

SPECIAL RECRUITING NUMBER.

THE

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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NOTES.

Recruiting is the order of the day. The Irish Volunteer policy aims at making every Irishman able to do his part in the defence of Irish rights and liberties against all manner of forcible aggression. No man can do his part without training and organisation and discipline.

Thomas Davis wrote:

Let the Coward stand aside—
We'll have our own again!
Let the brawling Slave deride—
Here's for our own again!
Send the cry throughout the land,
"Who's for our own again?"
Summon all men to our band,
Why not our own again?
Bravely hope and wisely wait,
Toil, join, and educate;
Man is master of his fate,
We'll enjoy our own again.
Let us to our purpose bide,
We'll have our own again;
God is on the righteous side,
We'll have our own again.

There is work to do and knowledge to be learned by all except the Coward and the brawling Slave. We must "toil, join, and educate." We must do the work, do it together under discipline and organisation, and combine it with intelligence and instruction. Let the young man who is not a Coward or a Slave explain why he stands aside and derides or looks on with indifference.

There are other means of recruiting besides the direct appeal to join. If the Volunteers do their work of training and instruction well and earnestly they will attract all the best material in their ranks. Everywhere there should be progress, no standing still. The Volunteer should always be learning something, becoming better at shooting, better at marching, better at physical drill, better at scouting, skirmishing, reconnoitring, map-

reading, map-making, despatch-carrying, measuring and judging distances, studying the opportunities of defence and attack in his own locality, etc.

Volunteer work offers scope for unlimited activity and unlimited extension of knowledge. Young and old should be interested in the knowledge of the defence of their country, and such knowledge should be made a household possession throughout the land. We have to build solid and sure. We must be as strong and skilful and ready as we can be for the time, but we must also look ahead, even years ahead.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer on May 4th, gave the following interesting figures:

Cost of war for 8 months	£360,000,000
Loans to Colonies and	
Allies (included in this)	£52,000,000
National Debt increased by	£458,000,000
Bringing it up to the	
total	£1,165,000,000
Estimated cost of war	
on Mar. 31, 1916	£1,136,434,000
Estimated deficit at same	
time	£282,522,000

I am glad to see signs of progress among the Fianna Eireann. The training of Irish boys is a necessary complement to the Irish Volunteer organisation. A boy can learn most military exercises better than a man can. If the training given in the Fianna Eireann were universal, nothing but organisation and the supply of arms and ammunition would be needed to provide Ireland with a capable army of defence.

The other day I wrote that, in the words of Gladstone's viceroy, Lord Cowper, "the Government of Ireland is a continuity." "Cromwell continues Strafford, Pitt continues Fox, Birrell continues Balfour." Let Mr. Birrell speak for himself. Answering Mr. Ginnell, M.P., on the 12th inst., he said: "Membership of the Irish Volunteers, who,

under the guidance of their Committee, have endeavoured to obstruct recruiting in Ireland and to foment disloyalty, is regarded by the Government as incompatible with the position of a civil servant of the Crown, and it is on this ground that certain members of the Civil Service in Ireland have been called upon, under pain of dismissal, to sever their connection with this section of the Volunteers in Ireland. These considerations do not apply either to the Ulster Volunteers or to the National Volunteers, whose loyalty to the Crown in the present emergency has not been questioned, and who have furnished a large number of recruits to all branches of His Majesty's forces." Further questioned by Mr. Ginnell, "when, by whom, and where the action against recruiting was taken, and why the persons taking it have not been brought to trial," Mr. Birrell declined to answer.

Home Rule is on the Statute Book. Mr. Birrell's regard for his own Home Rule pledges may be estimated from the fact that he publicly encourages civil servants to be members of a military force whose military chief declares it to be the purpose of that force "to send Home Rule to the devil." This declaration, too, is made "in the present emergency," and Mr. Birrell certifies that its "loyalty to the Crown" has not been questioned. Could Mr. Balfour go farther?

Mr. Birrell uses "the present emergency" to cover his cant of loyalty. He would probably like himself to believe that only for the present emergency he would not be a continuation of Mr. Balfour. Mr. Birrell forgets that he was playing emergency-man long before the present emergency.

