

# THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1915.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

## NOTES

One or two instances of what may be called unwise impatience among Irish Volunteers have come to my knowledge. When I advise patience under great evils, it is not that we should expect our country to go suffering these evils for ever, but rather that through the patient endeavour and tenacious determination of her children she may be relieved from her wrongs as speedily and as completely as possible. Impatient action, especially of a detached and sporadic kind, may be a way of relieving this man's or that man's feelings while delaying our country's deliverance, we do not know for how long. Now, no man has a right to seek relief for his own feelings at the expense of his country.

Impatience is sometimes caused by the sight of anti-Irishism flaunting itself under license and encouragement in the face of the people. We feel that the conduct of this or that person deserves punishment. What if it does? We are not appointed the administrators of either Divine or human justice. While we hate tyranny and injustice, let us not fear them. They are working out their own destruction. Day by day they are educating the Irish people. If you or I are stirred to indignation, remember that others who were blinded for a time are getting their eyes opened by the same facts that are making us indignant.

"Omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant." Let all things be done honourably and in a regular and disciplined way. We have many enemies, many factious opponents, many undecided onlookers. Any act of rash violence will be used to the great injury of the national cause. Especially should we guard ourselves against making enemies of our own people, and all the people of Ireland are our own people. Nothing can be for Ireland's advantage that is not for Ireland's honour. If we

love our country, her honour must be sacred to us.

We have convicted our enemies of trampling upon law and plotting the destruction of order. Law and order and loyalty are words which in Ireland and in regard of Ireland have been debased by every charlatan and soiled by all ignoble use. In any true and honest sense, we Irish Volunteers are the defenders of law and order and loyalty. There is no reason why we should be impatient, but rather that we should go forward confidently. Our conscience is clear. Our cause is good. Our purpose is unclouded. Let us fulfil the duty we have taken up, and while we do so, let us be cheerful and lighthearted. The happiest men in Ireland this Christmas should be the men of the Irish Volunteers.

The anti-conscription meeting in the Mansion House was the greatest public meeting held in Dublin since the inaugural meeting of the Irish Volunteers two years ago. The Irish capital has shown its mind. The two largest halls in the Mansion House were filled to the last place, and many failed to find room. The audience, or rather the two audiences, were orderly and unanimous. Entrance was absolutely free to all-comers. The stewards had nothing to do except to find places for the crowd.

It was remarkable that nearly all the speakers laid most stress on fighting the sort of conscription that works by economic pressure. Conscription by economic pressure is too roundabout a phrase. The plain name for it is conscription by starvation. That sort of thing is criminal conspiracy, whoever may be mixed up in it. It is a crime of inexpressible meanness. When the Registration Act was under discussion, it was not applied to Ireland, the Government declaring that all the necessary information could be obtained in Ireland through official channels. That being so, what is the meaning of applying to employers to give the same information in duplicate, if it is not to induce employers to bring "economic

pressure" to bear? I warned employers at the meeting, and I warn them again, not to be induced to lay the foundation for a class war. If I wanted to see an implacable feud created between employers and employed, or unemployed, I would regard this economic pressure policy with feelings of exultation.

Now it turns out that my diagnosis of Dr. Starkie's attack of political fever was quite correct. He caught it from Sir M. Nathan. In reply to Mr. Ginnell, the Chief Secretary says on December 13th: "In a communication addressed to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education by the Under Secretary on the 15th June, 1915, attention was called to the fact that the teacher referred to," and so on. The egregious Hicks of the Kinsella prosecution set the Castle in motion, the Castle appointed Dr. Starkie to do police duty for Hicks, and Dr. Starkie, like Magistrate Drury when invited to intimidate, said "Indeed I will," and on the 18th June he opened fire on the Irish Volunteers from behind the secure fortifications of Tyrone House. Shame for the Irish Volunteers to be hostile to a regime in which Dr. Starkie plays such a noble part!

To another question by Mr. Ginnell the Chief Secretary answered: "The evidence that the Irish Volunteers have endeavoured to foment disloyalty in Ireland is voluminous." Hardly yet so voluminous as the evidence at the Pigott Commission, or even as the evidence of the Crossmaglen Conspiracy. However, Mr. Birrell is progressing, and may yet show the Irish people once more the stuff that "our sincere friends" are made of. His evidence, he tells us, consists in part of "proceedings against officers and organisers" of the Irish Volunteers. Mr. Devlin will see that "these senseless prosecutions" have a meaning after all, and Mr. Redmond will figure as a mainstay of a Government in Ireland for the suppression of Irish liberty.

