easily. Care should be taken, however, to allow no laxity or straggling; the men should for the most part be kept fairly well closed up and the Company should be halted if it gets strung out too far. The faster men are all right; the object must be to *make the most out of the slower men*. These long runs are very suitable for a half-holiday in summer, and will furnish a useful variation from other branches of training.

When the Company is being marched on the road with arms and equipment the amount of doubling done should be in proportion to the conditions. The great rule is *double always when possible*. By this there is no desire to impose a tyrannical discipline on the men, and officers are bound to see that their men are not overtaxed. The following rules might usefully be observed:—

Do not double the men up-hill: in such a case more is lost by puffing the men than is gained in point of time. Similarly, the men should not be doubled against a strong head-wind. On the other hand, it may in actual warfare be necessary to double the men when the roads are heavy; so unless the road is very bad it should not be allowed to interfere. In the case of heavy roads, however, the stretches over which the troops are doubled must be considerably reduced.

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For the sake of discipline, the *preliminary training* should be carried out *in step*. Afterwards, when the men have become accustomed to the gait, step may be broken on the march. If the senior officer is not able physically to attend thoroughly to this part of his men's instruction, the training should be carried on by one of his subordinates who is. In such a case, when the unit is out on a field exercise, the commander must be mounted on a bicycle. Occasionally advantage should be taken of a good level field to double the Company in line. In such a case care should be taken to preserve the dressing as accurately as possible. Similarly the men may occasionally be doubled in two-deep formation.

As a final precaution, care must be taken by each man that *no part of his equipment slaps* so as to annoy him in any way.

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One finds it hard to believe that across three thousand miles of ocean, in a world strangely different from the one we know, the work of the Fianna is known and appreciated. Such, however, is the case. In a long letter from New York our old comrade, Major Lonergan, sends us news that ought to stimulate us to greater effort. He tells us that when the film of the Bodestown Pilgrimage was shown in New York the Fianna got a good cheer as they passed on the screen. Our kinsfolk in America have learned of our doings in connection with the Howth gun-running, and immediately the value of our organisation jumped in their estimation. Here is news which shows that the Major, though a "lone scout" in America, has not been idle. Someone has said that men may be divided into two classes—those who do things; and those who make excuses. Certainly the Major is one of the former.

An honorary membership of the Fianna, known as the Fianna League of America, has now been established in the United States. A Directory or Central Committee, consisting of some of the most prominent Nationalists in New York, has now been formed, and the work of enrolling members will commence immediately. It is intended to raise a Corps of the Fianna League in every State, and also to institute State Councils. The annual subscription is one dollar, and all funds will be forwarded to the General Secretary of the Fianna in Dublin. Here are the names of the Directors of the Fianna League in America:—President, John Kenny (Chairman Irish Volunteer Committee of New York); Secretary Treasurer, M. F. Lonergan, New York; Directors, Colonel Edward J. Mitchell (Grand Army of the Republic), Joseph McGarrity, Philadelphia (President Irish Volunteer Committee of America), Jeremiah A. O'Leary (President American Truth Society), P. J. Conway (President Irish American Athletic Club), Patrick Kavanagh (President New York State Gaelic League), Denis A. Spellissy,

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The Major has certainly gathered around him a great array of influential Irish-Americans. With the assistance of his Fianna League and our own honorary members in Ireland, it ought to be possible for the Central Council to get another organiser in lieu of Capt. Nellowy (Organiser I.V.) to spread the Fianna in all the principal towns during the present year. The work of organising should be now much easier and more rapid than when Nellowy took the road. In almost every town where a Company of Irish Volunteers exists there are willing workers who only require a little push to get things going. A great effort must be made to give the Fianna a widespread publicity this year.

I am informed by Captain Eamonn Martin that the Fianna Ceilidhe will be one of the best and jolliest social re-unions we have had since the Major went to America. Anyone who was at the Major's American wake will know what

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The second instalment of Mr. Pearce's splendid school story, "The Wandering Hawk," appears in the March number of "Fianna." This month's issue, which is, in my opinion, an improvement on number one, contains a short story; an article on Emmet, with a portrait of the hero as a boy; another Open Letter to Willie Nelson, and editorials. I am told that there is an element of doubt as to who is now the editor. My kicks and ha'pence was suppressed in the March number.

WILLIE NELSON.

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