Immediately after the first meeting of the first committee to establish the Irish Volunteers, and before any public step in that direction had yet been taken, a special warning on Mr. Birrell's behalf was conveyed to the proprietor of the house where the committee met, cautioning him against harbouring my colleagues and myself. We may naturally

infer that at that time, in November, 1913, Mr. Birrell and his colleagues gravely questioned the loyalty of the Irish Volunteers.

In December, 1915, within a week of the public beginning of the Irish Volunteers and within about two years of the beginning of the Ulster Volunteers, Mr. Birrell and his colleagues prohibited the importation of arms into Ireland. So that long before the present emergency, there were also "considerations" which applied to the Irish Volunteers and did not apply to the Ulster Volunteers. The present emergency provides Mr. Birrell with a convenient pretext for doing what he would have liked to do in 1913.

At every stage between the beginning of the Irish Volunteers and the present emergency, Mr. Birrell and his Government endeavoured to thwart and discourage us. They set a watch on us in every place. They instituted every sort of prying inquiry. They appropriated our arms and ammunition, even practice rifles and miniature ammunition. They attacked us in Clontarf with fixed bayonets and loaded rifles, and shot down defenceless civilians on the street. These "considerations" also of course Mr. Birrell did not apply to the military movement financed and fomented by the other Imperial partner. The present emergency began in the year 1169.

I am told that a certain Irish manufacturing firm in a southern county has threatened to dismiss its employees to the number of about fifty, if they do not consent to desert the Irish Volunteers. The directors are no doubt champions of liberty, civilisation, and small nationalities in the planet Mars and other places far enough away from Ireland. I trust the men will stand firm against such tyranny.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

What Volunteering Has Accomplished

If we look back a couple of years and compare the condition of affairs in Ireland then with those at present pertaining we shall see that the advent of the Volunteer movement has wrought a momentous change.

Ever since the suppression of the Irish Volunteers in 1793 the Irish people have looked back to the Volunteer period as one in which the Irish nation stood erect and self-reliant—capable of its own defence and capable of asserting its rights. During that period Ireland relied upon herself and was confident in her own strength. During that period, too, she prospered. She won the largest measure of political autonomy that she had enjoyed for centuries, and she won a much greater commercial prosperity than she has had since. The whole national life under the inspiration of the Irish Volunteers was awakened to a fuller energy, and the impetus which they gave to everything virile and national in the country lasted for forty years after the political union with England.

From the suppression of the Irish Volunteers in 1793 to their revival in 1913 Ireland lay, save for a few splendid efforts to reassert herself, an inert mass, clay in the hands of the

English potter, fashioned in whatever shape suited his interest or his convenience. Under his hands the impetus given to Irish life by the Volunteers was checked—our population was reduced by half, and from being an important manufacturing power we were converted into a home farm for the supplying of England.

From that position of stagnant degradation the Irish Volunteers came to call Ireland in 1913. The way in which Ireland responded to that call in 1914 showed how it had touched the deepest chords in the nature of our people.

A thousand copies of Irish Volunteers were formed in a few months. The whole nation was aroused, it was drilling, it was getting arms. More rifles came into Ireland in 1914 than came in during the forty years before 1914. In spite of every difficulty put in the way of the Irish Volunteers by the Government that had connived at the arming of Ulster, modern rifles by the thousand, with fair supplies of ammunition, as well as large quantities of small arms, also with ample ammunition, found their way into the hands of Volunteers all over Ireland. As a result, Ireland is better armed to-day than she has been for many a year. In addition, the men in many places have been training steadily since the inception of the movement, and are now in many cases fairly proficient in military exercises and knowledge.

Many obstacles have had to be overcome, and many have been overcome. To raise, to train, and to equip a Volunteer army solely with the resources voluntarily given of the men themselves and of their friends is no light undertaking, and yet in part it has been accomplished. In other countries such a thing would hardly be attempted without the full use of all the powers and resources of a well-organised government. In Ireland we have undertaken the work with the scanty and voluntarily given assistance of a disorganised people. We have undertaken it, and we have in some measure succeeded. Much remains still to be done, but the work is well in hand and progresses steadily. In due time it will be completed, and Ireland will have her Volunteer Army ready for her service whenever the occasion may arise.