For the first time in history, Ireland has produced an Anti-pope. The Rev.

Dr. O'Doherty, C.C., has laid down the duty of Catholics "to be true to Holy Church." The vast majority of his fellow-priests in Dublin and throughout Ireland have no intention of taking their duty from the teaching of the new Antipope.

I have no acquaintance with this new Doctor of the Church, but I was once well acquainted with Canon O'Leary, of Dingle, and regret to see a report of a meeting in Dingle over which he presided. The meeting was nominally held for the purpose of Recruitment, but no recruits are reported, and the Press account shows that the proceedings were a carnival of vituperation of the Irish Volunteers. Kerry, like Dublin, will bring in its verdict in due time. The Canon declared that the object of the meeting was to keep the Huns and the Turks out of Ireland. I have never heard that the Turks took any special interest in Ireland beyond sending a large sum of money to relieve the Irish Famine of 1847, when the people of Kerry were dying like flies, and when the Government that brought about the Famine was helping to deprive the country of food. Of course that was very long ago, and the British statesmen of our time are not the ruthless scoundrels of seventy years ago.

Encouraged by Canon O'Leary's presence in the chair, one Mr. Denis Reidy, of Castleisland, declared that Mr. Redmond had won Home Rule, and that those who disagreed with him were "cowards, humbugs, and little blackguards," moreover, that they were "cowards who disrespected their religion, their country, and their race," and concluded with an eloquent peroration "calling upon all right-thinking Irishmen to stand by those who had won them their liberty, to extend their support to those who were giving their blood to maintain that liberty, and to ignore the cranks, the humbugs, and the bulavaun bakes." The result of this advice was that the Dingle people ignored Mr. Reidy and his fellow-orators.

Sergeant-Major O'Rahilly, of the Connaught Rangers, spoke next. He said that Egan O'Rahilly was his proud ancestor, and was a nephew of Myles the Slasher, who died for Ireland at the Bridge of Finca. He said that the young men who would not listen to him "were hypnotised and carried away from the path of their fathers by ingenious individuals for the lure of lusty gold." The Canon continued to preside. "Their leaders are employed in Government departments, but they would soon be turned out of those departments," and the recruiting officer then proceeded to mark down a man for Sir Matthew Nathan's fire. He said the "Sinn Feiners" were on the side of the Dark Demon, and the Angel of Liberty

was on the other side. "Yes, if Myles the Slasher, Robert Emmet, Wolfe Tone, and Lord Edward Fitzgerald were that day alive they would be on this platform helping under the Very Rev. and distinguished Chairman to procure their help to go and strike a blow for Ireland's sake and the cause of justice." He said the "Sinn Feiners passed a resolution congratulating Germany on what they called a glorious achievement," the sinking of the Lusitania. He said, "Remember that Ireland is now a new Ireland, restitution has been made for the wrongs done us in the past, and the teachings of our Holy Faith is to forgive as we should wish to be forgiven, especially where restitution is made."

Mr. T. O'Donnell, M.P., spoke next. "He was more than pleased that they had the Very Rev. Chairman with them there that day." Mr. O'Donnell then completed the process of boxing the compass in Irish politics. The once out-and-outer denounced Desmond Fitzgerald, now undergoing six months' imprisonment, and Ernest Blythe, who was recently in prison. Yet we have been told that the leader who sent Mr. O'Donnell to the meeting and the Party of which Mr. O'Donnell is a member passed a resolution condemning the action of the Government in imprisoning Ernest Blythe. We can now understand why no notice was taken of the Party "protest" or of Mr. Devlin's protest against the "senseless prosecutions." Canon O'Leary, of Dingle, was all this time in the chair.

Mr. O'Donnell, M.P., went a stage farther, farther even than the recruiting sergeant-major, and named the man who should "soon be turned out" of employment. Mr. O'Donnell is having his time. He knows well that he is now a representative of the Imperial Parliament in Kerry at £400 a year, and that he is no longer a representative of Kerry in the Imperial Parliament. He told the audience that "a load of misery and misfortune had been lifted from that district during the past ten years," but he had the grace to say that this was done "with the help of agitation." The Dingle people are not fools. They know that the fight for the land was fought, not by trucking or fawning or flunking, but by the sufferings and sacrifices of the people, before and during the time when Mr. O'Donnell was as yet "a servant of the Crown," like the man he now publicly denounces to starvation. "We are now," he declared, "a free nation, a self-governing people!" No cheers are reported at this point. Is it possible that the audience, like the cranks, humbugs and cowards, denounced under the patronage of Canon O'Leary of Dingle, had their own doubts about being members of a free nation and a self-governing people?

