

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

Vol. 2. No. 50 (New Series).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

NOTES

Dublin Castle has adopted a secret policy towards the Irish Volunteers, and has instructed its subordinates accordingly. At all costs, evidence is to be procured to show that the Irish Volunteers are actively and deliberately interfering with "recruitment." This new word in the English language appears to have been coined in the official mint, and its adoption in documents issued by various and unconnected departments in Dublin bears witness to the unparaded zeal and energy of our new Home Rule satrap. Even the Commissioners of National Education, whose reverence for the English language is beyond admiration, have adopted the newfangled word "recruitment."

The remarkable feature common to all the recent proceedings against Irish Volunteers is the eagerness of the Castle agents to provide "proofs" of something said in hostility to "recruitment." This plan of campaign, it is calculated, will save the faces of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Devlin and the others who have passed resolutions and written letters about the "senseless prosecutions."

Accordingly we find that, having decided to prevent Alfred Monaghan, now in jail, from organising Irish Volunteers in Ulster, the Castle first tried a deportation order, which the competent military authority, acting in the police capacity imposed on it by Mr. Birrell, proceeded to enforce. But this was what Mr. Devlin calls a senseless prosecution, so the Castle mended its hand, and brought a new charge founded on "notes" of an alleged speech, the said "notes" having been prepared by a policeman who was not in the room where the speech was said to have been made. The policeman's evidence was contradicted by those who were in the room and heard the speech, but the magistrates accepted the independent and unbiassed evidence of

the Castle official. The meeting was in County Cavan, the "trial" in Belfast.

The same tactics were adopted in the case of Desmond Fitzgerald. He was arrested for disobedience to a deportation order, and was tried for a speech. The Castle lawyer who conducted the prosecution has not, so far as I have learned, complained of any inaccuracy or injustice to himself in the Dublin "Evening Mail's" report of the proceedings. According to that report, this gentleman from the Chief Crown Solicitor's Office, Dublin Castle, in his statement of the case, gave, as a quotation from Desmond Fitzgerald's speech, a passage which does not appear at all in the report of the speech put in evidence. The passage in question was "hostile to recruitment."

Again, the same tactics are found in the proceedings against Mr. Dalton, Secretary of the Limerick Irish Volunteers. The prosecution in this case was conducted by Mr. Gaffney, Crown Solicitor, who, I am told, is a brother of the late American Minister at Munich. The case was based on a speech, and the words relied on by the prosecution, and given in Mr. Gaffney's statement were:—"Those who have volunteered or would volunteer to fight for England are only traitors, cowards, or prostitutes." Mr. Gaffney said "he would produce evidence to show that **these were the words used.**" We can almost read his instructions from the Castle. "He did not want to make a speech about the case or give it the importance it did not deserve, **but a serious view was taken of it by the authorities.**"

The entire "notes" produced by the police witness amounted to eight lines of print. Mr. Moran, for the defence, showed that, even so, certain words had been interlined with the effect of giving the rest a closer bearing on "recruitment." Three other police witnesses corroborated number one. The police evidence was contradicted by a large number of witnesses. In particular, it was testified that the

phrase "traitors, cowards, or prostitutes" was not spoken by Mr. Dalton. The magistrates acquitted Mr. Dalton, the Chairman saying: "The majority of the Bench are not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the words relied on in the summons were used."

There was still better reason for acquitting Mr. Monaghan, for the witnesses against him were not even among the audience. Why cannot the Castle have the courage of its convictions and have all Irish Volunteers tried in Belfast? Mr. Birrell would in this way supply fresh proof that he prefers the coercion of Mr. Devlin's constituents to the coercion of "Ulster."

At the London Lord Mayor's banquet, Mr. Asquith made a speech which wound up with this peroration: "Be the journey long or short, we shall not pause or falter till we have secured for the smaller States of Europe their charter of independence, and for Europe itself and for the whole world at large its final emancipation from the reign of force." This declaration was received with "loud cheers" by the Englishmen of all parties who sat at the banquet. Shall we take them at their word, and assume that the Charter of Independence has been restored which was set aside by force and fraud in this country?

An accurate record should be kept of all employers who in these times are attempting in any way to coerce men out of the Irish Volunteers or to enforce any sort of conscription on their own account. Such employers are the most cowardly of cowards. If there was law in Ireland, they would be in the dock. There is a whole plan of campaign on foot now, under the highest political sanction, which ought properly to come under the law of conspiracy, compelling men to do that which they have a legal right not to do. We can remember how our upright and unctuous judges interpreted that law for men who were struggling to obtain the position of freemen on the land. We heard some time ago that Mr.