In eighteen months the Volunteers have changed the face of Irish politics. No longer the old drifting, helpless, inert Ireland makes her vain and piteous appeals, but a new, strong, disciplined, alert, and armed Ireland is emerging, confident in her strength with arms and courage for her defences. This the Volunteer movement has accomplished, and it presses on now to the completion of the task.

The Irish Volunteers stand not as a menace to any, but as a safeguard. They seek no quarrels either at home or abroad. Their aim is to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to the whole people of Ireland—and they have not departed, and will not depart, a hair's breadth from that programme.

We are the friends of every friend of Ireland and the enemy of every enemy of hers. We seek no triumph over any section of our countrymen, north or south—but we stand for an Ireland undivided, strong, erect, and self-governing.

All who stand with us on this broad national programme we welcome gladly—and to those who are against it we say, "Hands off!—quality counts."

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How to Train Without an Instructor.

It has often been put forward as an excuse for not training that the Volunteer Corps have no instructor. The object of the present article is to give in some detail directions for training a corps without a regular instructor. There are certain aspects of the necessary training that can be done by taking a little trouble, and these it is the present intention to set forth.

(1) In the first place it is necessary to obtain a certain small amount of technical knowledge. Of actual drill a little is needed to give the men cohesion. All the drill needed is contained in the Fianna Handbook, pages 25 to 43. Later on the Rifle Exercises on pages 53 to 74 may be learned if there is plenty of time. A few men can learn the Semaphore signalling on pages 106 to 112. The Fianna Handbook can be obtained from Headquarters for a shilling.

The further military knowledge required can be obtained by studying the various short articles which have appeared in the "Irish Volunteer," and have been written expressly for such a purpose. Complete files of back numbers can be obtained from Headquarters. Many of the articles can be profitably read by individuals; but especially important are the notes on Field Training at present running in serial form in the paper. These have been specially simplified, and by following them absolutely any man can drill a company. Let the captain, if necessary, keep the paper in his hand while directing the men. The other articles are suitable for forming a military habit of thought and making clear general military principles.

For the training of Cyclists the English manual, Cyclist Training (1914), price three-pence, should be carefully studied. The chapter on drill can be omitted, but all the rest is very valuable, and the book is so small that it presents no formidable task to master it.

(2) A good .22 cal. rifle should next be purchased. One rifle will serve 20 men. For 30 men or so a second rifle should be got. If there is a man in the corps who understands rifles well, the best rifle is the War Office Miniature Rifle. This is, however, a delicately made rifle, and if all the men are raw it will be better to get a Winchester, which is simpler in construction and costs only half. A shilling a man for a score of men will purchase one. At first the range should be only 25 yards, which may later be increased to 50, but only when the men are good enough.

The best butt for the target is a stone wall which is always available. The target should have boards between it and the wall—otherwise it might be torn up by the broken bullets rebounding. The strictest care should be observed on the range to avoid accidents. Never point a gun, loaded or unloaded, where

it would matter if it was loaded and went off.

(3) The corps can also practise the use of cover: how to advance across country taking advantage of the concealment given by the fences, moving in single file or in twos, how to use a fold of ground, how to watch on getting into a field for the best places to get out at the other side, above all how to keep in touch of each other, while doing this, and at the same time to avoid bunching.

They should also train themselves to study country from the military point of view: railways, whether single or double, with tunnels, cuttings, level crossings, bridges over bridges under stations, &c.; roads, whether steam-rolled or not, what surface, whether with telegraph lines or not; canals, harbours, locks, bridges, retaining walls; rivers, bridges, fords, anchorages; woods, hills, villages, lakes, &c.

JOIN THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

Cyclists can study this thoroughly in the following way: take a section of road between any two towns, and mark down in a note-book the points on it between the two on the North side and on the South or on the East and West as the case may be. Such points are woods, bridges, hills, churches, &c. Cyclists should also know their way to every neighbouring corps, and carry messages to them.