General Gough, of Curragh fame, has got it into the newspapers that he now has "a bodyguard of Sinn Feiners and Fenians." I am beginning to get jealous of these Sinn Feiners, they seem to be annexing everybody and everything. The London "Times" says they have annexed the Gaelic League. Now they have surrounded General Gough. I suspect that the twisters and time-servers are succeeding in making everybody believe that Sinn Feiner means any Irishman who has the courage and honesty to stand up in any degree for the old ideals of Ireland a Nation.

EOLIN MAC NEILL

## Cumann na mBan

We have received a very satisfactory report from Liverpool this week. The branch is strong and doing good work. The members are quite assiduous in their labours, and attend First Aid, Signalling, and Drill Classes with punctuality. A Ceilidh Mor will be held on December 27th, and it is hoped it will be a great success.

Good reports have also come in from the branches in Tullamore, Athlone, and Tralee.

### NOTES ON TRAINING OF AMBULANCE DETACHMENTS.

#### INDOOR.

##### 1. First Aid or Home Nursing Lectures.

This being essential for Stretcher Squads, branches should use every effort to get the services of a doctor or qualified nurse to lecture them. Practice with triangular and roller bandages and splinting should take place once a week. A lecture should be arranged for on the use of the usual dressings and antiseptics (lint, cotton-wool, gauze, iodine, lead lotion, etc.). Squad members who have any opportunity of assisting a doctor or nurse in dressing wounds, burns, etc. (or even of looking on at such work) are strongly advised to make the most of the chances, as more can be learned by this way in a few minutes than can be got out of books in as many hours.

2. Section Drill by Irish Volunteers. This has been found very useful from the point of view of discipline, and at the same time is interesting work. It should be followed by Physical Drill and Semaphore Signalling. Tests in Semaphore should be held after a few months (20 letters per minute, in the form of a message sent, and one received). Those who pass the test may proceed to Morse Code.

Stretcher Drill should be practised weekly if possible. Instructions for drill with 6 are to be found in the Fianna Handbook and St. Patrick's First Aid Manual.

# A MILITARY CAUSERIE

## POETICAL TIPS.

An interesting document has lately come into my hands, in the shape of a newspaper cutting giving tips for soldiers in doggerel verse. They are the product of the brain of a British officer, but many of them will be of use to Volunteers, who could easily commit them to memory. I therefore quote the more important items, occasionally taking the liberty of improving the metre, which is often execrable.

My first excerpt repeats one of the dogmata which I have been steadily driving home in lectures this long time:

"Care there should be, if your life you'd preserve,  
Ammunition, food, men, keep a bit in Reserve."

And immediately afterwards the author adds a word or two on waste in general:

"Don't waste any food, and throw nothing away,  
Or perhaps you'll go hungry the very next day.

Each bit of dry wood or of coal that you pass,  
Just carry to camp, or a bit of dry grass.  
For lighting a fire, some fat or some grease

Is a wonderful help, and it lights them with ease."

Next year's campers, please note.

A bit of moralising follows, to give a rhyme to the sound medical advice that comes after it:

"Have patience. All things will come right in a bit,  
And the first thing to do is to keep yourself fit."

How? We had a lecture on this subject in the VOLUNTEER recently. Now that we are backed up by a competent military authority we refer you to -- again.

"Just keep your mouth shut, and don't talk when at work.

If everyone's talking a lot of them shirk."

Quite so. A valuable lesson this, and one which all Volunteers should appreciate. If the Volunteers have any faults, one of them is to stand about gossiping when they might be doing useful work. Of course they never talk when actually on parade!

Two essential rules and some useful knowledge follow:

"Keep rifles quite clean, and yourself too, as well,

Or the poisonous wound a sad story may tell.

Let pencil and paper be part of your kit;  
You'll find that a great many uses they fit.

Messages written, not verbal, should be,  
Or mistakes might occur, and then you're up a tree.

No order's correct, I must here clearly state,

Unless it is signed, with the time, place, and date."

Keep that last couplet buzzing in your head next time you go into action, and you will be saved many a wild goose chase. Slovenliness in the framing of messages and orders must never be overlooked on manoeuvres, or it may have disastrous results some day on the battlefield. If a verbal message has to be given let it be as short as possible, and make the messenger repeat it before despatching him. But better not give any if you can possibly avoid it.