Redmond was pressing for some improvement in the methods of recruiting in Ireland. After that, Mr. Redmond became the Viceregal guest. Is it Mr. Redmond's reform that is now at work? Mr. Dillon pledged himself the other day to resist coercion by employers in every way in his power. Will he assist in compiling a black list of the coercionists?

A nation may agree to adopt universal military service, and in that case the national army is a free institution. Among the free nations of antiquity, universal service was the rule, and was in fact the mark and privilege of the free, for bondsmen and slaves were not allowed to carry warlike arms. But if military service is imposed on a nation against its will, instead of being a free institution, it is a form of slavery, and it becomes an aggravated form of slavery when the right to acquire arms is denied to the people, except those who submit to compulsory service.

No Irishman can be forced into military service, if he has really made up his mind not to have it. So much is clear to everybody who will take the trouble to think the matter out, and not to get his head muddled with such questions as how Mr. This or Mr. That will devise a policy of saving him from being forced. To be forced, he must first be captured alive and sound. Even if he is captured alive and sound, he can then make it quite clear that he is determined on the best opportunity to escape from slavery, alive or dead.

There are three Press Censorships now at work in Ireland. One is the acknowledged Censorship of the Government. The second is the Dublin Castle Censorship. Whose is the third? The Fermanagh County Convention of the United Irish League, on November 2nd, **unanimously** adopted the following resolution: "That we call upon our representatives in Parliament to resist more actively the imposing of any further burdens of over-taxation on Ireland." The Dublin "Leader" pointed out last week that the "Freeman's Journal" and the Belfast "Irish News," though they reported the Convention proceedings at length, suppressed all mention of this resolution. These two papers are under distinct management. When both suppress a unanimous resolution of a U.I.L. Convention, they do so under instructions from a common centre. Who ordered the resolution to be suppressed? Why was it ordered to be suppressed? There is not a single free voice in Ireland that is not against "the imposing of any further burdens of over-taxation on Ireland." The United Irish Leaguers of Fermanagh and elsewhere can now see how much they are regarded by the valiant men whom they

expected to resist anything actively except the liberty of the Irish people.

The Cunard Company has refused to give passage to America to Irishmen who are of an age to serve in the British Army. The Cunard Company would complain if its property were subjected to hostile treatment as engaged in military service. There are anti-Irish rejoicings at the refusal to allow Irishmen, "fellows," as Mr. Redmond calls them, to emigrate. It is the first time that the exodus from Ireland has been objected to by those who now rejoice. For my part, I find myself in a dissenting agreement with the anti-Irish bellowers. No Irishman should desert his country at this time. But if these men are charged with "cowardice," I say, give them equal opportunities with those who assail them, and we shall see who are the cowards.

Many of these would-be emigrants come from round about Mr. John Dillon's locality. Notwithstanding Mr. Dillon's repeated assurances, the methods in vogue have led them to believe that they may be forced into military service. Party meetings may vote confidence, but the people have no confidence and are not taken into confidence. There are other people in Ireland who will not be forced and who know it. They will not emigrate.

We have well-paid heads of Government Departments going about advocating more tillage, while the Government they belong to is taxing people out of the country and intimidating them out of the country, with the support of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon. Why cannot the people get land to live on, when there are whole regions of fertile land almost uninhabited? The monopolisers of the land are in the camp of Messrs. Redmond and Dillon. In that camp are all those who thrive by grinding the faces of the poor. Ireland needs more men, more employment, more production.

The Irish Volunteers Headquarters may be able to do something in a small way for Volunteers seeking employment, and will be glad to hear from men who want work and from others who know where work is to be found. But really this problem will have to be solved on a broad scale, and some real effort made to enable working men to live in this fertile land. It is sheer lunacy to look to the Government and its departments and have the Treasury thrown in your face. "Are you going to sell your country?" was asked of one of the bought voters for the Union. "Yes, and damned glad that I have a country to sell," was the candid reply. The country-mongers of our time have no such candour. They try to deceive themselves.