The duties of a reconnoitring or protective guard can also be learned: such are advanced, flank and rear guards. The men moving along a road can move as a patrol covering the advance of a larger body. This, however, is best done at first in a restricted area, which should be thoroughly explored. Any other system will train the men in careless habits.

(4) With reference to studying ground, a good plan is for the commanding officer to take his corps out to some high ground in the neighbourhood and point out its most noteworthy features. It will be necessary for him to have done a little extra study of the subject, but a general notion—if sound—will go a long way towards helping.

A similar practice can be done by pointing out the sort of cover afforded by the different kinds of fence met in Ireland, and how that cover can be improved. Also to note any dangerous folds in front of the cover that might afford shelter to an enemy.

(5) Every effort should be made to join in field operations with any neighbouring corps. Even if the men of the other group are equally

raw much profit will be derived from the meeting, for the corps will learn from their mistakes. If the other corps is better instructed, the raw men will quickly improve up to their level, for in such cases a most healthy spirit of rivalry occurs. The most useful case of all is where one of the instructors is present with the corps.

(6) Every member of the corps should do his level best to acquire all the military knowledge he can, and much is possible in this direction. In every part of Ireland there are several men who have done military service; and these men, even if not ready to act as instructors, will be always ready to explain details if asked. For instance, the Volunteer asks the old soldier such a question as: "What would you do if you were sent to scout around so-and-so's farm?" Of if the man is a veteran who has seen actual warfare, he could describe some incident.

If there is any matter on which the men would like more particular instructions, they have only to write to Headquarters and the matter will be explained—in the official journal if of general interest, by letter if concerning only the corps itself. In any event, any new corps started can have an officer sent from Dublin for at least a week to take the men every night and direct them along the proper lines.

Declaration of Policy.

ADOPTED AT THE IRISH VOLUNTEER CONVENTION, SUNDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1914.

- 1.—To maintain the right and duty of the Irish Nation henceforward; to provide for its own defence by means of a permanent and trained Volunteer Force.
- 2.—To unite the people of Ireland on the basis of Irish Nationality and the common national interest; to maintain the integrity of the nation and to resist with all our strength any measures tending to bring about or perpetuate disunion or the partition of our Country.
- 3.—To resist any attempt to force the men of Ireland into Military Service under any Government until a free National Government is empowered by the Irish people themselves to deal with it.
- 4.—To secure the abolition of the system of Governing Ireland through Dublin Castle and the British Military Power, and the establishment of a National Government in its place.

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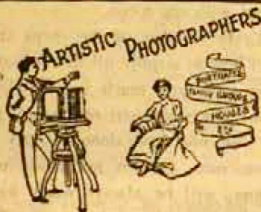
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All literary communications for the "Irish Volunteer" should be addressed in future to
VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS,
2 Dawson Street, DUBLIN.

All communications re Advertisements to be addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer
SATURDAY, MAY 22nd, 1915.

Headquarters' Bulletin.

WHY WE WANT RECRUITS.

We want recruits because we have undertaken a service which we believe to be of vital importance to our country, and because that service needs whatever there is of manly stuff in Ireland in order to its effective rendering.

We want recruits because we have a standard to rally them to. It is not a new standard raised for the first time by the men of a new generation. It is an old standard which has been borne by many generations of Irish men, which has gone into many battles, which has looked down upon much glory and upon much sorrow; which has been a sign to be contradicted, but which shall yet shine as a star. There is no other standard in the world so august as the standard we bear; and it is the only standard which the men of Ireland may bear without abandoning their ancient allegiance. Individual Irishmen have sometimes fought under other standards: Ireland as a whole has never fought under any other.

We want recruits because we have a faith to give them and a hope with which to inspire them. They are a faith and a hope which have been handed down from generation to generation of Irish men unto this last. The faith is that Ireland is one, that Ireland is inviolate, that Ireland is worthy of all love and all homage and all service that may lawfully be paid to any earthly thing; and the hope is that Ireland may be free. In a human sense, we have no desire, no ambition but the integrity, the honour, and the freedom of our native land.

