

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 1916.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

NOTES

In the art of subtracting millions, the British Treasury can always give me points. Last week I stated at £8,830,000 the additional taxation of Ireland according to the Treasury figures supplied to Mr. Ginnell by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The correct amount is £7,830,000. That, however, is not the whole bill. There are more War Budgets to come.

There are signs that the people are beginning to understand what it means to be taxed with an increase of two pounds a nose, man, woman and child. Ireland is not a consenting party to this taxation. We are nominally represented in the Imperial Parliament, but when it comes to any critical question like this our representation is annulled. Irish Members of Parliament have no mandate or authority, express or implied, from their electors to consent to this ruinous taxation. The electorate has never been consulted about it. This taxation has no more claim to respect than the taxation that caused the American people to assert their independence and to win it. The British Government does not impose a war-tax of two pounds a head on the people of Canada or Australia or South Africa, because it dare not.

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for England, took in on himself to lecture Irish people about loyalty. He handed over the government of Ireland to a foreigner, an ex-military satrap from the Gold Coast. Now he is lecturing us about patriotism. In the presence of Ireland's "representatives" he told the Imperial House of Commons that "Patriotism in Ireland was much too local an affair. We all want to adopt the wisest course to convert and to extend that local patriotism into a wider patriotism. (No dissent from Mr. Redmond.) Without that the Empire becomes nothing more than an enlarged Hanseatic League of greedy commercial communities (cheers). We want more than that—we want to introduce into it a real Empire patriotism." Yes. Mr. Birrell and those who

cheer him want to steal the name and insignia of patriotism to glorify a league of commercial greed. "And yet patriotism begins at home." "In dealing with a country like Ireland they must consider how best they could help, and not hinder, the slow but gradual progression that was noticeable in Ireland, whereby its somewhat narrow patriotism was gradually extending into a wider one." "You object to our way of dealing with the Irish question," said a member of the defunct "Home Rule" Government to a critic. "No," said the critic, "it is not to your dealing I object, it is to your shuffling."

Mr. Birrell shuffled along with his lecture on the New Patriotism. "Patriotism is the most potent mixture the world has ever seen. But it is a mixture. It is the oddest compound. It is made up of prejudices, of passions, of memories, of little scraps of history, imperfectly taught for the most part, but partly remembered and frequently completely misunderstood (loud laughter). It is far truer of patriotism than it is of ambition, that it is 'like a circle in the water.' It widens and widens, beginning at home, until it contains within its glorious ambit far distant lands and populations long since emigrated from their own shores, but still retaining much of the old feeling (cheers). Mr. Birrell forgot to complete his quotation from Shakespeare:

Glory is like a circle in the water,
Which never ceases to enlarge itself
Till by broad spreading it disperse
to nought.

This is what Mr. Birrell, a political souper without the soup, wants to do with Irish patriotism, and what, in the face of Mr. Redmond and his followers, he claimed to have succeeded in doing for them, if not for the people who elected them. "But," he continued, "it is a most delicate affair—a most difficult operation. We might easily injure it and thrust it back for half a century by hasty, ill-considered, and unsympathetic treatment (hear hear). It is a plant which requires to be nurtured and watered and watered, and never, never, to be pulled up rashly by the roots."

War has its good points after all. When war is in, truth is out. Only for this war we should not have heard from a British Minister this cynical avowal of the purpose of British Home Rulers in their "dealing" with Irish Nationalism. What have Mr. Redmond, Mr. Dillon and Mr. Devlin to say about the doctrine openly uttered in their presence by their Liberal Home Rule confederate? Will they venture to repeat this doctrine to any audience in Ireland? We may thank the war for it that the net is now spread openly in our sight. We are to disavow our Nation and all its sacrifices in the past, and the "delicate" inducement is the privilege, among others, of paying a fresh war tax of two pounds a year in future from every man and boy, from every woman and girl and baby.

Mr. Birrell's "Empire patriotism," to which he wants, "they all want," to "convert" Ireland, is not patriotism even in England. No Empire ever did or ever can take the place of a Nation in the love and reverence, the passionate affection and self-denying devotion of a Nation's children.

All the time, the delicate and difficult operation is going on here in Ireland. The war tax is being extracted. Alastair MacCabe has been in jail for four months without trial. Ultimately, perhaps, he will be brought before a suitable tribunal to be tried for a crime of which no Irishman, Nationalist or Unionist, is ashamed, the crime of being in possession of "munitions of war." Terence MacSwiney, Irish Volunteer captain and organiser, was seized in his bed the other day by Mr. Birrell's police and thrown into Cork jail without any charge whatsoever; as was also Thomas Kent, Irish Volunteer, of Castlelyons. The "evidence" will be laid before the Castle lawyers, and the crime formulated when they have found out the most suitable course to adopt. "A delicate and difficult operation." The Irish people will want to know whether those who hold their commission are secret partners in this operation or remain true to the trust confided to them. The war has unmasked Mr. Birrell. We now know what he is here for. We want to know what the Irish

Party is there for. We know what Mr. Birrell's Plan is, and we have seen something of the "watering and watering." Is it the policy of Messrs. Redmond, Dillon and Devlin—we need not ask about Mr. T. P. O'Connor—to aid and abet the watering of Irish Nationalism "till by broad spreading it disperse to nought?" The accusation is not mine. Their assent to the delicate and difficult programme has been publicly claimed by their ally, Mr. Birrell, in their presence and in presence of the whole British Parliament.