It is announced in the Press that Mr. Redmond is now promoting some sort of an Imperial Statute to bring Volunteers in Ireland under Government care. For this Mr. Redmond has no mandate and no sanction or approval from anybody in Ireland. What is the meaning of bringing Volunteers under the care of the Government—the Coalition Government? What is the object? What does Mr. Redmond expect in return? Mr. Redmond once asked me indignantly in the presence of witnesses "did I think that he proposed to sell the Volunteers?" I do not think that the Volunteers would consent to be sold. But what is the explanation of this unauthorised and unexplained proposal? Is it expected that, when the National Volunteers are reconstituted on a "loyal" and Governmental basis, the Government will have a free hand to deal with the Irish Volunteers as outlaws? If Mr. Redmond proposes to make us outlaws, or to facilitate the Government in making us outlaws, we shall still be able to protect ourselves, and the country will see Mr. Redmond in the last stage of his enslavement.

EOIN MAC NEILL

The Field-Day at Coolock

UMPIRE'S REPORT.

On Sunday, 14th November, the entire Dublin Brigade took part in a field exercise in the Artane-Coolock district. The 1st Battalion, together with a cyclist company from the 5th Battalion, occupied a defensive position beyond Artane covering the village of Coolock. The remainder of the Brigade formed the attacking force. Boundaries were fixed on the east and west of the theatre of operations, which had an excellent effect of bringing about cohesion in the operations. Cyclists were not restricted by these boundaries.

The village of Artane was not held, but the enclosures and gardens just beyond it were occupied by small parties of the defenders (Red). The task of clearing out these parties fell upon the 2nd Battalion, which performed its task in good style by alternate bursts of fire at close range and determined bayonet rushes. It lost heavily in the process, but numerical superiority told its tale. All the same, the delaying power of small parties in close country was forcibly impressed on all concerned.

While the 2nd Battalion was driving in the Red outposts the 4th Battalion proceeded to sweep up the country on its right, and the 3rd Battalion was held in reserve. At the same time, the independent cyclists, riding round by Raheny, struck towards Coolock from the rear.

At this stage Red withdrew from his original position, leaving only a body of cyclists to cover the retirement. The

cyclists of the 5th Battalion were all the time covering his right rear towards Santry. The rear-guard outside Coolock, when charged by the 2nd Battalion in mass formation, fired one volley and ran for their bicycles, riding through the village on the main road to Malahide. At the same time the infantry retreated by a bye-road—flooded in parts—and occupied a farmhouse and building to the west of that road. Smaller bodies fell back up the road. At this point definite touch was lost by the two forces.

The vigour of the attack, together with the cyclist activity in his rear, probably influenced Red and made him fall back. But his position was very strong, and it was possible that any attack whatever might have been repulsed. Nor had the threat of the 4th Batt. developed at all.

The 4th Battalion in fact struck a blow in the air, by reason of the direction of Red's retreat. The 2nd Battalion also worked too much to the east—its own right. It was expected that the entire Red force would retreat towards Malahide, and Green directed his pursuit there. A couple of 2nd Battalion companies—heavily reduced by casualties—attacked Red's new position and were annihilated. The real situation of his main force was only discovered towards the close of the day, when darkness prevented a decision. Small detached parties of Red were encountered by inferior forces and marched over. The decision was (a) Green won the first encounter between Artane and Coolock; (b) the second was indecisive owing to night-fall.

The following points deserve notice:—Red failed to make local counter-attacks although some opportunities offered. Green's enveloping move by the 4th Battalion failed to achieve anything definite: it was not known for certain that Red was in strong force on that side. Touch between the opposing forces was lost and never properly regained. Units became broken up in the close country in which the operations took place. This had the effect of impressing on all the need for special training in hedge-fighting. The value of short range fire and the ability to use the bayonet were exemplified; and the hopeless position of cavalry or guns in such country was manifest to everyone.

The very backward state of training of the cyclists on both sides was most noticeable. Many opportunities for their effective action offered, but were allowed to slip by. A thorough reorganisation of the Dublin cyclists is imperative.

In some respects the operations were much ahead of previous ones. There was more cohesion in the operations; while both officers and men accepted the umpires' rulings—some of which may often have appeared too severe—with a good grace. These are signs of improved discipline.

A Censored Bishop

The following letter from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer has been excluded from publication by the new Imperialist Press of Dublin:—

Sir—The treatment which the poor Irish emigrant lads have received at Liverpool is enough to make any Irishman's blood boil with anger and indignation. What wrong have they done to deserve insults and outrage at the hands of a brutal English mob? They do not want to be

Forced Into the English Army

and sent to fight English battles in some part of the world. Is not that within their right? They are supposed to be freemen, but they are made to feel that they are prisoners, who may be compelled to lay down their lives for a cause that is not worth three rows of pins to them.