Now a word to marksmen:

"At shooting you now must quite wonderful be,

But don't fire a shot if the foe you can't see.

Just take a good aim, and you may get the bull,

But up to the last keep your magazine full.

Quick firing's important, but no use a bit

To fire twenty rounds and nobody hit."

We would specially direct attention to the fourth line of this extract. The magazine is for use in extremity, in a tight corner, when there's no time to load. Under ordinary circumstances the cut-off should be closed and careful single shots fired. Volunteers should above all things be taught not to waste ammunition. Every bullet we have must be made to hit someone. The last couplet in the above enshrines one of those obvious rules which it never occurs to anyone to obey. We would like to make it recur for ever in the head of every Volunteer.

The contents of innumerable articles in the VOLUNTEER is summed up and concentrated in the next few lines:

"Resolve on a march that you'll never fall out.

It's the best marching side that will win without doubt.

So soap well your socks, and keep clean your feet,

Don't smoke, and don't drink, and you'll never be beat."

It was probably the exigencies of the metre that made the last line so terse and so drastic. Our poet could hardly expect to command an army of total abstainers, but of course it is perfectly true that the less you smoke and drink the better you'll march,—and the more money you'll have to spend on munitions.

Now for the steel:

"The finish with bayonets, trenches within,

'Tis the first point that counts, if it only gets in."

And in the lonely watches of the night let the sentry remember:

"Unless you are sure that a man is a friend

Mind you don't let him pass, or it may be your end."

No leniency, remember.

Sings our Britisher:

"White flags, or surrenders, well, those, we don't use them;

Be careful; the enemy's apt to abuse them."

Of course the first of these lines is ridiculous bombast. Surrenders are of constant occurrence on all sides in all wars. We commend the second line to the notice of Volunteers.

The poem ends a la plain blunt soldier:

"Expect to get through, and just hope for the best,

You just pull the trigger, and luck does the rest.

You only can die as a brave soldier can, If you don't, then you live, and thank God you're a man.

If it's peace or it's war the end is the same,

And it don't matter much if you're playing the game."

There you have it,—the true philosophy of cannon-fodder.

E. O'D.

## GENERAL COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the newly-elected General Council of the Irish Volunteers was held at Headquarters on Sunday, 19th December. Eoin Mac Neill presided, and representatives from Dublin, Kilkenny City, Belfast, Limerick City, Limerick County, Louth, King's County, and Galway were present, while apologies were received from the representatives of Kilkenny County, Tipperary, Tyrone, Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Derry City, and Wexford.

Much business was transacted dealing with the finances, equipment, training, and organisation of the Irish Volunteers. A number of training centres for Volunteer officers were arranged.

## START THE NEW YEAR WELL AND COME TO THE céilidh

To be given by Cumann Mícheil Uí Dhuibhair in the Club Rooms, Merchant's Quay, on SATURDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1916.

This will be a genuine Irish Night.

TICKETS - Double, 3s.; Single 2s.

## A DANCE

will be held at SWORDS, (Carnegie Library).

On New Year's Night

At 8 p.m. sharp.

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## Four Plays at the Irish Theatre.

The Irish Theatre, Hardwicke Street, will produce every night next week and on Saturday Matinee four Plays:—

Daibne Head by pádraic Ó Conaíne (In Irish)

The Phoenix on the Roof, by Eimar O'Duffy.

The Swan Song, by Anton Tchekoff,

And a new Comedy in one act by John McDonagh, entitled Author! Author!

**ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS** (Irish-American Alliance)—Drawing for Rifle has been postponed until Monday, 10th January, 1916. All Blocks and Unsold Tickets to be returned to the Secretary, 28 North Frederick Street, Dublin, on or before Saturday, 8th January.

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## IRISH Classes

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Fee for Non-Teachers	-	-	10/-

Syllabus from Registrar, 20 Kildare Street.

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, DECEMBER 25th, 1915.

## Affiliations

The question of affiliations is one that does not arouse any enthusiasm among the corps of Irish Volunteers throughout the country. It is none the less a matter of considerable importance. The Company officers often regard the sending of affiliations to Headquarters as merely a vexatious formality that may be dispensed with when they are busy, and one which is obtruded on their notice by the General Secretary with an unnecessary frequency. The sooner this notion is dropped the better for the Irish Volunteers.

The affiliations of the Companies are the only financial call that has so far been made upon the rank and file by Headquarters, and if the amount is collected regularly it is absurdly small. Nevertheless, when it comes in regularly

from all parts of the country it mounts up to a considerable figure, and one which would enable Headquarters to thoroughly organise and train corps in all parts of Ireland.

