

# THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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## NOTES

Dr. Starkie, administrative head of the Commissioners of National Education, is free to hold any political opinions or prejudices that are congenial to him. He is not entitled to regulate his administrative action by his personal politics. When he attempts to do that, he strikes at liberty and becomes a tyrant. His tyranny may possibly have the support of his fellow-Commissioners. That does not make it less tyrannical. The old West Britons and the new may happen to enjoy a brief spell of rampant domination before the last winter of their ignominy sets in. It really makes no difference whether Dr. Starkie is alone in his tyranny or has a thousand fellow-tyrants, dressed like himself in a little brief authority.

Again and again, when the actions of Dr. Starkie's board have been challenged, Mr. Birrell has declared that he has no authority over the Board, and that they have no responsibility to Dublin Castle. I shall show, nevertheless, that at the privy investigation of Dublin Castle Dr. Starkie has set up himself and his department as a political tribunal to decide questions of politics, finding a verdict ready-made and supplied from Dublin Castle, announcing punishment amounting to complete deprivation of livelihood, and playing the part of executioner as well as the parts of policeman, prosecutor, judge and jury.

I have already dealt with the blackguardly misconduct of Police Inspector Hicks, of Cahirciveen. Let me recall the case to the memory of readers. Some English naval seamen, one of them a proved bad lot, were boozing around Cahirciveen. They went into a public-house there, and used language grossly insulting to Irishmen. One of them said that the place for the Irish was under the feet of the English. Their conduct was resented by an Arklow fisherman named Patrick Kinsella. They set upon Kinsella, knocked him down, and kicked him

on the ground. Then they invoked the help of Inspector Hicks, who prosecuted Kinsella under the Defence of the Realm Act and got him convicted, on the evidence of his assailants, of using language calculated to produce disaffection in the minds of his Majesty's subjects. Hicks insulted every witness called for the defence, asking them such questions as "How much of the German gold did you get for coming here to give evidence?" Kinsella was sent to jail and his assailants went off victorious.

You can imagine with what zeal and zest this promoter of affection for our worthy Government would take up any case in his district that would give him the chance of securing a conviction, even on no better testimony than he produced in the Kinsella case. There are Irish Volunteers in Cahirciveen and in most other parts of Kerry. Mr. Diarmuid O'Connell, National Teacher, had been associated with the Cahirciveen corps. If Inspector Hicks had seen any chance of persuading a paid magistrate to decide that it was unlawful to be an Irish Volunteer, he would gladly have got Mr. O'Connell and others sent to jail. A less valiant course, less valiant even than the brave man and his witnesses took with Patrick Kinsella, was found suitable for dealing with Mr. O'Connell. He was reported to Dublin Castle. The methods of that grim old stronghold are, as we know on authority, a continuity. Mr. T. P. O'Connor told us in advance that Sir Matthew Nathan's Oriental experience would be useful in dealing with Ireland.

Mr. Birrell's subordinate found the proper Oriental method for disposing of Mr. O'Connell. He put his confidence in Dr. Starkie. It is an essential feature of the Castle regime in Ireland to degrade and humiliate every man whom it employs to carry out its political programme. Dr. Starkie was privily engaged to do what the high-minded Hicks could not do, and what the law officers of the Castle could not do, to convict Mr. O'Connell of a crime outside the law and to punish him and his family for that

crime; and Dr. Starkie did not refuse the honour.

Dr. Starkie's department has an elaborate code, printed in a large volume, for governing the conduct of national teachers. Government without law is anarchy. Dr. Starkie's code is eighty years in existence. The Commissioners can amend it as they please. But the code is the law for the conduct of National Teachers. It contains the terms of their contract with the Board. National Teachers are under no obligation to make their conduct agreeable to the variable political opinions of Dr. Starkie or of his colleagues. If Dr. Starkie, on pain of starvation for teachers and their families, exacts obedience to his own political decisions in matters outside of his published code, he becomes an enemy of law and order, "openly hostile to the Government of the country."

Dr. Starkie has been repeatedly challenged to state wherein Mr. O'Connell offended against the code, and against what article, and has failed to meet the challenge. One of his letters makes a plain confession of his failure, and this letter, as shall be seen, was written in consultation with Dublin Castle and partly at the dictation of Dublin Castle. The Castle, therefore, was also conscious of the illegality of the performance, and encouraged Dr. Starkie to be a law to himself.

Dr. Starkie is not one of the King's judges. He is not even one of the Castle's paid magistrates. He is not a policeman, except for the occasion. Yet he is able to arrive at a legal decision, and to sentence his criminal to a terrifying punishment. He pronounced the judgment that Mr. O'Connell, by association, was "openly hostile to the Government of the country and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown." It would be waste of time to ask what are Dr. Starkie's qualifications to pronounce judgment in such grave matters, and what process of investigation and trial enabled him to pronounce judgment. He



held no court, and did not require testimony even of the kind that sufficed to convict Patrick Kinsella. The judgment which he pronounced was supplied, even to the very words, including the new word Recruitment, by the Political Agent in Dublin Castle.