It is very probable that these poor Connaught peasants know little or nothing of the meaning of the war. Their blood is not stirred by the memories of Kossovo, and they have no burning desire to die for Serbia. They would much prefer to be allowed to till their own potato gardens in peace in Connemara. Small nationalities and the wrongs of Belgium and Rheims Cathedral, and all the other cosmopolitan considerations that rouse the enthusiasm of the Irish Party but do not get enough of recruits in England, are far too high-flying for uneducated peasants, and it seems a cruel wrong to attack them because they cannot rise to the level of the disinterested Imperialism of Mr. T. P. O'Connor and the rest of the New Brigade.

But in all the shame and humiliation of this disgraceful episode, what angers one most is that there is no one, not even one of their own countrymen, to stand up and defend them. Their crime is that they are not ready

To Die for England.

Why should they? What have they or their forbears ever got from England that they should die for her? Mr. Redmond will say, a Home Rule Bill on the Statute Book. But any intelligent Irishman will say, a simulacrum of Home Rule, with an express notice that it is never to come into operation.

This war may be just or unjust, but any fair-minded man will admit that

It is England's War, not Ireland's.

When it is over, if England wins, she will hold a dominant power in this world, and her manufactures and her commerce will increase by leaps and bounds. Win or lose, Ireland will go on in our old round of misgovernment, intensified by a grinding poverty which will make life intolerable. Yet the poor fellows who do

not see the advantage of dying for such a cause are to be insulted as "shirkers" and "cowards," and the men whom they have raised to power and influence have not one word to say on their behalf.

If there is to be conscription, let it be enforced all round, but it seems to be the very intensity of injustice to leave English shirkers by the million go free and coerce

The Small Remnant of the Irish Race

into a war which they do not understand and which, whether it is right or wrong, has but a secondary and indirect interest for them.

I am, dear sir,
your obedient servant,
✠ EDWARD THOMAS,
Bishop of Limerick.

10th November, 1915.

Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration

In order to enable the Dublin Volunteers to attend the Martyrs' Commemoration Concert at the Mansion House on Monday night next, the Brigade Council has ordered that no parades or classes for Irish Volunteers be held on that night. Professor Eoin Mac Neill will preside, and deliver a brief address. This will be the first time Professor Mac Neill speaks on the subject of the Manchester Martyrs, and Dublin Nationalists as well as Irish Volunteers will be eager to hear the point of view of the founder of the Volunteer movement on this subject. The oration will be delivered by Mr. Bulmer Hobson, the Honorary Secretary of the Irish Volunteers and Chief of Staff to the Fianna Eireann.

The concert will undoubtedly be the best held in Dublin during the year. Many of the fine old national songs, now seldom heard on national concerts, will be revived, and a new and vigorous poem specially written by Brian na Banba will be sung by Mr. Gerald Crofts. Amongst the other distinguished artistes who will contribute are Miss Joan Burke, Mr. William Sheehan, Miss Teresa McCormack (harpist), Mr. Cathal O'Byrne, of Belfast; Mr. Sean Neeson, Mrs. Fay Sargeant, Mr. Sean Connolly, Commandant Eamonn Ceannt, Miss Florrie Ryan, Mr. P. O'Suilleabhain, Maeve Ni Riain, Miss M. O'Byrne, and Capt. Ffrench-Mullen.

This year's Commemoration Concert is organised by the Fianna Headquarters Staff, and by purchasing a ticket from the Boy Scouts you can feel an honest pride in having contributed to the permanent success of the only military organisation for Irish boys—the future defenders of our national rights.

RESULT.

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The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915.

Headquarters Bulletin

Tionól do b'í ag Comhairle Shóca Féinne
Féil ina nDúnport O. Céadóin an 10ao
lá ve'n mí ro 7 an cOibe Eoin Mac Néill,
Uachtarán, ina gceannur.

Do léigead tuaragbála ar cónraib
Oronigh, Oileanna, Armála agus Aingio.

Do phiot cunntair ó timchib agus ó
máinteoirib atá ag obair i gConntaeib
áda Cluic, Cille Dapa, Ceatantac, Tiob-
raio Áran, Corcaige, agus an Cádáin.

Do hainmuigead cannteoiri cum fhear-
tail ar chuinneigib atá le ceact.

Do hat-rogad an Dúidean Ceannur agus
an Captaon O. O. Connell ina tceannta
map Ceann Inhiúcta.