E.OIN MAC NEILL

The Dublin Brigade

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING 23rd JANUARY, 1915.

1. Signalling Class will in future be held at 8.15 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

Other classes as usual.

2. Lectures for senior Officers commenced on the 15th and will be continued till 22nd inst.

3. Lectures for junior Officers on Tuesday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

4. On Thursday the 3rd Battalion will assemble at Camden Row. The 4th Battalion at Kimmage at 7.45 p.m. sharp. Practice in night operations.

TIME TABLES OF CLASSES.

First Aid, etc.—Monday, 8 p.m.

Stretcher Drill, Camden Row, Friday, 8 p.m.

Engineering—Friday, 8 p.m.

Field Work, Father Mathew Park, Saturday, 4 p.m.

Musketry—Friday, 8 p.m.

Armourers—Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Signalling—Monday, 8.15 p.m.

Lecture for Junior Officers—Tuesday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Training for Sub. Officers, Camden Row, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 4 p.m.

E. DE VALERA,
Brigade Adjutant

Cumann na mBan

Since the new year two new branches have been started: one in Killeen, Cranghwell, Co. Galway, and one at Carrickmore, Tyrone.

At the last meeting of the Executive the Secretaries were asked to notify branches as soon as possible about Cumann Na mBan flag day. Flags, boxes and all requirements are in preparation, and a leaflet containing full particulars will be sent to all branches. It is hoped every branch will take up the idea with enthusiasm. The Executive expects to hold a very large Whist Drive on Thursday, February 3rd. Tickets will be issued immediately, and all lovers of Whist and beautiful prizes are cordially invited to come.

TRAINING.

SIGNALLING SQUADS.

When signalling squads are able to send and read correctly words, figures

Since the inception of the Volunteers two definite and opposed points of view have been generally held among them, and by the majority have been held in alternation, according to the persuasive power of the prominent supporters of each. It is a pity to attach labels to them, especially such worn-out and mis-used labels as those I have in mind, but in the interests of brevity—a military virtue—I shall refer to these views as Optimism and Pessimism.

To put the thing in a nutshell, the Pessimists are those who think the Volunteer cause hopeless because they are not all armed with modern magazine rifles, with a million rounds of ammunition per man, and because they have not sufficient machine-guns to give one to each Company, and are destitute of howitzers, aeroplanes and dreadnoughts. The Optimists, on the other hand, think that a Volunteer armed with a loy is a match for a well-equipped foreign soldier. Both parties are equally wrong, and if the rank and file of each persuasion has interpreted these columns, or any other part of the VOLUNTEER, as supporting their point of view, they have only themselves to blame. They have not read us properly.

Take the Pessimists first. They feel that we are on their side because we have consistently upheld the principle that a single man in his shirt is no match for a battalion of trained infantry with machine guns. We stick to that doctrine still. Nay, more, we are prepared to go further and say that a battalion of men with pitchforks will be beaten in a stand-up fight by a couple of Companies of trained infantry armed merely with rifles. And yet we refuse to be numbered among the Pessimists, for, as we shall afterwards point out in dealing with the Optimists, we know of circumstances which can go a long way towards reducing the enormous odds on fully-trained and fully-armed men who are fighting less fortunate troops. For the present it is sufficient to say that whereas under the ordinary conditions of modern warfare the long-range weapon has a decided advantage over that with a short range, nevertheless, given certain other definite

conditions, the two types of weapon can compete on terms approaching equality.

The Optimists, for their part, fancy that they have been very usefully backed in these columns. They can point to our advocacy of pistols, pikes, and even stones as weapons of warfare, and conclude that we, like themselves, are of opinion that any old thing will do to beat a foreign soldier. Again, we must protest that we are not Optimists. True it is that we said that a revolver is as good as a rifle at thirty yards, and that a well-directed stone may stop a man with a bayonet at ten; but we never said that either was any use at five hundred. Any optimism we possess is due to the fact that we recognise that in Ireland the ranges are generally short. The point of this is too obvious to dwell on. Suffice it to say that this does not support the Pessimists' fear that all the fighting will be done at several thousand yard ranges, or the Optimists' confidence that it will be all hand-to-hand.

We have thus been thoroughly misunderstood, and the fact that both sides claim our advocacy is a clear proof that we really side with neither. We hope that we have now made our position clear, and that, by showing the inevitable proviso that must accompany every statement on Volunteer military questions, we shall succeed in adjusting the balance between "Pessimism" and "Optimism."

Meanwhile, there are a few general rules of tactics that apply to Volunteer activities as much as to others. First, your enemy is seldom obliging enough to do what you expect him to do. Second, if the enemy finds you are not going to oblige him by doing what he wants he will try to make you; don't let him. Third, if you decide on a definite line of action, stick to it and don't let minor considerations lead you to abandon what you consider to be the right course. Fourth, if you decide to act on the defensive, don't allow the killing of a few of your scouts to draw you into a general attack. Fifth, certainly use your men as cannon-fodder in war time; that's the way to win. But in peace time regard them as potential soldiers whom you have to train, and treat them as such.