The crime of being an Irish Volunteer, says the voice of Jacob and the hand of Esau, is "much more serious than the mere violation of any rule" in the published code. To deprive pupils of religious instruction would be a violation of Rule 20, but to be an Irish Volunteer is worse. To force a child to hear religious instruction of which the parent or guardian disapproves would violate Rule 21, but to be an Irish Volunteer is worse. To poison the children with bad air or dirt, to keep them shivering without a fire in cold weather, would violate Rule 55, but to be an Irish Volunteer is worse. Under Rule 77, a teacher must not be a lunatic, but to be an Irish Volunteer is much more serious. Rule 94 forbids teachers to neglect the morals of their pupils. It is worse to be an Irish Volunteer.

The crime of being an Irish Volunteer consists, according to Dr. Starkie, in being "openly hostile to the Government of Ireland and to Recruitment for the forces of the Crown." Dr. Starkie is not the author of this judgment. The acts of Starkie, first and last, are written in the book of Nathan. Let me quote from another circular, sent out from another department, but under the same inspiration. A few years ago, one Mr. Norway, a stranger, got a temporary appointment as Secretary to the Irish postal service. He is still here, and, when it comes to politics, his acts likewise are written in the book of Nathan. Here are the words of Nathan through the mouth of Norway: "Sir—The attention of the Postmaster-General has recently been called to the fact that you are a member of the Irish Volunteers under the leadership of a Committee presided over by Mr. John McNeill. The Postmaster-General has also been apprised of the open hostility of this organisation to recruitment in the forces of the Crown and generally to the Government under which you are serving." We have only to compare the words of Norway with the words of Starkie. The Resident Commissioner is less candid than the Post Office instrument, he does not say that he "has been apprised," he adopts the Castle formula for his own. But Mr. Norway's circular is months earlier than Dr. Starkie's letter containing this formula.

The public will now understand that Dr. Starkie has made himself and his Board the political tools of a political department. The Managers and Teachers

of National Schools will understand it. On his own admission, Dr. Starkie has gone outside of the rules of his Code to do this. If the conduct of National Teachers is not regulated by the Code, their liberty is at an end, they are at the mercy of arbitrary decisions, of the political feelings of whatever authority happens to be over them for the time. I ask any Manager and any Teacher, let them be of what politics they please, do they think this sort of administration tolerable?

The correspondence which I publish shows that Dr. Starkie was asked again and again, first by Mr. O'Connell and then by me, to refer his action to any rule or regulation or precedent, and that he failed and admitted his inability to do so. Instead, he relied on a decision which, as we have seen, was supplied ready made from Dublin Castle. Did the Commissioners adopt this Castle decision? If so, in what terms, on what date, upon what evidence or representations? The Irish people have the right to demand and exact this knowledge, though the casual occupants of authority may deny that we have any rights.

I wish to make it clear that if the Commissioners, as men responsible for educational administration and not as politicians, were to decide on educational grounds that National Teachers ought not to associate themselves with any particular class of associations, and if the Commissioners were to embody this decision in a rule and to make the rule known like any other rule, my view is that such a rule ought to be obeyed. If the rule were considered unjust or ill-founded, it should be freely criticised and its repeal or modification should be demanded. But in this case, there was no rule. Dr. Starkie or the Board came to a decision on a point to which no rule could be applied. The decision was of a purely legal character, dealing with two points that come under the cognisance of the law, both of the ordinary law and of the extraordinary law now in force. "Open hostility to the Government of the country" is either lawful or unlawful. When I find the subornment of perjury employed as an instrument of Government, it is my right to be openly hostile to that kind of Government. When I find the Government using a Commissioner of Education as a political tool to do the work which they will not allow their police, the law officers and their paid magistrates to do, I am entitled to be openly hostile to that kind of Government. Mr. Mansfield's right to be openly hostile to the Government as it exhibited itself in the character of certain parts of Dr. Starkie's administration has now been admitted by the Commissioners, and only the "tone" of Mr. Mansfield's pro-

test has been held exceptionable. Against Mr. O'Connell there is no allegation of disrespect or insubordination in all his conduct.

If Mr. O'Connell's conduct was held by Dublin Castle to have partaken of unlawful hostility to the Government of the Castle, on receiving the report of their Inspector Hicks, should have instructed Hicks to take proceedings at law, and to obtain the decision of a competent tribunal, as was done so successfully in the case of Patrick Kinsella. Neither Dr. Starkie nor his Board have the slightest competency—not even the competency of a paid magistrate—to decide upon the legality or illegality of the Irish Volunteers as regards hostility to the Government.