Do the Company officers realise that when they neglect affiliations they hamper the work of the Irish Volunteers? They prevent Headquarters from doing necessary work and from giving much-needed training to the corps. The corps need more instructors, and Headquarters has to find the means as well as the men. If affiliations were regularly paid by all the corps this would be easy. When the Company officers neglect affiliations it is very difficult.

Referring to this matter at the last Convention the President of the Irish Volunteers said:—"With regard to the coming year, the main point that I wish to impress on you is the maintenance of a thorough discipline, not merely in the stricter sense of carrying out orders on each occasion, but in the wider sense of maintaining the general order. Every company should fulfil its own place in the organisation. This depends, in the first instance, on affiliation maintained without neglect. Affiliation involves the payment of a fee at stated times to the Central Treasury. The fees are not large, and will not be irksome unless they are allowed to fall into arrears, and to let them fall into arrears is not consistent with discipline. In regard to expenditure, it should be the guiding principle that the regular income from affiliation fees should defray the regular expenses of organisation and administration and training, and that no part of these expenses should fall upon funds available for other purposes. Unless your regulations upon the payment of affiliation fees are observed in a disciplinary spirit, this principle cannot be observed, and we get into the very undesirable position of making up for neglect by waste."

The view that affiliations are a matter of necessary discipline should be acted upon by every officer—it is as much a part of his duty as the training and equipment of his men. The officers should also remember that the ability of Headquarters to give them the training that they need must always depend upon the financial resources which they place at the disposal of the Headquarters Staff.

## SPECIAL COURSE OF TRAINING FOR SENIOR OFFICERS (ALL IRELAND).

There will be a special course of training at Headquarters for senior officers during the week January 15th to 21st. Every organised Battalion in the country should send at least one officer to the class. Names to be reported before January 12th to the Director of Training.

# HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do bí ag Comhairle Éireann Fái ina nDúnport trádnóna. O. Céasraon, an 15 ad lá de'n mí ro, agus an Ceann Cata Pádraic Mac Diarmair ina cásoimleac oira.

Do rinnead a lán oibre u'fár ar na gná-cunarsádaib.

Cus Riapáir an Oirbhíge cunntar uair ar Slua na Sallime. Tri Cata agus cús Complaicta déas ar fíor líon an cSlua; an Slua as a lullmhuasáid fíor go díceallac agus airm as níg bhuiríón ná breas. Do bí an Comhairle Lánpráta teir an gcunntar rin.

O'fógaib an tÁir-Ránaide go raib fúimleacáid fíor cum ponnit ar bhoruig-teoirib an luic Consanta.

Tionól do bí as an gComhairle Coiréinn O. Domnaib an 19ad lá 7 an tOire Eoin Mac Neill, Uachtarán, ina cásoimleac.

Do rinnead bhoruigleac ar cúirib airm agus ar bhoruigleac comhairle cum na noliarídeac páirte do bailuigad ó na Complaictaib; i n-am agus a cúram rin do cúir ar na Comhairleib Sluaib agus ar na bhoruigib Comntae. Do haontuigleac fíreir cain raol an uirine do cúir ar fíannab Fáil i scoiréinne mar cáirib do círe na Féinne.

Dúnport na Féinne,

Ad Cluic, 19 m. na n., 1915.

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, the 15th inst., Commandant P. H. Pearse in the chair.

A large amount of business arising out of the usual reports was dealt with.

The Director of Organisation made a special report on the Galway Brigade, which was regarded as highly satisfactory. The Brigade comprises three organised Battalions, together with numerous Companies not yet grouped into Battalions, the total number of active Companies being thirty-six. Training is being carried on vigorously, and practically all the men are armed.

The Secretary reported that enrolment forms to be used by organisers or centres of the Volunteers' Auxiliary were ready for distribution.

The General Council met on Sunday, the 19th inst., Professor Eoin Mac Neill, President, in the chair.

A discussion took place on finance, and it was decided to create proper machinery for the regular collection of the Companies' affiliation fees, the responsibility to be placed on Brigade Councils or County Boards where such exist. It was also agreed to place a special levy of sixpence per man on all Companies for Headquarters purposes.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,  
Dublin, 19th December, 1915.

tionalists. Volunteers who are in possession of the facts of any such case should immediately communicate them to the proper persons at Headquarters.