We want recruits because we are sure of the rightness of our cause. We have no mis-

givings, no self-questionings. While others have been doubting, timorous, ill at ease, we have been serenely at peace with our consciences. The recent time of soul-searching had no terrors for us. We saw our path with absolute clearness; we took it with absolute deliberateness. "We could no other." We called upon the names of the great confessors of our national faith, and all was well with us. Whatever soul-searchings there may be among Irish political parties now or hereafter, we go on in the calm certitude of having done the clear, clean, sheer thing. We have the strength and the peace of mind of those who never compromise.

We want recruits because we believe that events are about to place the destinies of Ireland definitely in our hands, and because we want as much help as possible to enable us to bear the burden. The political leadership of Ireland is passing to us,—not, perhaps, to us as individuals, for none of us are ambitious for leadership and few of us fit for leadership; but to our party, to men of our way of thinking: that is, to the party and to the men that stand by Ireland only, to the party and to the men that stand by the nation, to the party and to the men of one allegiance.

Ireland needs a Citizen Army.

We want recruits because we have work for them to do. We do not propose to keep our men idle. We propose to give them work,—hard work, plenty of work. We would band together all men capable of working for Ireland and give them men's work.

We want recruits because we are able to train them. The great majority of our officers are now fully competent to undertake the training of Irish Volunteers for active service under the conditions imposed by the natural and military facts of the map of Ireland. Those officers who are not so competent will be made competent in our training camps during the next few months.

We want recruits because we are able to arm them. In a rough way of speaking, we have succeeded already in placing a gun and ammunition therefor in the hands of every Irish Volunteer that has undertaken to endeavour to pay for them. We are in a position to do as much for every man that joins us. We may not always have the popular pattern of gun, but we undertake to produce a gun of some sort for every genuine Irish Volunteer; with ammunition to boot. Finally:

We want recruits because we are absolutely determined to take action the moment action becomes a duty. If a moment comes—as a moment seemed on the point of coming at least twice during the past eighteen months—when the Irish Volunteers will be justified to their consciences in taking definite military action, such action will be taken. We do not anticipate such a moment in the very near future; but we live at a time when things come swiftly and terribly. What if Conscription be forced upon Ireland? What if a Unionist or a Coalition British Ministry repudiate the Home Rule Act? What if it be determined to dismember Ireland. The future is big with these and other possibilities.

And these are among the reasons why we want recruits.

P. H. PEARSE.

How to Help the Volunteer Movement.

From reports to hand, the Executive Committee of the Irish Volunteers is gratified to learn that there is no part of the country in which the movement has not adherents. The number of such adherents greatly exceeds the number actually enrolled in companies. Our immediate work is to organise these scattered individuals into groups, link them with similar groups in the same country, and set them working as vital parts of the Volunteer movement.

THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP.

FORMING NEW COMPANIES.

There may be no company of the Irish Volunteers in your district or within easy distance. That should not deter you. Look around and you will not fail to find others of your way of thinking or who can easily be converted. If you have enough to form a company (100), half-company (50) or section (25) write to the Director of Organisation at Headquarters for instructions.

CYCLIST SQUADS.

Don't be disheartened if you have not even sufficient to form a section. No man in Ireland should be idle where there is an opportunity for military training in the Irish Volunteers. Even two or three men can start work at once. Attach yourself to the nearest company, even if the distance makes it difficult to attend every drill. If there is no company within reach, seek out supporters in neighbouring districts and arrange to meet for training in some suitable centre. In this connection the bicycle can be of great assistance. Cyclists can rapidly concentrate on a given centre for training. The value of cyclist soldiers for scouting and outpost duty is very great. In Ireland cyclists can to a large extent replace cavalry. It is encouraging to work together with kindred spirits. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Let us know you are active. We can then arrange to find a place for you in the County organisation, and, instead of being isolated, you will find yourself an integral portion of the Volunteer army.

ARMS AND TRAINING.