Do rinnead tógair do cheirt na Com-
rghobála agus do'n éigin atá poitne de
luic trádála na tíre o'imirt ar a luic

reibre cum a cur o'fíacaid o'ra but i n-asm
Saran dá n-aimdeoin. Do glacad comairle
cum curta ina agair rin agus do fásad
an rseal pá fo-cource.

Dúnport na Féinne,
Ác Cluic, 10 Sam, 1915.

[TRANSLATION.]

The Central Executive of the Irish
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-
nesday evening, 10th inst., Professor
Eoin Mac Néill, President, in the chair.

Reports were submitted on Organisa-
tion, Training, Arming and Finance.

Accounts of the work of organisers
and organising instructors were received
from Cos. Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, Tip-
perary, Cork, and Cavan.

The Headquarters General Staff was
re-appointed, with the addition of Capt.
J. J. O'Connell as Chief of Inspection.

Reference was made to the question of
conscription and to the unfair pressure
which certain employers are bringing to
bear on their employees with a view to
forcing them to enlist. Measures for
coping with such abuses of power were
discussed and referred to a sub-commit-
tee.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,
Dublin, 10th Nov., 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

CEARTUIGTE.

Dionn a lán loic cló ar an leatánac ro
sao feachtain, go mór-nó ran nSaeibis.
Ní ar fear rghobála an leatánac atá a
milleán rin atá ar an soló doir. Ní fú
fupmór na nvearmad do ceartuigad, atá
anoir i' ar bionn vpooc-vearmad ann.
"D'í an Comóid" do rghobamar an
treachtain ro do caitead; "D'í an
Comóid" adubairt an clóid. Rinne
ré "nvearmad" do "nvearmad" agus
"roglum" do "roglum." Sa mbearta
adubairt ré "resistance of" i n-áit "resist-
ance to." Tuigear fearca, má ciceap
vpooc-Saeibis-nó vpooc-Bearta féin annro,
nác rinne do rghob.

LUIGTEAR LEIS AN OBÁIR.

Luigear leis an obair anoir o'í n'í é go
bpuil an Comóid i leat-taob. O'roglum
curt do na hoirigeadaib a lán i' n'í na vopi
lá do caitead; i mDáile áda Cluic, agus
atá o'ra anoir a bpuarad v'eoal do
ceatantac do vpo-oirigeadaib. Ní fántar
irigir na hallaib i' n'í an fheimir atá
ceigear amad ar na b'atáib agus ar na
bóitib agus véantar cleactad cuaró.
Ní véantar faillige i Láma-beact, cíle
put a nvearmad faillige ann.

AFTER THE CONVENTION.

Headquarters looks to see increased
activity everywhere as the result of Con-
vention Week-End. Above all, it looks
to see all activity directed into the right
channels. There are certain branches of
military training, as it is understood by
those who direct the training of large regu-
lar armies, which have no importance
for us. There are other branches which

are of great importance. And in addi-
tion there are things of vital importance
to the training of such a force as ours
which find no place at all in the ordinary
military handbooks. It is to these
special phases of volunteer training that
the General Staff endeavoured to direct
the attention of the higher officers at the
conferences which were held in connec-
tion with the Convention. The officers,
it should be said, had for the most part,
been thinking on the right lines, and
Headquarters found their ideas and
points of view quite as helpful as they
found the ideas and points of view of
Headquarters. It now remains for us to
develop in practice the idea of Volunteer
training which we have got hold of and
which we are all convinced is a sound
idea. The idea may be stated in a sen-
tence. It is that we must make our-
selves efficient, not in the sort of fighting
which a large regular force is called
upon to do on a Continental battlefield,
but in the sort of fighting which a Volun-
teer force will necessarily have to do if
ever it has to take the field in Ireland.

THE ESSENTIALS.

The proper lines of work are easily
indicated. Marksmanship comes first.
Next scouting in its widest sense,—the
eye for country, the eye for cover, the
eye for lines of advance and retreat.
Next marching. Next mobilisation
schemes. Next communications. The
local commander who teaches his men to
shoot, who trains them to know the coun-
try, who makes them march, and who
can call them together in the minimum
of time, is working on sound lines, and
his unit may always be relied upon to
render a good account of itself. Nothing
is so important as to have a clear idea of
what it is that we want to excel in, and
then to work steadily towards that.

KEEPING IN TOUCH.

The General Staff is anxious to keep
in the closest possible touch with local
commanders of all ranks. Officers visit-
ing Dublin should make it their business
to see some member of the Staff and
report to him on local progress. There
will always be something useful to be
learned on both sides. Officers should
get to know what man at Headquarters
is in charge of each department. They
will then be able to bring their informa-
tion or their grievances to the proper
quarter, and to take home the informa-
tion or the advice that they want.