E. O'D.

and miscellaneous signals which will be found in books dealing with the subject, they should be divided into two stations having three persons in each, each person taking a turn at the different duties. This requires a lot of out-door practice at various distances so as to become accustomed to the different flags used, and learn how to post the stations to the best advantage. Branches should arrange

for practice with each other, especially the country ones, as they will find plenty of use for good signalling. When the distance to be signalled is too great for two stations a transmitting station should be used. This would be posted about midway, and if necessary more may be used. By this means messages can be sent a very long distance, and by hard practice speed will be assured.

The Victories of Peace

That every country requires towns as centres for industry and other activities there is no need to argue. The relative scantiness of town life in Ireland is one of the arguments used to splint up the case against allowing Irishmen the rights and liberties of a nation. Let us see at whose door the blame is rightly to be laid.

To supply what can be called town life we may safely take it that no group of dwellings containing together less than a thousand inhabitants may be called a town, and that any smaller group is to be regarded as a village or hamlet and as belonging rather to rural life.

In the second part of the pamphlet, "Daniel O'Connell and Sinn Féin," I have shown the complete mistake of supposing that the catastrophe of the Great Famine seventy years ago was the original or main cause of Ireland's decline in population and prosperity. The Famine was itself a consequence of the government of Ireland by England and for England, and its results were the results of English government; but the Census returns prove that, without the famine and without the Repeal of the Corn Laws, Ireland would have been depopulated and her industries destroyed by the normal operation of English government. We shall now see that the Union is wholly to blame for the destruction of town life in Ireland. The facts we have to consider are recorded by the officials of the English Government in that Government's official publications.

The impetus given to Irish prosperity during the brief duration of the independent Irish Parliament was not exhausted within the twenty-five or thirty years that followed the suppression of our financial and legislative liberty. The Great Famine did not come until the middle of the fifth decade of the Union. But the depopulation and impoverishment of Ireland under the Union can be seen plainly at work during the fourth decade, accompanied by the introduction of "National Education" and of the English Pauper System. We shall be able to trace the rapid decay of town life in Ireland during that decade, 1831 to 1841, and we shall follow up the process to the year 1901, when the Union had been on trial for a full century. During that century, the reader will bear in mind, the Pax Britannica ruled supreme in Ireland. There was no siege or bombardment of any Irish town. No town in Ireland was stormed or sacked or given to the flames. No new invader landed on our shores. No ancient law was revived, forbidding Irish people to inhabit the towns of their own country. The whole business was transacted according to the strict principles of Law and Order and Civilisation, things of which the Irish people have no proper conception.

In the year 1831, which some people

still alive can remember, there were in Ireland 278 towns of over a thousand inhabitants. Ten years later their number was reduced to 266. After a hundred years of the Union the number of such towns was 171. The Union accounted for the other 107—one for every Irish member in the Union Parliament, or one for every year in the century, and a few to spare.

Of these towns reduced to villages, 17 are in prosperous Ulster. Four are in Co. Down—Ardglass, Killough, Hillsborough and Saintfield. Three of these have lost more than half their population in the Irish peace. Four are in Co. Derry—Dungiven, Kilrea, Maghera and Moneymore, all reduced by from a third to a half. Three are in Tyrone—Aughnacloy, Caledon and Stewartstown, with a similar rate of casualties. Three are in Co. Armagh—Hamiltonsbawn, Market-hill and Newtownhamilton. Hamiltonsbawn must have come through the very thick of the peace. In 1831 its population was 1,014; in 1841 it was 217; in 1901, there were still 70 left to shout No Surrender. The Kaiser has no terrors for such people. Markethill and Newtownhamilton have lost nearly half their population. Two of the ex-towns are in Co. Cavan—Killeshandra and Kingscourt, each having about half of their former population. Fermanagh had only two towns. Irvinestown, having lost 600 in the peace, has become a village; and old Enniskillen, which also lost 600, is now the only town in the county. Monaghan keeps its five towns—Monaghan, Clones, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Ballybay—but all greatly reduced. Antrim, too, had lost no town within the century, but since 1901 my native town, Glenarm, has become a village.

In Leinster 47 towns have gone under. They are widely distributed throughout the province, but the county that made the greatest sacrifices in Ireland's last war has come best through the terrors of the Peace. Wexford has lost only two towns, Newtownbarry and Taghmon. Peace has her victories, and with the exception of Hamiltonsbawn, few trophies of war can compare with the town to which some hopeful Angliciser gave the auspicious name of Prosperous. In 1831 Prosperous had 1,038 inhabitants; in 1841, 526; in 1901, 84.

In Munster, 29 towns have become villages. The town of Carrickbeg had 2,704 inhabitants in 1831. In 1901 it was no longer returned among the villages having 500 and upwards. The blessings of the English language, along with the English peace, are boasted in Killaule, whose 1,786 inhabitants in 1841 were represented in 1901 by 560. In Connacht, thirteen towns have become villages. Among these Eyrecourt has made the most rapid progress towards perfect peace; its population was 1,789 in 1831, and 414 in 1901.