"Open hostility to recruitment for the forces of the Crown" is at all times an offence within the cognisance of the ordinary law, and now the Government has a special law, with the English Privy Council as a special legislature, to enable them to deal with the offence more stringently. Dr. Starkie knows this well, and when he was privily approached and asked to take the place of police prosecutor, paid magistrate, and executioner, his answer should have been, "Why don't you enforce the law at your own command? Why put decisions and sentences into my mouth in matters not provided for in our Code? If you have evidence to show that the Irish Volunteer organisation is openly hostile to what you call recruitment, why not produce it before a legal tribunal?"

The last question, indeed, has somehow arisen to the mind of Dublin Castle, and the conduct of recent cases against Irish Volunteers shows the Castle plan to produce evidence of this kind at all costs. The plot has been punctured by the refusal of the magistrates of Foynes in Mr. Dalton's case to convict on the evidence of four police witnesses, though Mr. Monaghan has been sent to jail in Belfast on similar evidence, and though Dr. Starkie has given his decision on no better evidence than that, like Mr. Norway, he "has been apprised" by that citadel of truth and justice, Dublin Castle. Apprised and appraised!

Having decided the case of the Irish Volunteers in June, Dr. Starkie brought up the case of the National Volunteers for decision on August the 31st. We may wonder if he wore a full-bottomed wig on the occasion. It would appear from the correspondence that the Ulster Volunteers also came up for judgment this time before the new tribunal, and that some sort of a general decision was formulated. So far as I have learned, this decision has not yet been published. Why not? If the decision of August



31st amounts to a general regulation, it should be received as a regulation, and if it is faulty, its appeal or amendment should be demanded. In any event, there must be one law applied all round. The whole public, as well as the Managers and Teachers, are entitled to security against arbitrary action under the influence of political prepossessions. It would be better for Irish parents to send their children to the hedge school once more than to leave them under the control of an authority which, at the dictation of a corrupt and discredited officialdom, sets itself up as a political tribunal for the enslavement of our teachers, and through them of our children.

We had already a Nathanal daily Press controlled by telephone from Dublin Castle. Now we have a Nathanal Board of Education run on the same plan.

Reports have appeared in the Press about a raid for arms in the house of a National Volunteer near Hazelhatch, Co. Kildare. Certain people who speak for a faction have not hesitated to say that the alleged raiders were "Sinn Feiners," meaning Irish Volunteers, though it is admitted that the identity of the raiders remained unknown. Such inquiry as I have been able to make has not justified in any degree the belief that Irish Volunteers were in any way connected with the raid. But, since the accusation has been flung about, I will say that those who sent their housebreakers to raid the O'Rahilly's house are quite capable of getting up similar raids in lonely country places, especially with a view to working up faction. I hope that Irish Volunteers will give no grounds for ill-will between themselves and National Volunteers, and that they will show special appreciation for National Volunteers who have provided themselves with proper arms. By the same token, I trust my readers will rejoice with me to learn, on Mr. Birrell's authority, that "several cases containing rifles and bayonets, consigned from Birmingham and addressed to a member of the House of Commons, care of the National Volunteers, had been delivered in Dublin" some time ago. I hope they are good weapons, and that the men who are entitled to get them will get them and take good care of them. Whoever the M.P. is, he is doing something for his country.

I read in the Dublin "Evening Mail" of November 19 that Mr. Justice Boyd committed a man and his wife to prison for unsatisfactory answering in his court. Mr. Justice Boyd said that "when they undertook to tell the truth they would be discharged." He is quite right in requiring the truth to be told in a court of justice. I shall only add that Mr. Justice Boyd and Dr. Boyd, Q.C., Queen's Advocate, who had principal charge of

the preparation and presentation of the Crown evidence in the Crossmaglen Conspiracy case, are one and the same person.

EOIN MAC NEILL

## Cumann na mBan

In the notes of this week there is a printer's error that may cause serious confusion. The First Aid Class in 2 Dawson Street is at 4 p.m. on Thursday, not Tuesday. We have good tidings from many parts of the country and abroad since our last issue. The meeting in Tullamore, which was announced last week, came off on the 11th inst., and was very successful. Miss Plunkett addressed about thirty women, who seemed to be keen on doing their part beside the Volunteers of Tullamore. Mrs. P. Adams very kindly presided at the meeting. It is hoped to start a First Aid Class there soon.

We wish to give a word of praise to the able branch at Athenry. The effective manner in which they helped out the Volunteer meeting, recently held there, speaks volumes for the competency of their organisation.

The Glasgow Branch, we are glad to say, is in no way lacking in enthusiasm and determination of our branches at home. The Sec. writes that the girls meet twice a week for drill and signalling. Some of the members attend evening classes under the School Board for First Aid, and they have opportunities for rifle practice. A Ceilidh Mor is being got up the first Friday after New Year to aid the Irish Volunteers.

