

WAR NEWS

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HOW TOMAS McCURTAIN HAS BEEN PERSECUTED.

The following statement has been sent us by Tomas MacCurtain, who is at present on hunger-strike in Mountjoy Jail - it speaks for itself.

"Early in September 1935 our house was raided subsequent to an armed attack having been made on me while I was going home a few nights previously. On two occasions during this month shots were fired in my direction, at least one of the bullets came within three feet of where I was lying. On this occasion the house was searched by Segts. Noonan, Barrett and Guard Roche, (deceased).

On the night of Sept. 20th, 1935, the house was again searched by police while I was detained in the Bridewell. During this raid Sergeant Conroy used insulting and abusive language to my mother.

On the night that Admiral Somerville was shot in Skibbereen, detectives raided my house between 2 and 4 a.m. and questioned me about my movements.

About a fortnight later detectives raided my house on the night that Egan, the spy, was shot in Dungarvan.

On the 29th April, 1936, I was arrested in the course of a "round-up" and sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment. I was placed in solitary confinement in Arbour Hill Prison. Subsequent to a disturbance which occurred after Mass. one Sunday, I was put on bread and water. I refused to accept this treatment and went on hunger-strike. I was released on the 8th August, 1936 after 31 days' fast. After my release I was constantly under police observation and was almost permanently followed by detectives. On one night in the month of May, 1937, while a policeman was trailing me, the "Irish Times" office was smashed up. I was arrested the following morning and held for three days. The night I was released I went to a boxing contest in the City Hall. I bought the ticket at the door from Det. Sergt. James Moore. Throughout the contests I sat near D.O. Kennedy who knew me well, and who was one of the men who arrested me three days before. While the Contest was in progress and while I was in the hall, in plain view of the C.I.D., shots were fired into Union Quay Barracks.

Our house was raided that night and I was requested to give an account of my movements. D.O. Kennedy was on the raid and admitted that he knew I was at the boxing, but he wanted me to give an account of my movements all the same.

I was due to give an Oration in Dundalk on Easter Sunday, 1937, but while I was waiting for the 'Bus a tender full of police and a squad car of detectives attempted to arrest me. Some of the detectives including Det. Sergt. Moore drew revolvers and called on me to halt. I was some distance away from them by this time -- and going well!! I heard a sound like two revolver shots but could not be sure.

On three occasions during the winter 1936-7, I was arrested on arrival in Cork from Dublin and taken to the barracks, stripped and my clothes searched.

On the 28th Oct. 1938, a detective was beaten and disarmed 5 miles outside Cork City. Within two hours I was arrested and spent three months awaiting trial in Cork Jail. I was tried in the Circuit Court in Jan. 1939. In evidence Det. Sergt. Moore admitted that no matter what happened of a political nature, I was questioned. The Jury found a verdict of "Not Guilty" without retiring.

On the night the black-leg was wounded in Skibbereen, our house was raided and I was asked to account for my movements.

On the morning of the 16th Sept. police raided our house at 5 a.m. and remained until after 7 a.m. They had come to arrest me but I was not at home. I was on the run from then until the prisoners were released in Dec, when I returned home. On the 2nd Jan. I decided that I would not stay at home any longer as I expected to be again arrested. As a result of an appointment which got mixed up, I was obliged to go into Patrick Street, on 3rd of Jan. It was while there that the C.I.D. arrived on the scene with the consequences of which you are already aware.

(Signed) Tomas MacCurtain.

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LONDON EXPLOSION.

Portions of a concrete wall were blown over 60 feet, when a bomb exploded in Park Lane, London, on Wed. 6th inst. The bomb had been placed in a cement flower box, outside the Westminster Branch Bank at Grosvenor House. All the Bank windows were blown out and several windows in the adjoining Grosvenor Hotel were shattered by the explosion.

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DERRY CINEMAS.