The lack of professional military instructors need not prevent one from commencing work. The "Irish Volunteer" paper weekly contains lucid and detailed instructions in military matters. We are anxious to get it on sale in every town and village in Ireland. Get the local newsagent to stock it. Two or three together can study military text-books; it is better than remaining idle. You can practise marksmanship with miniature or air rifles. A few men may not be able to do very much, but they can get armed. They can form a local "Gun Fund," into which subscriptions can be paid weekly. When the price of one gun is saved, lots can be drawn for it, but it should

not become the property of the winner until he has paid the balance for it, and so on. Headquarters will be only too glad to arrange for the arming of units, however small. You can study the country, learn scouting, become insured to long marching. By steady work in this direction you will encourage others to gather around you, and so the movement will grow. Don't hesitate to write to us for advice. We can put you in touch with others. Full information as to Constitution, affiliation fees, &c., sent on application. Keep in constant touch with Headquarters.

Write to

DIRECTOR OF RECRUITING,

Irish Volunteer Headquarters,

2 Dawson Street, Dublin.

Training Camp for Irish Volunteers.

The Headquarters Staff is anxious to give an opportunity to every Corps of Volunteers in Ireland to have its officers thoroughly trained. To that end a considerable number of training camps will be held in July, August, and September. These camps will be open to all Volunteers, and will not be confined to men who are already officers.

The following courses of training are suggested:—

July 10th to 17th—A week's training.

July 31st to August 14th—A fortnight's training.

August 21st to 28th—A week's training.

September 4th to 18th—A fortnight's training.

Applications are now invited from Volunteers who can attend any of these courses. Camping equipment will be supplied by Headquarters, and the training will be conducted by first-rate officers. Each Volunteer attending must provide his own blanket, overcoat, knapsack containing mess-tin and kit. Everything else will be provided by Headquarters. Each period of training will be occupied in a definite series of military operations extending over the full week or fortnight.

Owing to the difficulty of accurately determining the cost for food, etc., for camps which will be moving daily from place to place, and which will be composed of varying numbers, it has been decided to make a charge for all men of one pound per week, payable in advance, although it is hoped that the actual cost will be less. Any balance over after the expenses of the commissariat have been defrayed will be refunded to the men.

The Headquarters Staff urges upon every Volunteer Company in Ireland to send as many of its members as possible to the camps. There is no corps so small as not to be able to send two or three of its members. Ample accommodation will be provided for all applicants.

All Volunteers should arrange to spend at least part of their summer holidays in training.

All applications should be addressed to
THE HON. SECRETARY,

Irish Volunteer Headquarters,
2 Dawson Street, Dublin.

Applications cannot be received later than 14 days before a camp is to start.

Send in your application at once. Payments can be made anytime before the date on which you start training.

LEARN TO SHOOT.

REMEMBER LIMERICK.

WHIT SUNDAY.

A Co., 1st Batt., DUBLIN BRIGADE.

Volunteers and others who intend visiting Limerick on Sunday next, on the great excursion organised by A.I. Co., would do well to purchase their tickets as soon as possible, so as to facilitate the Committee in completing the railway arrangements.

All Volunteers travelling will parade at Blackhall Street at 7.45 a.m. sharp, wearing full equipment.

It is essential that all be on parade at that hour, as some preliminary arrangements have to be made before proceeding to Kingsbridge. Commandant Pearse will be in charge of the parade.

Tickets may be had at the various drill halls in the city or at 5 Blackhall Street, also at Kingsbridge on morning of excursion.

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The Tactical Handling of a Volunteer Force.

The accepted principle is that each Volunteer Corps is designed to act as a flying column. That is to say, each corps is a self-contained unit roaming through the theatre of war complete in all details. It is not tied to any permanent base, and thus enjoys unlimited freedom of manoeuvre—having no line of communications this last cannot be severed. This method of operation is easy for the Volunteer corps, because each unit is small, has no supply train worth speaking of, and can keep itself supplied with comparative ease.