Peace, like War, sometimes disguises her operations. The list of towns that have been would be still larger but for

the fact that since 1831 a fair number of towns have been presented, at the cost of the country, with prisons, lunatic asylums and poorhouses, and Peace has provided these palaces of hers with plenty of inmates. There are five general ways of escape from a peace-beleaguered town like Prosperous or Hamiltonsbawn, death, emigration, the prison, the poor-house and the asylum.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

Tá 'na Lá.

Ir fáda ar fán ar n-aoisne bréag
A tug a n-ghrú do tír a n-áir
Dét reo éiginn lá ó Rí na n-ghrú
Nuair baintear páraim ar na gallaib

Beró 'na lá, beró 'na lá
Beró 'na lá aipir go gairro
Beró 'na lá ó beró 'na lá
Ir baintear páraim ar cuip na namáo

Cá Fianna Fáil, ir a gcló go háro
Ag cnuasact fear go tuig ir arm
Mar táro ag brat go dtiocfaid tús
Nuair fuasgaí uainn le faobair ar namáo.

Beró 'na lá, beró 'na lá
Beró 'na lá aipir go gairro
Beró 'na lá, a beró 'na lá
Ir fásgaí namáo na n-Saebéal go bealt

Cuairt anois a Clán na Saebéal
Cuairt anois an grian as taitneam
Sgaicead an Ceoir 'reao cím san go
Slacard búr n-ghrú ir cmail cún cáta.

Tá 'na lá, tá 'na lá,
Tá 'na lá ó Rí na n-ghrú,
Tá 'na lá, ó tá 'na lá,
Ir fuasgaí Clann Séin Dúro tar
caluit

Do preab na Saebít le n-éirge lae,
'Sa n-ghrúar féin go tian cún cáta,
Ir cloc rón ríad go agum féin,
Sur raopuigeat éire ó a namáo.

Ir tá 'na lá, tá 'na lá
Tá bróir ir áir ar gac pearra
Mar tá ar mácar raop ó n-m-bár
Ir rinne raop ó rmaic fe gallaib.

S. O. M.

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MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES, Etc.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do blias Comaite Snóta Féinne
Fáil ina nDúnpórt thráchnós D. Céaspáim
an 12 ad lá de'n mí ro, agus an Ceann
Cata Pádraic Mac Diarmáid ina cathaoinleac
oifig.

Do fhoiréar deas-cunntair an gluaireacht
na hoibre 1 gConntaeib Cille Dapa,
Concaise, Ciarráige, Lunnais, an Cláir,
na Saitíne, agus an Cábáin.

A durbad go náréar cum Dúpo Conntae
do cup an buní gConntae an Cláir.

Do foiréarad a lán ceirceann do bain
le harrmáit na Féinne.

Dúnpórt na Féinne,

Át Cuat, 12 Eanáir, 1916

The Central Executive of the Irish
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-
nesday evening, the 12th inst., Com-
mandant P. H. Pearse in the chair.

Satisfactory reports of the progress of
organisation and training were received
from Counties Kildare, Cork, Kerry,
Limerick, Clare, Galway, and Cavan.
It was reported that steps were being
taken for the formation of a Co. Board
for Clare.

Decisions were come to with regard to
a number of matters connected with
armament.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson St.,
Dublin, 12th Jan., 1916.

Notes from Headquarters

GENERAL COUNCIL.

The General Council of Irish Volun-
teers met at Headquarters on Sunday
last, 16th January, Eoin MacNeill pre-
siding. There was a large attendance
of members from all over Ireland and a
considerable amount of business regard-
ing the training and equipment of the
Irish Volunteers was transacted.

The following statement was adopted
unanimously and issued for publication:

"The British Government, having
failed in the policy of deporting
Irish Volunteers, is now pursuing
a policy of arresting men and de-
taining them without trial and in
some cases without charge. This
action is an infringement of the
elementary rights of Irishmen to
which Irish Volunteers will not
submit."

CASUALTIES.

The enemy has released Alfred
Monaghan, who will immediately resume
his work as a member of the Organising
Staff. Almost simultaneously with this
release the enemy has seized Captain
Terence McSwiney, the devoted and
brilliant organiser of Co. Cork. He has
also seized Thomas Kent, of Castlelyons,
the soul of the local Volunteer Company.
The wobbly tactics of the enemy would
seem to indicate a certain amount of
panic on his part. Our business is to go
on with our organisation, training, and
arming, and to perfect our mobilisation
schemes.

MOBILISATION.

Mobilisation is a real weakness with
us. Yet it should present little difficulty.
Some careful thought, with the map of
his district and notes as to the addresses
of his men before him, should enable
any Battalion or Company Commander to
perfect a little scheme for his unit. Then
test it, and see where it fails. Repair the

faulty parts, and test it again. Keep it
in working order by making use of it
from time to time, but do not try it so
often as to make it a bugbear to your
men. Be reasonable in your demands on
all your subordinates, remembering that
they have businesses to look after and
also that they require a little leisure.
Our Volunteer tests must not be too
severe. Just severe enough to keep the
officers and men up to a reasonable
standard, just frequent enough to keep
them alert and active. But tests there
must be. And an occasional mobilisation
test is of the utmost importance. Every
Commander must be satisfied that he is
in a position to call out every man in his
unit, with full arms, ammunition, and
equipment, in the minimum time.