## THE AUXILIARY.

Forms for the enrolment of members of the Auxiliary can now be had from the General Secretary. The forms contain spaces for ten names, and each enrollee of ten will be regarded as an organiser or centre of the Auxiliary, and will be expected to collect and forward the subscriptions of his ten members. The subscriptions will be received in monthly instalments of sixpence. This essentially democratic scheme should bring into the Auxiliary all the sympathisers with the Irish Volunteers who cannot for the moment come into the fighting line. Those who are in a position to get recruits for the Auxiliary should step forward at once.

## THE GALWAY BRIGADE.

The Galway Brigade stands next to the Cork Brigade in point of actual size. From the nature of its district, it is perhaps a more homogeneous and definitely organised military body. It has thirty-six Companies in active being, with

others in course of formation. The majority of the Companies are grouped into three Battalions, but outside the Battalion areas numerous Companies and Scouting Sections exist. Training is being keenly carried on throughout the Brigade district, and the Brigade may be regarded as well armed.

## The Dublin Brigade

Recruits are still wanted for several Companies of the Dublin Brigade. Every effort should be made to bring every Company up to full strength.

The Companies meet at the following halls:—

### COMPANIES. BATT. I.

- A. Monday, 8 p.m., Colmcille Hall, Blackhall Street.
- B. Monday 8 p.m., 41 Parnell Square.
- C. Thursday, 8 p.m., 41 Parnell Sq.
- D. Saturday, 8 p.m., Colmcille Hall, Blackhall Street.
- F. Thursday, 8 p.m., 25 Parnell Sq.
- G. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Colmcille Hall, Blackhall Street.

### BATT. II.

- B. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Father Mathew Park, Fairview.
- C. Wednesday, 8 p.m., 25 Parnell Sq.
- D. Sunday morning, 11 a.m., Father Mathew Park, Fairview.
- E. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Father Mathew Park, Fairview.
- F. Thursday, 8 p.m., Father Mathew Park, Fairview.
- G. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Lamh Dearg Hall, Glasnevin.

### BATT. III.

- A. Monday, 8 p.m., Camden Row.
- B. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Camden Row and Great Brunswick Street.
- C. Thursday, 8 p.m., Camden Row.
- D. Thursday, 8 p.m., Thorncastle Street, Ringsend.
- E. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Cullenswood House, Oakley Road.

### BATT. IV.

- A. Monday, 8 p.m., Larkfield, Kimmage.
- B. Tuesday, 8 p.m., Larkfield, Kimmage.
- C. Thursday, 8 p.m., Larkfield, Kimmage.
- D. Friday, 8 p.m., Larkfield, Kimmage.
- E. Monday, 8 p.m., Rathfarnham.
- F. Monday and Thursday, 8 p.m., Emmet Hall, Inchicore.
- G. Tallaght and Clondalkin.

**Note**—Corps throughout Ireland should send a note of the times and places of their weekly parades for Publication.—Ed. I.V.).

Classes at Headquarters suspended from December 23rd to January 2nd, inclusive.

## Notes from Headquarters

### THE ANTI-CONSCRIPTION DEMONSTRATION.

As far as the Irish Volunteers are concerned, there was no need for the marvellous demonstration of Tuesday week last. Friends and foes know that they stand pledged as a military organisation to resist conscription. The demonstration was valuable, however, in showing, with a plainness that no man can gainsay, that the democracy of Dublin stands behind the Irish Volunteers. Any attempt to enforce conscription by Act of British Parliament will be resisted to the blood by the men and women of Dublin.

### HUNGER-SCRIPTION.

In the meantime the other form of Conscription is in our midst. Men are being driven into the army against their will by a cruel form of oppression exercised by employers at the behest of the British Government. There is only one way to fight this. Proof of such action on the part of any firm must be followed by a rigid boycott of that firm by Irish Na-

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(Ar Leanmhainc).

scrútuighad sunnaí.



Caittear an sunna anáiríe leir an lámh  
Cum a Scrútuighad, ní mór don pang ómhu  
Speáiní-Sunnaí cabáile i dtreo 50  
in uachtar agus an  
measirín ar caob na láimhe clé ríor agus

an bailiú fíarctearna púinte na gualann  
clé agus ar a dgaíó amad. Lena tinn rin,  
beirctear speim fa láimh clé ar an ngunna,  
lairectar den ríadarc beiríó, i dtreo 50  
mbeir an óróis 7 na méireanna timcheall  
ar an ngunna agus caol na láimhe clé ar  
dgaíó an cléir i leir na láimhe clé agus an  
vó uillinn 50 bláit leir an gcabail.  
Cartar an glar ríadla ríor ar fáil le  
hóróis agus le méir tórais na láimhe  
veire.