The Opera House, Derry, one of the Cinemas which ignored the warning concerning the showing of British News Reels etc., was burned to the ground on Sunday last. Despite the fact that extraordinary police precautions have been taken - all Cinemas in Derry being guarded night and day by police - this is the sixth Cinema to have suffered during the past three weeks.

When the Fire Brigade arrived at the blazing Opera House on Sunday morning, they found themselves unable to save the building. After several hours the fire was finally subdued, but all that remained of the Opera House were charred walls and twisted girders.

On Saturday, 9th inst, police are stated to have found an incendiary bomb on the roof of the Midland Cinema, which was damaged in an Explosion a fortnight ago.

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TORPEDO BOAT RAIDED.

The new British "Free State" Torpedo boat M.I. arrived in Dun Laoghaire on Saturday evening March 9th. Some hours later - early Sunday morning - three men in a small rowing boat came alongside and succeeded in boarding the vessel. They were attacked by a Sentry, whom it was necessary to throw into the sea. Having rid themselves of the unwelcome attentions of the Sentry, the three men proceeded to smash various pieces of delicate machinery, thereby putting the boat out of commission for some time.

When word of the raid reached Dublin, squads of detectives were sent out to trace the raiders. Motor cars were stopped and searched, occupants questioned, but no clue could be found. The "Government Information Bureau", in an effort to deny the failure of the new "Navy" to prevent the raid, later issued a statement that the whole incident was of "no importance".

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HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD.WEAR AN EASTER LILY.JOIN THE I. R. A."NEWS REVIEW"

Tells embarrassing truth

Fianna Fail orders its suppression

On Thurs, 7th inst. all available copies of Britain's "News Review" were seized by "Free State" police. The reason was that "News Review" had let the cat out of the bag concerning two points, which Fianna Fail must keep secret at all costs. No.1. error being about Sir John Maffey, and No.2. - The new Torpedo Boats.

Here is an extract from "News Review" - having read it you will easily see the necessity for its suppression by His Majesty's Fianna Fail Ministers:-

"Keenly watching the peace moves in Dublin, transmitting to Downing Street the reports and denials, was Sir John Maffey, the U.K's mysteriously-styled and recently-appointed 'representative'. Though not classed as a diplomat, Sir John has all the privileges of one - a seat in the Hall gallery, a diplomat's registration for his motor car and so on.

He was hurriedly sent to Dublin, when it was apparent Germany intended to keep a Minister and diplomatic staff on the far side of Britain. Presumably Sir John was warned to keep a weather eye open for many possibilities: German propaganda, U-Boats basing and re-fuelling on the wild Irish coast. This has now been rendered near-impossible by Eire's purchase at Winston Churchill's suggestion, of British-made torpedo boats and coastal patrol vessels".

So Sir John's job here is to watch, spy and see that no anti-British activities take place here. And the torpedo boats bought on Winston Churchill's orders are to prevent the enemies of England from finding sanctuary in Ireland or in her territorial waters.

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THINGS THE NEWSPAPERS DON'T PRINT.

That Mr. de Valera himself was on a prison strike for exactly the same principle as that for which men of the I.R.A. are now hunger-striking in Mountjoy and Arbour Hill Prisons.

That Tom Grogan was carried into court on a stretcher with his head heavily bandaged. He appeared to be in an almost unconscious condition. This happened last Friday week, his 14th day on hunger-strike.

That most of the injuries inflicted on prisoners in Mountjoy, were received after the barricade had fallen, when resistance was at an end, "Civic" Guards got their chance to kick and beat the prisoners.

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## NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY

A group of ex-I.R.A. Officers started what they call "A Progressive Republican Movement" at a Conference in the Mansion House on Sat. the 2nd March. By a fluke I got into that Conference and here is a complete report of the proceedings.

The Secretary to the Conference, Mr. Tom O'Rourke, a schoolteacher, submitted a programme advocating a re-organisation of the "Free State" Army, compulsory military service, reforms in the financial system, use of the radio for anti-partition propaganda, schemes to end unemployment, reform of the educational system, the outline of a scheme to gaelicise the country and the formal declaration of a Republic, when this programme was worked out.