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A MILITARY CAUSERIE

CARNAGE AT COOLOCK.

Last Sunday's manoeuvres were without doubt the best in every way that the Dublin Volunteers have been through. They bore, in fact, a fair resemblance to what fighting will actually be. For the first time the combatants seemed to realise that their object was not to avoid each other, and they met each other with some effect, as the casualty lists show. The attackers had a hundred men put out of action—a fifth of their total force; while the defenders appear to have lost about forty; an even higher percentage.

The fighting was of a nature that we shall probably see a good deal of on active service—hedge-fighting. The general policy of the attackers was to clear the enemy out of the fields bordering the roads by means of skirmishers, and to follow this up by hurling massed companies along the roads on top of the enemy. This entailed heavy losses, especially in the second battalion, which showed at Donnyearney Bridge and on the outskirts of Coolock a perfectly reckless fury in getting to work with the bayonet. This battalion furnished nearly half the casualty list on the attacking side.

Thus by mere weight of numbers the defenders' advanced troops were rolled up or blotted out. There is, however, one important point to notice. The ideal method indicated above was not really well carried out, and only for one compensating set of failures on the defenders' side would probably have ended in disaster. There always seemed a good deal of hesitation preparatory to the delivery of the charge, and the charge itself was often of a straggling nature. In spite of this the attackers always won, because the enemy never attempted to deliver a counter attack. He always either stayed where he was, and died game, or fired a volley or two, and bolted.

Thus on one occasion a strong column of the attackers operating along the Artane-Coolock road came in close order round a bend and were fired upon by a party lining the hedges outside Coolock, whom the Green flankers had not located. The column stood still dumbfounded, while the enemy continued firing. It then became my duty as an umpire to inform the attacking commander that he could not possibly remain where he was. He must either rush the position or retire. He made up his mind to be bold, and the Greens rushed up the road in a straggling, disorderly column. The Reds, being a small party, immediately took to their bicycles and fled. Green,

for his hesitation, received heavy punishment in the form of men put out of action, but, had a local reserve of Reds counter-attacked through the fields on his left he could have been severely mauled, and forced to retire, and had the Reds been somewhat stronger even their inertia would have checked Green's straggling advance.

On another occasion the same Green column rushed a small Red force and wiped it out, but, owing to their slow initial advance, and to their arrival in detached clumps, they lost far more men than was necessary. A resolute and disciplined rush is what is wanted. After this much of criticism it is only fair to hold up for special praise the great charge made by a part of this force at the very beginning of the battle, when they forced their way through hedges and barbed wire to slaughter the Reds at Donnyearney Bridge.

A word for the defenders. The thin screen of advanced troops showed real skill in its choice of positions. And whether they stood their ground like heroes against overwhelming odds, or whether, in the most natural way in the world, they took to their heels, they are deserving of all praise.

Perhaps the most hopeful sign in these operations was the practical disappearance of thinking in army groups. The limitation of the frontage was responsible for this. The officers had their men well in hand and worked them well. No unit had to cover too lengthy a front, and so keeping in touch was fairly easy. Only towards the end, when the defenders' line shifted its direction, and the line of battle extended out towards the north, where there was no bounding line, did the communications become broken up.

This hedge-fighting is a bloody business. The percentage of casualties was really appalling, and yet the umpires were fairly lenient. The consoling thought is that the enemy suffers just as heavily.

All Volunteers who took part in the manoeuvres will see that the theories put forward here on the question of arms were completely justified. All will agree that in those sudden encounters at the turn of a road a shot gun would be as good as a rifle, if not better. In how much of the fighting would a man armed with a pike and a revolver have been worse off than anyone else? How many of us got a chance of a long range shot?

Continued experiment will show that

our theories are right, and all will welcome the proof that our fight will be of the sharp quick sort, with the steel.

E. O'D.

Hedge-Fighting for Small Units

HEDGES.

The ordinary hedge is of course not cover from rifle-fire. None the less, it is capable of being very useful. It is an excellent protection against shell splinters or shrapnel bullets if the shell strikes in front, and does not offer enough resistance to explode on contact a shell passing through it. The shell will simply pass through and bury itself behind. The bushes will even to some extent divert rifle bullets striking obliquely to the front. A stout hedge is besides a considerable obstacle to movement—akin to a barbed wire entanglement in fact. Even at the moment when the attacking line closes the bushes will hold it back; and steady men can stand fast and pick off the enemy through the hedge.