A RESERVE.

All those who for one reason or another
are unable to drill with the Irish Volun-
teers should enrol themselves in the
Auxiliary. Single enrolment forms and
enrolment sheets for use by organisers of
the Auxiliary, with spaces for ten names,
can be had from Headquarters. The
Auxiliary can be looked upon as our
third line. We are anxious for the
creation of a second line, a body of able-
bodied reserves who, while not drilling
openly with the Volunteers, will under-
take to acquire a certain amount of mili-
tary training and will be ready for
service in a crisis. We commend the
creation of such a body to the attention
of all Company and Battalion Com-
manders.

MORE TARGET PRACTICE!

Again we return to the importance of
more and more target practice. So im-
portant is it that nearly every other
branch of training sinks into significance
beside it. Let there be a weekly target
practice in every hall. Let opportunities
for open-air practice be availed of as
often as possible. Spare the service
ammunition. Good practice can be got
with miniature ammunition and even
with air-guns. "Snapping" without any
ammunition at all is also of the greatest

benefit. Practice sighting in your own house. Take a sight and "snap," holding the sights on the target for a few seconds after "snapping." Company Commanders should see that every man in their command is training himself to shoot, and Battalion and higher officers should see that the Company Officers are doing their duty in this vital matter.

Improved Field Work at Santry.

On Sunday, January 9th, the 2nd Batt. Dublin Brigade had a very instructive field-day near Santry. A considerable advance in the training of the men and the work of the Company Officers was observable. The country was much broken up by enclosures and hedges, and all ranks exhibited some idea of how to turn such country to account. Between one-third and one-fourth of the strength of the battalion was told off to defend a strong post on the road about a quarter of a mile to the south of the village, the attack being assigned to the remainder.

The defenders expected the attack along the main road from Dublin, but only a feint attack by one section was delivered there. The main attacking force marched up the Malahide Road, and then wheeling to the left, attacked from the general direction of Artane. It is worth noting that the fact of being attacked from an unexpected direction did not cause the disorganisation of the defender. His outpost service was well enough performed to enable him to form a front against the attacker in time. The likeliest route for the attacker was organised for delaying action, possible but less likely routes were watched by small, well-posted parties, one route was regarded as negligible. On the whole a very accurate calculation of his own means and the attacker's was made.

The attacker's design was good: in addition to surprise he gained an advantage by moving over the best ground. The forced march to gain his adversary's flank was well carried out, and the different attacking columns were handled so as to get the best value out of such covered lines of approach as existed. The feint attack, however, did not impose on the defender: it would have been better to have pressed it briskly, so as to attract as many of the enemy as possible to that front and thus weaken opposition to the real attack. In the course of the action the different detachments became mixed up very much—an inevitable thing—and when the umpires called it off it had not been fought to a decision. At that time the attackers had made considerable headway.

The men on both sides showed an improved idea of the necessity and manner of taking cover. The defender's outposts were very well concealed for the most part. But both sides still displayed lack of caution in keeping under cover when moving, whether to carry information or

to fight. The defender's outposts gave frequent information and, with one ludicrous exception, it was accurate. The different attacking columns were in fairly good touch, and that without using up too many men.

The N.C.O.'s as a whole displayed a higher standard of training and a better idea of the use of ground. Especially they had their small units much better under control. Evidently the systematic training of the Dublin N.C.O.'s is beginning to bear fruit, and it is only reasonable to look for still further improvement in this respect.

The number of cyclists who turned out was small. The only use that arose for them was on outpost and as despatch carriers. These duties were performed with intelligence and speed. The umpires were some officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The practice of officers umpiring is good training for them, and the bringing in of officers from other Battalions in such cases tends to spread agreement on tactical methods, besides bringing about an esprit-de-corps among the officers in general.

Recruiting

Some Volunteers resident in Dublin have recently supplied the Director of Recruiting with the names and addresses of sympathisers in provincial districts where there is a likelihood of corps of Irish Volunteers being formed. The Director of Recruiting would, however, like far more information of this kind, and he requests the assistance of all Volunteers in Dublin possessing it. Remote country districts are placed at a disadvantage as compared with Dublin, the centre of so much National endeavour, and this is not always sufficiently recognised. Dublin Volunteers should, therefore, set themselves to help the movement in the provinces in every possible way. Sympathisers should be sent propagandist literature, such as the IRISH VOLUNTEER; Headquarters should be supplied with details in regard to such districts, and Volunteers themselves going from Dublin on holidays should constitute themselves apostles, rousing the more apathetic, spreading a knowledge of military organisation, and drilling recruits wherever they can get a few together. Even a short lesson on firearms to a few friends will be of benefit. Those who have acquired military training in the big centres of population should not keep that knowledge to themselves. They should burn with a desire to impart it to as many others as they can.