It became evident from the very beginning that what was being formed was not a progressive Republican Movement but a new bogus Republican Party, which would proceed on the lines of Fianna Fail to gull Republicans for another period of years if this Party should be fortunate enough to get support from people who are disgusted with the Fianna Fail betrayal. After the Chairman, Mr. Sean Fitzpatrick, had read a letter from Brian O'Higgins, pointing out that there was no need to establish a Republic but that the great need was to help the existing Republican Government to function freely, a delegate, Brian Martin, suggested that the Conference should re-affirm its allegiance to the existing Republic. His suggestion was turned down.

When the Chairman announced that the new Movement would make a demand to the British Government for the withdrawal of British Forces from the Six Counties after it had attained office, it was pointed out that the I.R.A. had made this demand on the 12th January 1939, and that the demand was followed up by military action against Britain. The Conference was asked to support such action - it refused. When Sean Dowling proposed that a free discussion as to the new Movement's attitude to the I.R.A. should take place, a deaf ear was turned to his proposal by the Chairman. In the hall a body of young men loudly applauded the reading of Mr. Brian O'Higgins' letter. At that period of the proceedings the Chairman asked the Press to leave. Several delegates left the Conference because of its refusal to support the Army and Government of the Republic.

It is now evident that a new bogus "Free State" Party, claiming to be Republican, has been formed. All Republicans should be wary of having anything to do with this Organisation. Its purpose is to draw another red herring across the track of Republican Ireland. The very names of the men associated with it should be enough. J.J. Walshe, Roger McCurley and Gen. O'Duffy, were part of the Murder Gang of 1922. The rest are non-descript disgruntled Fianna Fail Politicians, who see in the present position an opportunity of gaining power for themselves.

We of the I.R.A. would point out to the Irish people, that nothing but National shame, economic misery and moral degradation has come through Association with the "Free State" Parliament. Nothing good can ever come from that institution - it was born in treachery and deceit. It maintained itself by murder and coercion. It is a puppet Parliament of England and must be swept aside. We call upon the people to turn away from that Parliament and to help us in the fight we have undertaken to enthrone the living Republic. The Republic is not dead and it will not die. The arms and the men of the I.R.A. are there to defend it. England is again at war, we must seize the opportunity. Our generation will complete the work of Pearse, Connolly and Cathal Brugha. Our slogan is NO COMPROMISE with the Empire or the Empire's offspring - the Irish "Free State".

Young men and young women of Ireland! Have nothing to do with the new "Free State" Party. Remember Barnes and McCormick - they died for you. Our way to the Republic is theirs. We do not say, on to the Republic but LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC which we have sworn to defend with our lives.

JOIN US AND HELP US.

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1913 - - 1940

Jack Plunkett, joined the I.R.A. in 1913; he is a brother of the 1916 leader, Joseph Mary Plunkett, poet and philosopher, who was executed in 1916. Jack was tried on March 1st, 1940, by a Military Court for attempting to set up the Republic for which his brother gave his life. In 1916, Jack Plunkett was condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for 10 years. Ever since that time he has been an active I.R.A. man.

He worked under Rory O'Connor, Dick McKee and Peadar Clancy, he was in the Four Courts in 1922. Jailed, he took part in the hunger-strike protests then; he is now on hunger-strike against criminal treatment given to his fellow prisoners.

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## AN CUIRPÉIS IAD SAIBDIÚIRÍ SEO NA POBLACHTA?

Is aitheasc, náireac an íde atá 'á tabairt ar príosúnaí? 1  
 ZCARCAIR B'IL'Á' CLIAZ PÉ LÁTAIR. Cuiréad béirt - Ó UOCHARTAIŞ AGUS  
 O. OUBIR - A DAORAD CUN CÚIG MBLIAN ISTEAŞ IMEASS CUIRPÉAC AGUS  
 TÁ MEAS CUIRPÉIS ORCA AG LUET A NDAORTA. N'féadfao na príosúnaí  
 eile bruid leis sin agus cuadar ar stailc ocrais. An lá a b'í  
 ceapaithe cun a dtriail bíodar breóide, las, - buailead iad, caitead  
 uisge oria aet zós sé lá fada ó 150 póilín an lám uactair b'fagáil  
 ar sé picead laoc a b'í tréis seact lá a baiteam san greim bíó!