To make the fullest possible use of the liberty of action it possesses, it is imperative that each column should be exceedingly mobile, and by a proper system of organisation and training this can readily be ensured. It is to this end that certain aspects of military work have been emphasised in training the Volunteer corps.

The first factor tending to increase the mobility of the corps is the large proportion of cyclists in all the corps. Commonly the number of cyclists in a corps varies from one-fourth to one-half of the total. One-third is certainly not an unduly high proportion to take as the average. Clearly the presence of a large number of cyclists gives the commander a mobile striking force ready to act by itself—and that far away and on sudden notice.

But, also, the presence of this cyclist contingent greatly increases the mobility of the entire force in a combined operation. By acting as a screen thrown out in advance the cyclists can relieve the infantry of all reconnoitring duties. And infantry which has not to do its own reconnoitring can press steadily forward. It has no other purpose but to march and keep marching, because no matter what rate it marches at, the cyclists will still be able to keep ahead of it and explore the country for it. Consequently, every effort should be aimed at increasing the marching power of the infantry.

The first way to do this is by increasing the rate of marching. This can be achieved by practising alternate marching and doubling. This is now a common practice with several of the corps, and should be made the invariable practice with all.

Another way to improve the mobility is by increasing the number of marching hours. An extension of this practice—and one full of great possibilities—is to carry on the marches indifferently by day or night. This will enable the men to rest when they can and march when they must without any inconvenience being caused by unusual hours or any similar cause.

And as a subsidiary question, there is the problem of supply. But in any event, the supply difficulties in the case of small forces are very slight. A possible solution in the case of the Volunteer corps would be the employ-

ment of a motor-car for this purpose. It should even be possible by a judicious system of refills to supply several corps by one motor. All that would be required would be a judicious table of times and distances, and a driver who kn w the roads.

ANOTHER LINK GONE.

On Wednesday, 12th inst., there passed away in Belfast one of the sincere men of '67, in the person of Daniel Hannan. The deceased had been ailing for many years; and it was unfortunate that the news of his death reached the Belfast Volunteers too late to allow of a parade and firing party. Daniel Hannan did good work in the dark days, and was among those who welcomed the first batch of released Fenian prisoners. He introduced Dr. Mulcahy to Belfast and district.

Constancy.

I.

If you profess to have faith in your cause, there is one infallible test in your constancy. From this day forward we must separate the men who believe from the men who merely say they believe: and these two classes, standing as widely apart as the poles, can be as clearly distinguished,—the men who believe, by their work; the men who merely say they believe, by their sloth. Constancy shall be the test to separate the wheat from the chaff; and it will select for its time of trial a moment of adversity. For in the day of summer weather all men believe: everything is exuberant, stimulating, sunny and beautiful, and we pledge ourselves joyfully to the flag. But clouds come, adversity threatens, the flag calls for hard service, and the inconstant shrink in their souls and quietly drop away.

II.

If this touches you, learn the marks of the inconstant in the man who protests his faith. He performs no work, for faith is necessary to achievement; but he tells you what you ought to do. Is your volunteer company disorganised? He is copious with advice to make it good, but he will never march a mile. If your company is alert, yet not perfect, he will tell you in confidence of every flaw, every slackness, every drooping spirit; but he does not see the great outstanding fact of the living company. He cannot appreciate the spirit that does not droop, the energy that makes up for sloth, the confidence that is stronger than any flaw. He does not see and realise because he does not believe. He has, it is true, belief on the life. But he lacks the heart of faith.

III.

Keep in mind and repeat this: your constancy will be known in adversity—not in a bitterness of irreconcilability, as the inconstant may think—but in serene faith in future victory. Suppose some fine corps of, say, six hundred is reduced by a succession of reverses to barely six. You will know these six had the full vigour of faith. For the rest, they had, perhaps, chiefly the agreeable emotion of patriotism. After a Howth Sunday we must suspend operations to receive recruits. But the believers bear in mind that not till the emotion will have subsided can they know how many received a new faith on the day of the baptism of blood. That new faith will have sprung from the sacrifice of the blood and the constancy of the six. You will know one of the six thus: he will not say, there are *only* five besides myself. He will omit the *only*, and say, there are five besides myself. He knows that in the six there are six final and invincible arguments against defeat. If you have faith, you will not merely like to think this, you will *know* it. This is constancy. It stands out in