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Strategic Points of the Irish Counties.

XXIII. MONACHAN—CLONES.

Clones is a centre through which many important routes pass: it is, in fact, the junction point of all the lines from the midlands of Ireland into Ulster. Into Clones two lines of railway run from the southward: from Cavan to Belfast by Armagh, and from Dundalk by Enniskillen to Bundoran. The first of these lines is paralleled by an excellent road; the second is also accompanied by a road, though less good.

Clones is also the last town of importance on the Ulster Canal before it reaches Lough Erne. This canal, however, does not admit barges of the same size as the Lagan Canal at present. Still it would prove a very valuable secondary communication.

XXIV. QUEEN'S—MARYBORO'.

Maryboro' is situated at the junction of the two most important lines of the Great Southern and Western Railway—the main Dublin-Cork line and the branch line by Abbeyleix down the Nore valley to Kilkenny and Waterford. There is also a short branch to Mountmellick, only half-a-dozen miles long.

By road Maryboro' is connected with Portlinton, Mountmellick, Mountrath and Abbeyleix, in short, all the towns of importance in the country of which it is, indeed, almost the exact central point. There is also a good road by Stradally and Athy to Grange Con and the western borders of County Wicklow.

XXV. ROSCOMMON—ATHLONE.

Although Athlone is as much in Co. Westmeath as in Roscommon, still it is so much more important than any other point in Roscommon that it is probably best placed there. In all the Irish wars Athlone has been a place of absolutely vital importance, and the number of assaults and sieges it has experienced is almost beyond counting. And at the present day also it retains this importance unabated: it is the inland key of the Shannon line as Limerick is the maritime. Situate on the direct line from Galway to Dublin, it is about half-way between by railway and road. There is also a railway line by Roscommon, Castlereagh and Ballyhaunis to Claremorris, and numerous roads branch off all over South Connaught. As the Shannon is here about 100 yards wide the two bridges, railway and road, are of the highest importance; and the place has also such an abundance of river craft that a considerable force could be passed over the river in this way. On the northern flank Athlone is completely protected by Lough Ree, and most of the surrounding country is low-lying and often flooded. Besides the old castle there are other more modern works designed for the defence of the place, and altogether possession of Athlone would render most of the country west of the Shannon untenable by an enemy. In

technical phrase, the old works on the Roscommon bank form what is known as a "bridge-head" for an army operating from the Leinster side of the river.

XXVI. SLIGO—COLLOONEY.

In 1798 Collooney was worth a battle; to-day it is still more important, and the establishment of a transatlantic harbour at Blacksod and a railway between the Slieve Gamp Mountains and the sea would render it one of the most important military points in Ireland. It is situated about half-a-dozen miles from Sligo on the Dublin railway, and there is also a line to Claremorris and the South and another through the Leitrim mountains to Enniskillen—the only line from Connaught to Ulster. There are roads along all these lines, and others to Ballina, Boyle and Leitrim; while there are numerous small bridges, the demolition of which would sever all these communications. The road to Sligo and that to the North run through narrow passes near Collooney, and are thus capable of being effectively blocked. The neighbourhood is part mountain and part woodland.

XXVII. TIPPERARY—CLONMEL.

Clonmel is a very important strategic point for several reasons. It is a railway centre—being the most important town on the Limerick-Waterford line, and having a branch line by Fethard to Thurles on the main Dublin-Cork line of the Great Southern. These lines are paralleled by good roads, and in other respects also Clonmel is an important road junction. North-west a road runs to Cashel and southward is another, branching to Youghal and Dungarvan. But by far the most important road is the main Cork-Dublin road by Fermoy-Clonmel-Kilkenny-Naas, which crosses the Suir at Clonmel and again at Knocklofty, four miles above the town. Clonmel also dominates the passages of the Suir at Caher and Ardfinan on the upper river and at Carrick on the lower. In the town itself there are two bridges.

XXVIII. TYRONE—OMAGH.

Omagh, situated at the junction point of three valleys in a mountainous country, is naturally a place of great military importance. The three valleys are: first, that of the Strule, leading towards Strabane and Derry; second, that to Enniskillen; third, that towards the mountains of Pomeroy and thence to Dungannon. A railway follows each of these routes and each railway line crosses some stream or river within close reach of Omagh. The same remark applies to lines of road that more or less follow the rail routes. There are also several other roads: one to Pettigo and South Donegal; one due east to Cookstown; and three striking south or south-east over the mountains to Clones, Monaghan and Aghnacloy.

XXIX. WATERFORD—WATERFORD.

Waterford is a town of considerable size, an important port, and the centre of

a very considerable trade. It is situated a fairly considerable distance from the sea, and the Suir, about seven miles below the city, makes a sharp bend to the south. Several important lines of rail-south converge at Waterford: along the north bank of the Suir from Limerick, from Cork by Mallow, Fermoy, Lismore and Dungarvan, from Wexford and Rosslare, from Dublin by New Ross and Bagenalstown. There is also a short line to Tramore. There are roads up both banks of the Suir and one down along the south bank to Passage. There are numerous other roads of which the most important is that up the right bank of the Barrow to New Ross.