The Limerick Branch held the first dance of the season on November 6th. It was an extremely successful event. There were about sixty couples present. A pleasing feature of the ballroom was the picturesque effect lent by the number of ladies who wore Irish costume. The enjoyment and mirth begotten of "good conscience" and sympathy of temperament infected the atmosphere. The proceeds (£9 or £10) are to go to the Defence of Ireland Fund.

The Central Branch, Dublin, intend to hold a concert on a large scale early in December. Like everything else this vigorous branch handles, it will be a success. They have already secured some of the best artistes, and if people wish to have their patriotic emotions aroused this will doubtlessly be a rare feast. After the concert there will be a short dance, which will give everyone the opportunity of that communion of spirit which one feels such need for under the influence of soul-stirring music and song. Full particulars will be issued very soon.

Some valuable notes of training are unavoidably held over till next week.

## Nathanal Education.

The subjoined correspondence is worthy of the closest and most careful reading:—

Office of National Education,  
Marlborough Street,  
Dublin, 18th June, 1915.  
Filemore National School, Co. Kerry.  
Roll No. 12701.

REVEREND SIR—I am directed to inform you that it has been reported to the Commissioners of National Education that Mr. Jeremiah O'Connell, teacher of the above-named school, has been actively engaged during the past six months in drilling and organising a branch at Cahirciveen of a body known as the Irish Volunteers, and I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish for the consideration of the Commissioners a statement from the teacher regarding his alleged connection with this organisation, together with your own observations thereon.—I am, Reverend Sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. DILWORTH,  
Very Rev. P. Canon Browne, P.P., V.F.,  
Cahirciveen.

Filemore Boys' School,  
Cahirciveen, 24/6/1915.

REVEREND SIR—In the communication which you have received from the Commissioners of National Education relative to my connection with the Irish Volunteers, they state that they have been informed (1) that I have been actively engaged during the past six months in organising at Cahirciveen a branch of a body known as the Irish Volunteers, (2) that I have been actively engaged during the same period in drilling this body.

The allegation that I have been engaged during the past six months in organising at Cahirciveen a branch of the Irish Volunteers I characterise as an absolute falsehood. The existing Company of Irish Volunteers in Cahirciveen was organised more than eighteen months ago, since when no other corps of Irish Volunteers was organised in Cahirciveen; consequently I could not have been "actively engaged during the past six months in organising at Cahirciveen a branch of the Irish Volunteers."

Ever since the introduction of physical culture into the curriculum of Irish National Schools, seeing the beneficial effects of the training upon the general health and bearing of the children, and regretting the early age at which it had perforce to cease, and the wasted efforts spent in training children who in a few years would relapse into slovenly habits again, I was always keenly anxious to extend the benefits of this training to the grown boys and young men. The hygienic results would be enormously beneficial. Besides this, as the greater number of the young men from this district have perforce to go abroad to seek employment, I saw what a strong recommendation it would be to them to present a smart, active, alert and well-set-up appearance. For these reasons I have always been a strong advocate of military training for young men.

The Volunteer movement presented the opportunity of putting my ideas into practice; and having first satisfied myself that there was nothing contrary to the letter or the spirit of the Rules of the Commissioners in doing out of school what I was doing in it—viz., drilling boys—I joined the Irish Volunteers.

You, rev. sir, are aware that I have been connected with the Irish Volunteers for the past eighteen months; and that I have fre-

(Continued on page 6.)





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## The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1915.

## Headquarters Bulletin

Tionól do b'í ag Comhairle Shóta Féinne  
fáil ina nDúnporc trádhóna D. Céadoin  
an 17ú Lá de'n mhí ro, an tOíche Eoin Mac  
Neill, Uachtarán, agus ina dhiaidh sin an  
Ceann Ceta Pádraic Mac Piarais, ina  
cataoipeleac oíche.

Do phríot na gnáth-tuairgseála ar cónraithe  
Opruighe Dúnporuighe, Oileanna, Armála,  
Feara, agus Aigéid, agus do rochtuigeas  
ceirteanna do bain leo.

Do phríot rseála ó timthriob agus ó  
máinteoirib acá ag obair i gConnacaeib  
áta Cliaic, Cille Dara, Ceataraíla, Tiob-  
raio áran, Luimnig, Corcaige, na Sallime,  
agus an Cábáin.

Tuagad cunnatar ar an mór-fluáigeas  
do b'í ag Sluaig na Sallime i mbéal áta  
an Ríog D. Dornnais an 14ú Lá, mar ar

labair Ceann Ceta Ua Rataille i n-ainm  
na Comhairle agus a lán de cléir agus de  
muinntir an tairtair.

Do phríot cunnatar fheirín ar an t-ionól do  
b'í ag Coirce Connacae Cille Dara i Nár na  
Ríog D. Dornnais an 14ú Lá, ar a ríob  
teactairí ó n-a lán bailte móir i Muig Life.