An cuirpéis iad saibdiúirí seo na poblaceta? Agus má 'sead, cad  
 é 'n cuirpéis atá déanta aca? 'Sé 'n "coir" atá 'á déanta aca go  
 bfuilid a leanú ar an dtroid atá 'á déanta ag Saedeaiaib le h-  
 zcabad bliain. Cuigib go maic, pé mar a cuig tone agus Emmet agus  
 pádrais Mac Piarais ná h-eisteoócaib Sasanna le h-aon rub aet an gunna;  
 gur beag is fú geallamhaic ná Connartaí an tSasannaí ag cuigib  
 leis ná beid aon tsuaimneas sa tír seo go mbeid a saoirse aice.  
 Má's coir é b'ídeall a déanta ar barr-samail uasal a cur i  
 geric, cuirpéis 'sead na pír seo; aet má's cuirpéis iad, cuirpéis  
 ab'ead tone, agus Emmet, pádrais Mac Piarais agus zac aon laoc de  
 laocrao Saedea. Duibratas leis tré gur cuirpéis iad san. Can  
 é meas Saedea inbui ar luet a gcáinte?

### HUNGER-STRIKERS JAILED.

Two of the sixteen men arrested recently in the raid on the Leath Hotel were sentenced by the special "Criminal" Court, Dublin, on Tuesday, 11th inst. They were Tony D'Arcy, Galway and Michael Traynor, Belfast.

Both men had been on hunger-strike since the previous Saturday week (11 days). Before being sentenced, Michael Traynor, demanded the return of £100, which had been stolen from him by C.I.D. men. The Court refused to make an order in connection with the money.

A sentence of 3 months imprisonment was passed on each prisoner.

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### TWO YEARS FOR SLOGAN.

For chalking the following notice - "I.R.A. Broadcast, 3 p.m. 32 metres S.W." Patrick Ferran, Park View St, was sentenced to 2 years hard labour in Belfast on Monday last.

The accused, who refused to recognise the Court, was described by police witnesses as a "well-known and active member of the I.R.A." It was also stated that he had been deported from England last August for his Irish Republican activities there.

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### BIG LIVERPOOL BLAZE.

For the second time since last year, I.R.A. incendiary Units carried out successful operation at the Oil Cake Mills of Messrs. Grosfield, Vauxhall Rd, Liverpool.

The building was almost completely destroyed and the fire has been described as the biggest to have occurred in Liverpool for many years.

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### REMEMBER THAT:-

A minority raised the flag of the Republic in 1916.

A minority fought the Tans.

No good thing, not even Christianity, was ever started except by a minority.

REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NOTHING SACRED IN MAJORITY RULE.

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Remember that Tom Ashe died in Mountjoy Jail twenty-three years ago during a hunger-strike for political treatment.

Remember that men who claimed to be comrades of Tom Ashe are now making it necessary for soldiers of the I.R.A., young men and veterans, to once again, perhaps for the hundredth time, resort to hunger-strike for political treatment.

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### YOU WERE NOT TOLD :-

That the warders of Mountjoy Prison had to get between the prisoners and the police, on Friday, 11th inst, to prevent the "Guardians of law and order" from lynching Tomas MacCurtain, who is accused of shooting a detective who attacked him.

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### RELEASED AND RE-ARRESTED.

Seamus Coulton, with others, was released from Arbour Hill on Saturday, 9th inst., after completing a sentence of 3 months imprisonment.

He was immediately re-arrested by C.I.D. men, and has now been interned under Fianna Fail's new Coercion Act.

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