

REPUBLICAN NEWS

MARTIAL LAW IN FORCE

The continued existence of the Military Tribunal and the so-called Public Safety Act confirms the fact that Fianna Fail governs this country by force. Ordinary law and justice no longer prevail. Martial law is in full force. Parkgate, and its military junta, decides the fate of the political prisoner long before he comes before the drumhead courtmartial in Collins Barracks.

Needless to say, these military gentlemen have no legal training whatever. Laws of evidence and procedure are ignored. The old code of justice, that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty is reversed. Every prisoner who comes before the Tribunal is a doomed man.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Fianna Fail has done everything possible to prevent the publication of all opinions other than its own. They have seized "An Phoblacht" time after time and finally suppressed it, and arrested its editor. They have threatened the "Irish Independent" and other papers with the Military Tribunal if they dare print any criticism of the Fianna Fail programme. The "Irish Press" has for a long time refused to print anything but the most rabid Fianna Fail propaganda. It is now nothing but a party rag. Instead of standing for "Truth in the News" it now represents "Truth in a Noose."

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

One of the most saddening things about the present situation is the fact that the Fianna Fail Party (who profess to be Republican) treat the really genuine Republicans in exactly the same way that the British military machine treated the Sinn Feiners during the period 1918-1921. Despite the fact that everyone agrees that political prisoners should receive political treatment, the present Executive refuses to admit this principle. In Mountjoy, Arbour Hill, Portlaoighise, etc., Irish Republicans are treated little better than dogs. They are denied even the meagre rights given to the worst criminals. All parcels are stopped. Letters are held up indefinitely. A wall of secrecy is thrown around the prisoners, and even parents are refused information as to the whereabouts of their sons. Prisoners themselves are kept in solitary confinement, and refused conversational rights.

MILK AND WATER ECONOMICS

Fianna Fail has failed badly in economic spheres. It has failed because it has tried to walk in two directions at the one time. It has tried to pull with English business men. With one leg it marches nobly out of the British Empire. With the other it stumps along the all-red route of Imperialism. Its drunken crab-like progress has been still further impeded by the British Civil Service which still sits like an old man of the sea, on its back. Cosgrave had neither the courage, nor the opportunity, to build up a truly Irish Civil Service, or its equivalent in Government services. De Valera was much too keen on his "Forgive and Forget" policy to think of tackling this most vital of all problems. In case you may not be clear on this point we may add that his "Forgive and Forget" policy runs thuswise — "Forgive your enemies and Forget your friends."

Ireland either is, or is not, able to support herself as an independent country. If the answer is in the affirmative, as no one in his senses can doubt, there is no need to be hanging one leg over the British side of the ditch. Let us break the connection and take any small losses (financial or otherwise) as other nations have taken them before. If on the other hand, as our milk-and-water friends appear to think, the answer is in the negative, let Fianna Fail pin its true colours to the mast. Let them at least act according to their lights — as Cosgrave and Co. does. Let them march "heads up" into the Empire.

Republicans will march on to real freedom by voting for the Republican candidate.