XXX. WESTMEATH—MULLINGAR.

Mullingar, midway on the neck of land dividing Lough Owel from Lough Ennell, very largely resembles Enniskillen in its character as a military position, but its actual importance is much greater than that of Enniskillen, because the routes it dominates are much more important. The railway lines from Connacht all unite at Mullingar; that with Sligo at its terminus, and that to Galway. The branch line to Cavan and the north strikes into the first at Inny Junction ten miles away, and the branch line to the south meets the Galway line at Streamstown twelve miles out. The Dublin line is paralleled by the canal for its entire length, and the canal is continued to the Shannon at Cloondara. The neck of land between the lakes is only about three miles wide, so that many roads from the west converge on Mullingar and the main Galway-Athlone-Dublin road—flanked by the place on the north at a distance of half a dozen miles—passing as it does by Tyrrellspass and Rochfort Bridge.

XXXI. WEXFORD—NEW ROSS.

Wexford is a peculiarly-situated county, being practically isolated from the rest of Ireland. On the north is the mass of the Wicklow Mountains, and this system throws out a branch range to the south-west, consisting of Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs range. Near the southern end of this chain lies New Ross and over the range there are only two routes, by Newtown Barry and Suillogue Gap. At New Ross there is the last bridge over the Barrow—except the Campile Railway bridge—before it joins the Suir, and ships of fair size can come right up to the town. A little above the town is the railway bridge of the Dublin and South-Eastern line to Waterford. New Ross thus commands the only important passages out of the county.

XXXII. WICKLOW—NEWTOWN-MOUNTKENNEDY.

Newtownmountkenedy is a point of military importance for a very special reason: it is the most suitable point from which to protect the Dublin Waterworks at Roundwood against a raid by a party landed on the coast. Such a landing could only take place between Bray Head and Wicklow; and a force moving inland

on Roundwood from any point in between could be anticipated from Newtownmountkenedy. The roads inland from the coast are few and could easily be watched in time to allow of the centrally-placed force to move in time. Newtown is served by plenty of roads, some of which are excellent.

Strategic Importance of Ireland

The above is the title of an article in the "Irish Times" of Sunday, January 16th, giving a review of a lecture by Dr. Vaughan Cornish on "The Strategic Geography of the War in Relation to the British Empire." The subject is not as important as the tactical handling of a section, or even as forming fours turned about but it is interesting none the less. The lecture displays a careful study of the writings of Admiral Mahan, in whose pages the military, or rather naval, importance of Ireland is most convincingly set forth.

Ireland is the most westerly country in Europe, being a kind of outwork thrust out towards America, flanking all the transatlantic routes at a longer or shorter distance. From Cork to Ushant in France is about 250 sea miles, and through this narrow gap—ten hours steaming for a cruiser—all the sea-borne commerce of Northern Europe passed in times of peace. And this means not only vessels to America but to Asia as well.

So much for the importance of Ireland in position. That importance is increased by the nature of the harbours on the west coast of Ireland from Lough Swilly to Bantry Bay. Dr. Vaughan Cornish thus emphasizes this point: "The south, west, and north coasts of Ireland are indented by long, sheltered, deep-water inlets which afford magnificent shelter for fleets, though their advantage as harbours is apt to be forgotten by civilians owing to the circumstance that most of them are distant from any manufacturing or trading centre, and have, therefore, no commercial use. The strategic importance of Ireland is not realised by the average citizen because its foreign relations have long been merged in those of the neighbouring island."

Ireland was often a theatre of military operations between England and continental powers—France and Spain. In all these wars England had an advantage owing to her nearness to the scene of operations. The Irish Sea is only 160 miles wide at its widest point—between Dundalk and Liverpool. The North Channel at one end is only about a dozen miles wide, and the southern inlet, the St. George's Channel, about 50. Hence, as Admiral Mahan points out, the Irish Sea was more an estuary than anything else—it was nothing like such a breach in the communications as the expanse between Cork and Brest or Corunna. As a matter of fact, it was so narrow that it

LEABHAR DRILLE DOGLÁCAIB NA HEIREANN

(An Leanmhang).

Sa rang beirid, cuirfidh gac uimhir corra a
Cairteirid—Sunnaí. Sunna ina turde i
A Ceatair. Ecomind an cairn or
a comair agur leigirid
ré a dá lán rior lena dá taob.

Oruivirid—riar. Raíard gac rang cor-
cém ar gól agur
iompócair i nreio cliaidm veir an ranga

GLACAD SUNNAÍ.

Oruivirid—irteac. Iompócair gac tuine
ra dá rang irteac 7
raíard ré corcém ar aíard.

Glacairid—Sunnaí. Deupparid gac doinne
A hdon. Greim ar a Sunna ag
an mbanna.

Seoltepar na croda ar a céile tré bara
na nSunnaí o'ároac.

Glacairid—Sunnaí. 7 uo élaonad irteac
A uo. 7 cuirtepar na Sunna
ar an noul ar a mbio

cairir "frilste."