Do hac-toagad an lear-Ceann Ceta Seán  
Mac Giobáin cum fheartair ar obair an  
Dúnporuighe, ar molaí na Duiríne Ceannuir.  
Do rinnead roinnt oiriseac eile d'ainm-  
nuagad.

Do tagrad do cléir na Coimhriobála  
airir agus do rásad fá'n mburóin Ceannuir  
cóm do ceapad agus do molaí do'n  
Comhairle cum curta go héifeactamh ina  
coinne.

Dúnporc na Féinne,

Át Cliaic, 17 Sam, 1915.

[TRANSLATION.]

The Central Executive of the Irish  
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-  
nesday evening, 17th inst., Professor  
Eoin Mac Neill, President, and subse-  
quently Commandant P. H. Pearse, in  
the chair.

The usual reports on the departments  
of Organising, Recruiting, Training,  
Arming, Communications, and Finance  
were received, and matters arising out of  
them dealt with.

Reports were received from organisers  
and organising teachers operating in Cos.  
Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, Tipperary,  
Limerick, Cork, Galway, and Cavan.

The great demonstration organised by  
the Galway Brigade at Athenry on Sun-  
day, the 14th inst., was reported on.  
Commandant The O'Rahilly represented  
Headquarters on the occasion, and ad-  
dresses were delivered by him and by a  
number of representative clergymen and  
other public men in the county.

A report was received as to the first  
meeting of the new Kildare County  
Board in Naas on the same day, at which  
the Companies in most of the important  
centres in Moy Liffey were represented.

The renomination by the General Staff  
of Vice-Commandant John Fitzgibbon as  
Chief of Recruiting was sanctioned.  
Other appointments were also ratified.

The question of conscription was again  
referred to, and the General Staff was  
asked to submit a plan of resistance to be  
followed by Irish Volunteers in the event  
of any attempt to conscript them.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,  
Dublin, 17th Nov., 1915.

## ainmnighe.

An Dúinead Ceannuir.

An Captaon D. Ó Conaill, Ceann an  
Infirícta, cum beir ina Ceann Ceta.

An tOgláic P. Ó Slata, Ceann na  
hInnealltóiríeacá, cum beir ina Captaon.  
Míre,

Pádraic Mac Piarais,  
Ceann Ceta,

Riaraide an Opruighe.

Dúnporc na Féinne,

Át Cliaic, 17 Sam, 1915.

## NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

Sluaig na Sallime.

Tá Sluaig na Sallime go háluinn. Is  
fíor go brúil fluáige eile acá oíche eile  
mar leo nó b'féidir níor fearr acá níl a  
ránuagad ar fearamhlac, ar calmacá, na  
ar ppiopar. Níor bain rcaonad doib an  
fáir do b'í Liam Ó Maoil íopa i bpiopar  
acá ag obair leo i gcomhairle, agus  
ionganac an fáilte do cuipearar pon  
an Dornnais ro do caitead. Clóirfeas  
fearaib an tairtair an cupar ro.

## maig life.

Tá comhlacá beaga maraí cait i  
bpiopar i Muig Life, acá tá ragaí eagla  
fupmóir na n-uaine na leigean doib  
luige irceac leo. Ní gáad eagla do beir  
ar éinne. An dáit do b'í Nár na Ríog D.  
Dornnais ro caitte, tá fáil agann Sa  
mbortócarí pi an muinntir fuan-te, agus  
go mbéir doib na n-éaracacá ag  
sluaireact cor ar coir linn feara.

## SLUAIG CORCAIGE.

Ní ror do Sluaig Corcaige. Is mór  
buitéac an obair acá beanta acá le  
teicibíadain anuar. Soimio air 7 air  
eile a n-oifisí ar a n-óiréact agus ar  
nóiréact. Tuagad san a bultéac do  
teicéirib agann.

## THE GALWAY BRIGADE.

Courage, determination, and disci-  
pline were the characteristics of the great  
rally of Irish Volunteers held at Athenry  
on Sunday week last, the 14th inst. The  
Brigade possesses some of the finest fight-  
ing material in Ireland. "What type of  
men were they?" was asked at the last  
meeting of the Executive. "Six footers,"  
was the reply. It may be said in  
one sentence that all the farmers' sons  
and all the agricultural labourers of Co.  
Galway stand with the Irish Volunteers.  
The Brigade has pursued an excellent  
course of training well adapted to its  
natural background of close stone-wall  
intersected country. The spirit of the  
men is so fine now that the increased  
facilities for regular training at their  
disposal is bound to be availed of will-  
ingly and to good purpose.