its glory to astonish and elevate men, not to be comprehended or analysed. It is in the mystery of the blood and the divinity of the soul. And in its light the inconstant stands out as verily a foe: if he is not as truly base this may startle him to crave constancy. He may have it for two things, sacrifice and service: and then for him the world will put on new beauty. He had been attracted only by glory in sunlight, but this he cannot appreciate till his soul is sensitive to glory in adversity. Let this be your one thought. Remember the depression that makes you despair is indispensable to victory. It is the test of soul. Do not

flatter yourself that if you fail, Ireland is thereby lost; the constancy of others will save her. But though she cannot be lost through you, she may through you be greater: by high and constant service you may enhance her glory and win honour to yourself. Will you take and hold your place in every trial? Remember, your supreme triumph can only come in a moment of general despair. That is why the rare constancy of soul, witnessed in our great exemplars, was rewarded with the prophetic vision that gave them to see through the surrounding darkness the hidden light of the dawn.

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One of the greatest weaknesses in the national movement is the lack of co-operation amongst the various elements that constitute it. The movement is composed of a great many organizations, each dealing with a particular phase or phases in the political, military, athletic, language, literary or social life of the nation. These organizations have much in common with each other, and all of them tend towards the same goal—an Irish Nation; and yet we find very little real co-operation between them. In fact, in their zeal for pushing their own particular propaganda their interests conflict oftener than they harmonize. The only explanation for this is that the real object of these organizations is too often obscured by over-emphasis on ways and means. The party, in the minds of its advocates, then becomes greater than the nation whose interests it professes to serve.

From the very beginning of the Fianna we saw clearly the value and necessity of co-operation amongst Irish Nationalists. Perhaps it was because we realized that the very existence of a boys' organization would depend largely upon the co-operation of adult bodies; or it may have been that our young minds not confused with any party issue, and seeing the great dissipation of brain and energy which party conflict involved, grasped this obvious fact quicker than the men blinded in the heat of political strife. The Fianna, having accepted the fundamental principle of Irish nationality, strove to bring about their object by training the boys of Ireland and actively co-operating with other national societies tending towards the same goal. We have helped the Gaelic League in its language collections and in interesting our members in the study of Irish and Irish history; we have helped, on every occasion when our assistance was needed, the Wolfe Tone Memorial Committee in its great undertaking; and our help in making the Volunteer Movement a success in its early days has been acknowledged by Volunteer Headquarters on many occasions.

I now appeal for a really live and active co-operation between the Irish Volunteers and Fianna. A few weeks ago I pointed out in these columns the value of the Fianna Éireann in the life of the nation. I showed how the movement by interesting boys in character-building activities prepared them for future citizenship; and finally how the permanency and efficiency of the Irish Volunteers could be ensured by an active co-operation between the two organizations. Volunteers throughout the country should co-operate with Fianna Head-

quarters (12 D'Olier St., Dublin) in its organizing campaign this year. A troop of National Boy Scouts should be formed in connection with every Volunteer Company. The young volunteer who feels he would like to take on the work of organizing a slough of the Fianna should report same to the officer in command of his corps, and at the same time write for further information to the General Secretary of the Fianna.

Write to
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MUNSTER CONFERENCE.

On Whit Monday, officers of the Fianna and volunteers wishing to form new sloughs in Munster are invited to take part in a conference organized by Capt. D'Alton of Limerick. It is expected that delegates from all the Munster sloughs will be able to attend. The chief business of the Conference will be to discuss ways and means of spreading the organization throughout Munster by co-operation with Volunteer companies. Cheap railway excursions in connection with the great Volunteer Review in Limerick will be run from all the principle centres on Whit Sunday. Stay-over tickets for Whit Monday are available. Members of the Limerick Fianna will be present on the platforms as the trains arrive. Delegates are requested to get in touch with local committee as soon as possible after arrival.

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