Sa rang coraig, ároacáir fear an élaidm
éle an lám a beir
Glacairid—Sunnaí. potam Nuair a círd
A tpi. ré gac doinne beir
ullaí ároacáir ré a lám agur corpar
gac doinne ra rang coraig timceall agur
raíard an rang beirid corcém ar gól.

Le linn na n-arm do glacad tabarpar
an c-árouac "Scapar" caréir an
árouac "árouac—riar." Nuair a "bail-
eodan" aríar raíard gac doinne ran ionad
ran víreac ina poim ré poim "rcapar" uo.

Cum "uimlaiste" agus an Sunna
"árouac."



Leagtar an lám beir ar éad baire an
Sunna, i nreio go mbeir an lám, an uillinn
rior, trearna an éleir víreac, agur orom
na Láimhe iompáiste amac 7 na méirpenna
rinte amac lena céile.

Strategic Importance of Ireland.

those days of sailing ships no French or Spanish Admiral ever ventured his fleet into it. Nor would any good sailor in these days of steamers go in either, unless he were much superior in the strength of his fleet. Indeed, we have seen that all the Germans attempted was occasional raiding by submarines, just as the French and Americans only attempted raiding by frigates in the older wars.

Dr. Vaughan Cornish in his lecture made out a powerful case for a ship canal across Scotland between the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Forth, thus bringing the eastern and western British ports in touch. It may be remembered how some years ago the question of a transatlantic harbour at Blacksod Bay was discussed at great length. The aim was to have a train ferry across the North Channel and improve railway communications, with a view to completing a through route across the Atlantic quite free from chances of hostile raiders.

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MAP READING.

It is important that every scout should be trained so as to read a military map quickly and accurately. Maps are of great importance in military operations not only to scouts but to leaders of every rank from the Field-Marshal down to the dispatch-rider. A military map reveals a mass of ready-made information without which the scout would be compelled to spend much valuable time in ascertaining for himself. The scout who is practised in map-reading is able to read a map not merely as a representation of the roads from town to town, but he can visualise the country represented by the map, noting the roads, hills, rivers, villages, and the nature of the country as a whole. The map will show him not only the shortest route from one place to another, but also the route by which he may best conceal his movements.

Scales.

To read a map correctly you must first find out the scale to which it is drawn. By the term "scale" is meant the proportion that the distance between two points on the map bears to the distance between the same points on the country it represents. For instance, if the scale of your map is "two inches to a mile," it means that a road ten inches long on the map is five miles long in reality. The scale of a map may be shown in three ways:—(a) By a statement in words, such as "six inches to a mile." (b) By a representative fraction, thus: R.F. $\frac{1}{63,360}$, which means that one unit on the map represents 63,360 units on the ground. On all our maps the unit taken is the inch; therefore R.F. $\frac{1}{63,360}$ means that the scale is one inch to a mile (63,360 inches). If the scale was "six inches to a mile" the representative fraction would be marked on the map: R.F. $\frac{1}{10,560}$ (c) By a scale line divided into parts, each representing a certain number of units.

In ordnance survey maps and military sketches the scale is usually shown in all three ways.

Definitions.

It would be well if you would memorise the following definitions before we proceed further:—

Basin.—(a) A small area of level ground surrounded by hills; (b) a district drained by a river and its tributaries.

A Col or Saddle.—A depression between two adjacent hills or mountains.

Crest.—The edge of the top of a hill or mountain.

Knoll.—A low detached hill.

Nullah.—The dried up bed of a river.

Plateau.—An elevated plain—a flat surface on top of a hill.

Ravine.—A narrow valley with steep sides.

Spur or Sallet.—A projection from the side of a hill or mountain, running out and down from the main feature.

Undulating Ground.—Ground consisting of alternate gentle elevations and depressions.

Watercourse.—The line defining the lowest part of the valley, whether occupied by a stream or not.

Watershed.—A ridge of high land separating two drainage basins, the summit of land from which water divides and flows in two directions.

Bearing.—True bearing is the angle a line makes with the true north line.

Magnetic Bearing.—The magnetic bearing is the angle a line makes with the magnetic north line.

Contour.—A contour is an imaginary line running along the surface of the ground at the same height all the way round. Each contour represents a fixed rise or fall of so many feet from those next to it. This fixed rise or fall is termed the **Vertical Interval (V.I.)**.

Form Lines.—Form lines are approximate contours sketched in by eye work.

Gradient.—A gradient is a slope expressed as a fraction: thus a gradient of $\frac{1}{32}$ indicates a rise or fall of 1 ft. in every horizontal distance of 32 ft.

Meridian.—A meridian is a true north and south line.

Magnetic Meridian.—A magnetic meridian is a magnetic north and south line.

Plotting is the process of laying down on paper field observations and measurements.

Setting a Map is the process of placing the map so that the north line points north.

The Compass.

The dial of the magnetic compass is divided into 360 equal divisions called degrees, and 32 equal divisions called points of the compass. There are four cardinal points of the compass—namely, north (N.), east (E.), south (S.), and west (W.); and four intermediate points—namely, north-east (N.E.), south-east (S.E.), south-west (S.W.), and north-west (N.W.).

PADRAIC O RIAIN.

[These Notes on Map Reading will be continued in next week's issue.]

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