## ORGANISING KILDARE.

The new County Board meeting at  
Naas on the 14th, and representative of  
Volunteer Companies in Naas, Maynooth,  
Kilcock, Leixlip, Athgarvan, Kill, Pro-  
per, and Newbridge (Clane and Kil-  
dare town also reporting), has taken in  
hand the drawing together of the Moy  
Liffey Companies. Lord Edward's  
County may in time have its Brigade, but  
much hard work, the filling out of small  
units and the speeding up of things  
generally, will have to be accomplished  
before that point is in sight. The Com-  
panies, undeterred by the fact that their  
numbers are comparatively small, must  
give themselves plenty of field training.  
Combined training between neighbouring  
Companies should be arranged for as  
often as possible, and once a month or so  
several Companies should combine in a  
rally at some central point. The County  
Board may be trusted to keep things  
moving and to direct activities to the  
right channels.



# THE AUXILIARY.

One of the most encouraging things about the Irish Volunteers Auxiliary is the fact that Irish priests are joining it in large and increasing numbers. On the other hand, many good friends of ours whom we know to be with us have not yet formally enrolled themselves. They should realise how important it is that we should have the names of all our friends and that we should know where to find them. By far the best way for friends who cannot drill with us to make the necessary connection is by joining the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary, too, if properly supported, would be a most valuable financial backing to us. Every reader of the IRISH VOLUNTEER who is not, and cannot, be in the ranks should at least be in the Auxiliary. A postcard to the General Secretary will bring a copy of the rules and conditions by return.

## "FROM A HERMITAGE."

A new edition of Mr. P. H. Pearse's "From a Hermitage" has just been issued. The pamphlet has been out of print for some months past, the original edition having been sold out almost immediately on publication. Order from Whelan and Son. The price is 2d., by post 2½d. Quantities of a dozen and upwards post free.

## MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODS.

The attention of our readers is directed to the advertisement in this issue of the lecture on the above subject to be delivered by Rev. D. Toal, C.C., Downpatrick. Father Toal has evolved, perfected and proved the efficiency of the new methods which he will explain to Dublin teachers on Tuesday next.

## THE SIEGE OF LIMERICK.

On this evening (Thursday), to-morrow (Friday), and Sunday, the Colmcille Dramatic Society will produce the fine historical play, "O'Donnell's Cross," in the Colmcille Hall, 5 Blackhall Street. The play deals with the siege of Limerick and Sarsfield's ride to capture the guns. The performance commences each evening at 8 o'clock, and the price of admission is only 6d. and 1s. Appropriate songs and recitations will be given each evening by well-known Irish-Ireland artistes.

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# A MILITARY CAUSERIE

## MORE BLOOD—THE PHILOSOPHY OF CANNON-FODDER.

"Now, if I catches one of you needlessly exposing of 'isself, I'll murder 'im." Thus spoke an English sergeant to his section preparatory to leading it into the trenches.

This anecdote is characteristic of modern warfare. Never before were such precautions taken against losses of stray lives; never before was blood poured out so lavishly when circumstances required it. Weeks are spent in the trenches when the only casualties are caused by an occasional head rashly exposing itself. Then does the good sergeant rage and swear. The following day a position has to be attacked, and he sees thousands fall without being particularly disturbed. For it is better to lose a thousand lives to achieve an object than to let one life be wasted. The reason why it is now possible to pay so heavily for success is that most of the lives which in former times were wasted are now saved. The use of cover, the care of the wounded, efficient sanitation, have enormously reduced the ordinary casualty list, and the lives thus hoarded up can be spent recklessly on a definite object.

In one of the camps I was exercising the men in the attack, using a stone wall as the objective. When the men were resting from their labours at the foot of the wall one of them asked me how that formidable obstacle could be taken if it had men behind it. I answered that if it were absolutely necessary to take it and there were no other means of doing it, it would have to be carried by mere weight of numbers by infantry. "But look at the height of it. How could anyone get up that with an enemy behind it?" "Of course the first couple of lines wouldn't manage it, but the others could mount on their bodies." General consternation. I am looked upon as Napoleon is looked upon by humanitarian historians. To him victory was everything, they say, and the lives of his men nothing.

Of course victory was everything. Once you decide to fight victory must be everything, and men's lives must naturally come second to it. In action, if a general begins to think of his men as anything else than cannon-fodder he is lost. However expensive a victory may be, defeat will be more expensive still. You must either fight to win or not fight at all.

What I asked Volunteers to do was not something new. It was done by the French in their attack on Hougomont at the Battle of Waterloo. There the

French, having been repeatedly repulsed from the walls of the farm, left such heaps of slain behind that in the final assault they were able to fire over the wall at the defenders within by standing on the bodies. Horrible slaughter, but it would have been worth it had Hougomont been taken. And this was in the days before the Red Cross made any compensatory saving among the wounded. If you want a thing badly enough it's no use standing looking at it. You must go for it. So reasoned Wellington when he stormed Badajos with a loss of four thousand men; so reasoned the Japanese when they saw twenty-five thousand men fall before Metre Hill was taken; so reasoned the Bulgars when they rushed impregnable Adrianople. Bulgaria has a smaller population than Ireland, yet she willing paid seven thousand lives as a price for one city.