Má bíonn an comla i ríct, tuigctear uirthi  
leir an óróis agus tarrainctear amad i.  
Annran beirctear speim ar ónapán an bolca  
le hóróis agus le méir tórais na láimhe  
veire. Cartar aníor 50 meir é agus  
tarrainctear ríar é fáil a ríadla ré.  
Beirctear speim fa láimh veir ar bail an  
gunna, lairectar den bolca, i dtreo 50  
mbeir an óróis púinte i dtreo beir an  
gunna.

nóca-már i dgaíó a "bailectar" cum na  
ngunnaí vo ríadlaíctha, ní mór don pang ómhu  
beir tpi corpóim ar an vcaob éirí den pang  
tórais.

day took place at Thomastown, in which all four  
counties took part, detachments from Bagnals-  
town, Ross, and Waterford co-operating with  
the various Kilkenny Companies. This was a  
most instructive lesson in the matter of con-  
centrating scattered units. There is still a lack  
of thorough inter-communication, but small in-

## Volunteer Happenings.

### AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

#### GREAT MEETING AT MANSION HOUSE, DUBLIN.

The IRISH VOLUNTEER went to press too early  
last week to give a report of the great Anti-  
Conscription Meeting which was held in the  
Mansion House, Dublin, on Tuesday, 14th De-  
cember.

Eoin Mac Neill occupied the chair, and in the  
course of his speech dealt at length with the  
statements recently made by the English Chief  
Secretary. The speaker gave the lie direct to  
the statements made by Mr. Birrell in the  
English House of Commons against the Irish  
Volunteers.

P. H. Pearse said: That if any man loved the  
English Empire let him go and fight for the  
Empire, but that the men of Ireland would  
never submit to be conscripted.

Rev. Father Connelly, Ballinasloe; Mrs.  
Sheehy-Skeffington, Bulmer, Hobson, James  
Connolly, Arthur Griffith, and T. Farron (Pre-  
sident of the Dublin Trades Council), also ad-  
dressed the meeting and dealt with every phase  
of the subject.

The Round Room of the Mansion House was  
packed with people, and a large and equally  
enthusiastic overflow meeting was held outside.

The meeting was a free and open one to the  
citizens of Dublin, and there was not a dis-  
sentient voice when the Chairman put the only  
resolution which was submitted at the close of  
the proceedings—namely, "We won't have  
Conscription." This was declared carried  
amidst a scene of intense enthusiasm.

### THE SOUTH-EAST.

The South-Eastern corner of the country is  
coming on in good style: this district comprises  
the Counties of Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford,  
and Wexford. Corps have been forming latterly  
at the rate of about one per week, which is  
fairly satisfactory; and this rate is likely to  
continue. In addition the already existing  
corps are steadily recruiting up. The best im-  
provement of all is that evinced by Waterford  
City Corps, which now musters twice its  
strength of some months back, has a good  
standard of training, and is proceeding with the  
task of arming itself. A similar story is that  
of Kilkenny; while both give a lot of attention  
to working up the country districts around. On  
Sunday, 12th December, a very noteworthy field-

intermediate corps are being worked up, which in  
course of a little while will supply this defi-  
ciency—and there is good reason to hope that  
the South-East will presently rival the South-  
West.

### PROGRESS IN ATHLONE.

The Athlone Corps has been growing steadily  
stronger of late, and many new recruits have  
come in within the last fortnight. This corps  
is becoming thoroughly proficient in both drill  
and field work, and the progress that has been  
made within the last few months is very satis-  
factory. Something more, however, might be  
done towards the surrounding country.

### WEST LIMERICK.

West County Limerick has been recently  
visited by an organiser from Headquarters, and  
the result has been a very large number of  
new corps. All over the county the young men

are flocking to the standard of the Irish Volun-  
teers, and within the last three weeks over a  
dozen separate corps have been newly formed.

### COUNTY GALWAY.

All over County Galway the various corps  
are working hard, and a good many sections in  
the more remote districts have been recently  
started. In addition a series of officers' classes  
have been started in two or three centres, and  
have been very well attended, many of the  
men coming long distances to be present.

### AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

On Friday night, the 10th inst., during  
inter-battalion manoeuvres in Dublin, a  
sentry group consisting of three men  
found itself isolated at Portobello Bridge.  
Some drunken soldiery attracted a crowd  
by using bad language towards the men.  
Soon a large number had assembled con-  
sisting mainly of soldiers, whose attitude  
was distinctly menacing. Police of vari-  
ous ranks arrived and questioned the  
Volunteers, asking them their names and  
business there; to which they refused to  
reply, stating they were "on duty."  
A Police Inspector asked a Volunteer  
what would happen in case of a breach  
of the peace. "If you regard us as  
civilians," was the reply, "it is your  
duty to protect us. If you regard us as  
military, we can deal with the situation  
ourselves." A fine answer and worthy  
of record.

A policeman who hustled one of the  
men found himself instantly at the end  
of a bayonet. Guns were then loaded.



IRISH VOLUNTEER STALL AT AONACH NA NODLAG, DUBLIN DEC. 24th to 18th.

and a passing Section Commander stepped  
in and took charge. At this point a  
soldier called on the "Portobello men"  
to form up. Another called on the  
"Beggars Bush men." The Commandant,  
cycling home, arrived as the warriors  
formed up, to hear another soldier cry,  
"Any of Larkin's men here? Two can  
play at this game. If Carson's men can  
arm, I don't see why we can't." Before  
this significant counter-stroke had time  
to develop the Commandant, taking in  
the situation, marched off the squad and  
dismissed them.

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# NA FIANNA EIREANN

## DUTIES OF SCOUTS.

A volunteer army for the purposes of national defence may now be regarded as a permanent institution in this country. It may be assumed that the shaping of this army into an effective military force will be carried out on much the same basis of organisation, and more or less on the same system of training as the Volunteers of the present day.

One of the greatest difficulties which will present itself to Volunteer officers is the training of scouts. I am told that the scouting at Volunteer manoeuvres is extremely bad. In fact there has been little or no real scouting, for the simple reason that there are no trained scouts in the Volunteers. A highly-trained scout does not learn his multifarious duties in a few months; it takes him years of continuous study and practice.

In my opinion, boys between fourteen and twenty years of age, with a few years' training will make far better scouts than men—even with twice as much training. In the first place, the boy's eyesight is, as a rule, much better than the man's; his powers of observation keener; and he possesses more initiative, courage, and imagination than the average man.

The Fianna has, therefore, great possibilities in supplying the national army with efficient scouts. The Dublin Battalion has already seriously set itself to this important work. I hope other centres will follow its example.

The duties of the scout are, to put it briefly, to get information about the enemy and to find the means of communicating such information to the commander of his force. This latter is often the most difficult to accomplish. The nature and extent of his information will depend upon the instructions he receives from his commander before going out; and its value will depend on circumstances. The success of the scout in getting information and in communicating such information to his commander may be the means of securing a great victory for his side or perhaps in averting a crushing defeat.

To some boys scouting may appear to be as easy as falling off a log; but believe me, the fellow who thinks this I would not trust to scout for butter for the breakfast table, for as like as not he would fetch you the cheese.

It is obvious that the information a scout is sent out to obtain is just the sort of information the enemy desires to keep secret. The forces of all civilised armies are organised so as to prevent its movements and secrets coming to the knowledge of its enemies. The scout must

therefore have his senses and brains developed to their fullest extent if he is to succeed in his work.

In addition to the usual subjects (i.e., musketry drill, physical culture, signalling, first aid), the Director of Training has set the following course in scouting:—

1. Observation. Know how to observe. Training the eyes and ears.
2. Map reading. How to make a rough sketch.
3. Reports. What to report on, and how to make a report.
4. Use of ground. How to move about and see without being seen.
5. How to judge distance accurately and estimate numbers correctly.
6. Tracking. How to form sound conclusions from signs.
7. Pathfinding. How to guide yourself by compass, by the sun, or by the stars.
8. Self-reliance, confidence, initiative, and resourcefulness.

Before concluding this article I would like to explain that these notes are intended for the training of mounted (cycle) scouts as distinct from "ground" or "company" scouts. These latter usually operate near the force to which they belong. The duties of the company scouts are:—

1. Locate obstacles to the advance.
2. To select the best line of advance.
3. Report the direction in which the enemy is in position or is advancing.
4. Protection.

Any intelligent infantry man can be trained in these duties in a comparatively short time. The more extended reconnaissance and scouting proper are carried out by the highly-trained scout. When I use the term scout in these notes it will be understood that I refer to the "mounted" scout and not the "company" scout.

From week to week I will deal with each of these subjects in the order given above. If there are any points not quite clear to my readers, or if there is any additional information they would like me to add, I would be glad if they would communicate with me to this office.

PADRAIC O'RIAIN.

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