But the great merit of the hedge is the concealment it affords. Men may be moved from point to point behind it without the enemy being made a bit the wiser. Even with field glasses they cannot be seen at any considerable distance, and close at hand their numbers cannot be counted. Even aircraft cannot detect a firing line under cover of a hedge.

Classified along with the hedge, but much more valuable as a defence is the common bank and hedge. This presents all the advantages of the hedge with the additional boon of bullet-proof cover for the lower position of it. If the defenders' riflemen lean against the bank thrusting their pieces out between the stumps, they must be admitted to be formidably posted and well screened.

Banks, with or without hedges, have frequently a ditch or drain running along one or both sides of them. This may be an additional protection or a great inconvenience: it all depends on the direction the defenders are to face, the foreground, the state of the ground—whether wet or dry—the size of the ditch, etc., etc. If it is meant to hold a position for a considerable time—e.g., several days—measures should be taken to drain such ditches and to provide dry standing-room for the troops in them.

It should be noted that hedges do not afford at all the same degree of concealment in winter as in summer when the bushes are all in full leaf. And in between there are varying degrees of density of foliage. Even in the same hedge the density of the bushes may be different in different parts.

In general the grey-green Irish Volunteer uniform is very good concealment against the back-ground of a hedge.

Even at medium range men firing along a hedge—even on the enemy's side—do not present a very distinct target for rifle fire. Hence frequently such a method of advance will be better than one across the open.

The trenching tools ordinarily carried would be of little use in Ireland. But a proportion of bill-hooks, knives, etc., would be required.

Another point to be observed with reference to fences is that they vary very considerably in length, and consequently in the number of men required to hold them. But this is a matter more suitable for discussion under the head of tactics than of terrain. Hedges—and even the same hedge in different parts—vary in height. In some cases it will only conceal a kneeling man; and sometimes he will even have to lie prone. Again, what is standing cover for a short man will leave a tall man exposed. Practice alone will enable a man to instantly take up a suitable position.

When retiring from a long hedge—such as one bounding a road—the lateral fences running out at right angles to it form traverses each of which may be held by a couple of picked shots, who will enable the remainder to get back. Similarly the attacking force on reaching one of them may consolidate itself against a counter-attack. In this case the fence along which the retreat and pursuit are being carried on forms to all intents and purposes a covered-way between the successive fire positions.

PRISONERS' DEFENCE FUND.

The sum of 10s. has been subscribed to the Irish Volunteer Prisoners' Defence Fund by "A Dublin Officer."

na fianna éireann—Headquarters Staff.

Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration Concert and Address

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Monday, 22nd November, at 8 p.m.

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Mr. BULMER HOBSON will deliver the Commemoration Address.

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PRICES OF ADMISSION—Reserved Seats, 3s. and 2s. Unreserved, 6d and 1s.

Booking at Cramer's.

Cumann na mBan

In the account of the Cumann na mBan Convention held on Sunday, October 31st, Mrs. Eoin Mac Neill's name was omitted in error from the list of members of the Executive Committee.

The new Executive has set to work with great vigour and energy, and a very notable feature of the Tuesday afternoon meetings has been the excellent attendance of the members. The officers have all taken up their posts with enthusiasm, and are ready in every way to advance the cause. At the last meeting of the Executive it was decided that some member of the Committee will be always present in the office, 2 Dawson Street, between 4 and 5.30 p.m. on week days, Saturdays excepted. This will be welcome news for the many country members and inquirers who wish to get particulars of the work of the organisation.

The branch in Tullamore, whose inception we noted lately, is holding a public meeting early next week, and Miss Plunkett (joint Sec. with Miss Trench) has arranged to address the meeting. We also get tidings of a new branch in Ballycahalin, Co. Galway, and a friend writes from Tyrone about starting a branch there.

Most efficient classes for First Aid have been organised both by the Central Branch and by Miss Plunkett. The Central Branch holds its First Aid Classes on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. The numbers attending the classes may be described as phenomenal. The rooms at the disposal of the class in 25 Parnell Square are generally full to the doors. Those who would like to attend First Aid Classes in the afternoon can join a class organised by Miss Plunkett for Tuesdays at 4 p.m., at 2 Dawson Street. It would be advisable to join at once so as to get the classes into full swing. There is accommodation for a good many more in this class, and every attention will be given to turning out each individual thoroughly competent in First Aid and kindred exercises.

DALKEY AND DUNLEARY COY.