The bloody nature of hedge-fighting, as shown in the manoeuvres at Coolock, has proved an eye-opener to Volunteers. Some think the massed rushes, as exemplified by the Second Battalion, too costly a way of winning. "Can we afford such losses?" I hear people ask. I should like to go into this question in some detail, but it is impossible to give more than a brief answer to it here.

In the first place, the method is not so bloody as might be supposed. Owing to the winding nature of our roads the rush under fire is short. The loss just before the moment of impact would be heavy, but it would probably be less than the accumulated losses suffered in cross-country movements, which themselves culminate necessarily in a massed rush with the bayonet. If anything, then, hedge-fighting in the long run turns out to be less bloody.

This, however, is by the way. What we really must cultivate is a frame of mind that will face the expenditure of cannon-fodder philosophically. Look at it this way. Before you question can you afford to win, ask yourself can you afford to be beaten. You know very well you can't. Therefore, you must win, whatever the price. If you consider the price of victory too high, don't fight.

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## NATHANAL EDUCATION.

(Continued from page 3.)

quently during that time publicly drilled the Volunteers.

If in so doing I have infringed any rule of the Commissioners, I should be obliged if you would kindly ascertain from the Education Office **what particular Rule I have violated and wherein exactly I have done so.**—I am, rev. sir, your humble servant,

JEREMIAH O'CONNELL.

Very Rev. P. Canon, Browne, P.P., V.F.,  
Cahiriveen.

Note particularly the request made in the last paragraph of Mr. O'Connell's letter, and the failure of Dr. Starkie to make any reply to it.

Office of National Education,  
Marlborough Street, Dublin.  
12701. Filemore Boys' N.S., Co. Kerry,

9th July, 1915.

SIR—Adverting to the communication addressed to the manager of the above-named school in reference to the report that you had been actively engaged during the past six months in drilling and organising a branch at Cahirciveen of a body known as the Irish Volunteers, I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to inform you that they had under consideration at their meeting on the 6th inst. your statement on the subject which the manager forwarded in reply, in which you deny that you were engaged in organising a branch of the Irish Volunteers as alleged, but admit that you took part in the drilling of the members of that body, and I am to acquaint you that **the Commissioners ordered that no further payments of salary be made to you until you shall have satisfied them that you have ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers.**—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

N. W. BONAPARTE WYSE.

Mr. Jeremiah O'Connell  
Filemore B.N.S.,  
Cahiriveen, Co. Kerry.

Filemore Boys' School,  
Cahiriveen, July 10th, 1915.

REVEREND SIR—I am in receipt of a communication from the Commissioners of National Education intimating to me that they had ordered that no further payments of salary be made to me until I had satisfied them that I had ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers.

I should wish to know what precise form this assurance is to take, and how exactly I am to satisfy the Commissioners that I have ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers.

**The Commissioners have ignored my request for information as to the precise rule of the Board which I have infringed** in taking part in Volunteer drills. You, rev. sir, quarter after quarter for the past eighteen months, in signing the quarterly returns of my school, have replied in the affirmative to the question—**"Have the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners been observed?"** thereby showing that **you were unaware that I was violating any such rule.** In justice to you, therefore, and in justice to me, I think that **the Commissioners should inform you which particular rule I have broken.**

The Commissioners could not fail to be aware of the fact for the past eighteen months that teachers generally throughout the country were taking an active and prominent part in the Volunteer movement. From the class journals, from the public Press, and from many other sources this information was conveyed. Why, then, if teachers were overstepping the prescribed limits regulating their conduct, was there not a general warning issued by the Com-

missioners when the fact came to their knowledge.—I am, rev. sir, your humble servant,  
JEREMIAH O'CONNELL.

Very Rev. P. Canon, Browne, P.P., V.F.,  
Cahiriveen.

Office of National Education,  
Marlborough Street, Dublin.  
Co. Kerry. 12701—Filemore B. N. S.,  
27th July, 1915.

REVEREND SIR—I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to refer to your letter of the 18th inst., regarding Mr. Jeremiah O'Connell, teacher of the above-named school, in which you suggest that payment of salary for the past quarter should be allowed, and that the threat of withdrawal should have regard to the future and not to the past. I am to refer also to the further statement from Mr. O'Connell and to his request for information as to the precise rule of the Board which he has infringed.

In reply I am directed to point out that the Commissioners have not withdrawn salary from Mr. O'Connell, but have ordered that payments to him be deferred until he has satisfied them that he has ceased all connection with the Irish Volunteers. The Commissioners regard his action in taking part in the work of an **organisation which is openly hostile to the Government of Ireland, and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown** as most improper and unbecoming to a National Teacher and as **very much more serious than a mere violation of any rule of their code**, and they direct me to advise you, that unless they receive within the next few days, a statement from Mr. O'Connell, to the truth of which you as his manager are prepared to testify, that he has ceased all connection with these Volunteers, they will proceed to consider the question of his **summary dismissal** from their service.—I am, reverend sir, your obedient servant,

N. W. BONAPARTE WYSE, Secretary.

Very Rev. P. Canon, Browne, P.P., V.F.,  
Cahiriveen.

Filemore B.N.S.,  
Cahiriveen, July 31st, 1915.

To

The Secretaries to the Commissioners of  
National Education.

GENTLEMEN—Before deciding to comply with the order of the Commissioners of National Education requiring me to sever my connection with the Irish Volunteer organisation, I very respectfully beg to ask is it permissible for me to join the National Volunteers under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond.—I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JEREMIAH O'CONNELL.

Office of National Education,  
Dublin, August 13th, 1915.  
Co. Kerry. Roll No. 12701. School—  
Filemore B.

REVEREND SIR—With reference to your letter of the 1st inst., in the case of Mr. Jeremiah O'Connell, teacher of above-named school, I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to refer to the concluding paragraph of the official letter of the 27th ult., and to inform you that an immediate reply is awaited to that communication.

I am to add in regard to the inquiry made in the letter of Mr. O'Connell, which was forwarded with your letter, that **the question whether a teacher may be permitted to join the National Volunteers under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond has yet to be decided by the Commissioners.**—I am, reverend sir, your obedient servant,

N. W. BONAPARTE WYSE.

Very Rev. P. Canon Browne, P.P., V.F.,  
Cahiriveen.

To

Filemore Boys' School,  
Cahiriveen, August 20th, 1915.  
The Secretaries to the Commissioners of  
National Education.

GENTLEMEN—Adverting to your letter of the 27th ult., to the Very Reverend P. Canon Browne, relative to my connection with the Irish Volunteers. I note that **the Commissioners admit that I have broken no rule of their code** in becoming a member of that body, but state that the Irish Volunteer organisation is openly hostile to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown.

I very respectfully beg to point out that in making that statement the Commissioners have been entirely misled.

The aim and object of the Irish Volunteer organisation is to "secure and maintain the rights and privileges common to all Irishmen." This does not imply any hostility, open or secret, to the Government of Ireland unless it is the intention of the Government to invade and destroy the rights of the people of this country.

Mr. Tennant from his place in Parliament a few weeks ago declared that the Irish Volunteer organisation is a perfectly legitimate one. Obviously, then, the organisation is not endeavouring to prejudice or prevent recruiting; as otherwise under the existing state of the law it could not possibly be legitimate.

May I very respectfully ask to be informed what act or acts of hostility has the Irish Volunteer organisation committed against the Government of Ireland, and what instances are on record of its efforts to do anything inimical to recruiting for the forces of the Crown. Personally, I know of none such, nor have I heard or read of any.

I enclose herewith copy of "Kerryman" newspaper of 27th January, 1914, containing a report of a meeting held in Cahiriveen at which the Irish Volunteers were first started here. A perusal of the remarks made at that meeting will not disclose any hostility to recruitment for the forces of the Crown, nor to the Government of Ireland. Quite the contrary; and as a matter of fact I can supply the names of thirty members of the Cahiriveen Company of Irish Volunteers who have enlisted in the army since the outbreak of war.

The Commissioners in their letter of the 13th inst., state that they have not forbidden membership of the National Volunteers. Now, as far as the ordinary layman can see, the aims and objects of both the national Volunteers and the Irish Volunteers are exactly identical; the only difference observable is the difference of leadership. It is difficult to see why membership of one body is prohibited while membership of the other is not forbidden.

I have personal knowledge of several teachers in the North of Ireland who are members of the Ulster Volunteers, and I am informed that scores of teachers are members of that organisation, but I have not learned that any of them were penalised, when the members of that body, acting under instructions from their headquarters, were committing acts of lawlessness and hostility against the Government, and when their leaders were raging through the province threatening rebellion, civil war, and other dire and dreadful things.

I deny absolutely that the Irish Volunteer organisation is hostile to the Government of Ireland and to recruitment for the forces of the Crown. I am well aware, of course, that false rumours to that effect have been industriously circulated, and that such a belief has been maliciously fostered and encouraged, but I feel confident that a body of high-minded and honourable gentlemen will not, without some better grounds to go on, take such a drastic course as to deprive me of my livelihood because I am



a member of an organisation which a responsible Minister of the Crown has declared is perfectly legitimate.

I am not conscious of having done anything wrong in joining the Irish Volunteers any more than in becoming a member of the Gaelic League or any kindred organisation; and if the Commissioners of National Education should decide to dismiss me from their service they shall have committed an act of harsh and cruel injustice to me and to my family.—I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JEREMIAH O'CONNELL.

(To be continued next week.)

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