This company has now secured central premises at 65 Patrick's Street, Kingstown, where instruction is given on Wednesday nights in musketry, first aid, etc. On Sunday from 12 to 2 o'clock the company parades for musketry practice and field work at Woodside, Dalkey Hill. Recruits can join at either parade.

FIRST AID CLASSES

For Members of Cumann na mBan, Thursday afternoon 4 to 5.30, beginning October 29th. Those wishing to attend should apply by letter to Hon. Sec., Cumann na mBan Executive, 2 Dawson Street.

The Crossmaglen Conspiracy

(Continued.)

With the aid of the many agencies that we have seen at work throughout, and particularly of its newspaper murder-and-outrage mongers, and its secret societies and rebel rising operators, as revealed in the last two papers, Dublin Castle has now most of its preliminary arrangements completed and everything in readiness for the production at the opportune moment of its great Crossmaglen Conspiracy. The next forward movement was to bring it on the stage with all care and caution, and with due and proper legal éclat, so as to impress the public with its magnitude and importance. This was to be mainly the work of the Castle informers and his police accomplices; well equipped, of course, with all necessary aids and accessories; and under the skilful guidance and control, as we shall see, of cunning and not over-squeamish Castle lawyers.

As already seen, most of the Crossmaglen prisoners had been arrested and imprisoned early in 1882, without trial, charge or evidence, on mere police suspicion, founded solely, if there was any foundation whatever, on the bogus outrages we have seen at Mrs. Kelly's and at Devine's. No other foundation can even be imagined. The 1881 Habeas Corpus Suspension, or Forster's Coercion Act, as it was commonly called, under which this was done, expired, or was withdrawn, at the end of September, 1882. These prisoners had, therefore, to be released from Kilmainham Jail on or about the 28th of that month. They were, however, immediately re-arrested in the hall of the prison on the charge of treason-felony, and forthwith transferred to Armagh Jail, for trial in their native county of jurisdiction, as members of the manufactured conspiracy of the Crossmaglen Patriotic Brotherhood, as we have seen it developing and maturing itself for the Castle in South Armagh. At Armagh four others met them in the prison for trial likewise on the same charge.

The magisterial investigation into these charges of treason-felony was held at the Armagh Courthouse by Major Trail, R.M. Dr. Boyd was specially summoned down to conduct the prosecution, for the Castle, and ostensibly instructed by Mr. Kilkelly, Crown Solicitor for Armagh, but in reality by Constable Gartland, of Crossmaglen, and S. I. Bigley, of Newtownhamilton, and afterwards by Major Blair, also a Dublin Castle R.M. from County Monaghan. The four County Monaghan men—Joseph Daly, Patrick Geoghegan, Peter Devlin, and John McBride—were defended by Mr. Boyle, solicitor, of Monaghan, and the County Armagh men—Denis Nugent, Michael Watters, James Hanratty, Patrick Phelan,

negan, Thomas Kelly, and John Donnelly—were represented on the first day of the proceedings by Mr. Gallagher, solicitor, Armagh, and on the second by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, B.L. (instructed by Mr. Gallagher).

Eight witnesses in all were examined for the Crown. Six of them may, however, be very briefly dealt with here. Of these six, three—Mr. Brooke, Mr. McGough, and Dr. Palmer—had received threatening letters. Dr. Palmer had nothing more to testify save that those of the prisoners whom he knew were quiet, decent fellows; that he knew the informer also, and that from what he knew of him, from hearsay and his own personal observation, he was a man in whom he would put no trust, nor put in any position of trust, if he had anything to do with him. The Crown, of course, did not produce Dr. Palmer at the Assizes. Besides receiving the threatening letters, Mr. Brooke and Mr. McGough swore, there and at the Assizes in Belfast, that at rare times police were sent mainly, if not entirely, from Crossmaglen, with the ostensible purpose of protecting them; but that they had never asked for such protection, and knew nothing about it, save that they sometimes saw the police watching them.

(To be continued.)

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- 6/2/16—The Bruce Invasion. Apt 6 Spioibta.
- 13/2/16—The Battle of Kinsale. Capt. 6 Conaill.
- 20/2/16—Celtic and Irish Law and its Administration. Coim nac neill.
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- 19/3/16—Ireland and the Spanish Armada. Apt 6 Spioibta.
- 28/3/16—The Battle of Benburb. Capt. 6 Conaill.
- 2/4/16—Irish Military Organisation. Coim nac neill.
- 16/4/16—Irish Schools.—Co ulaob.
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