

The Republican Leader.

No. 1.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1923.

1d.

"TO BE BRAVE IS TO BE WISE."

(Eamonn de Valera—Election Manifesto—August, 1923.)

TO THE ELECTORS OF LOUTH.

"The Republican Leader" greets its readers. Its life will be brief, but, no doubt, glorious. It is proud of its ancestry, the long line of little "seditious" newspapers written "on the run," printed "underground," sold often under fire, editors hunted, presses raided, compositors arrested, newsboys beaten in the streets. Less daring than they, in this time that is neither peace nor war, their young descendant appears.

We are proud of our message. The Candidate for County Louth is one of the men recognised by all Ireland as a great leader—far-seeing, peace-loving, strong in influence for good, unsurpassed as a skilled and daring soldier, chivalrous as he is brave. All Ireland looks to County Louth to do justice to itself and the Nation by declaring with unmistakeable force that, despite lies and calumny, threats and bludgeonings, there lives unconquerable in the people the will to be free.

We have been tricked often, lied to, and maligned. It has been said of us that we have no care for truth, no love of honour, no desire for freedom left. Our chance has come at last to answer our detractors. If we love peace and are prepared to labour for it patiently, love freedom and are prepared to fight for it if need be, love Ireland's honour better than England's praise, we can declare ourselves by our votes.

This is the message "The Republican Leader" comes to give. It blows its own trumpet, therefore, with no modest breath. It claims your vote for General Frank Aiken and your friendship for itself.

AN UNHEEDED CALL TO PEACE.

We reprint a letter written by Frank Aiken twelve months ago. Because men were not wise enough or maybe brave enough to give him the right answer then this year has been a year of anguish, desolation and shame. But now at last the hour has come when answer may be made again—all that sacrifice rewarded, a little of that shame atoned for, the lost unity and strength of Republican Ireland retrieved.

"We must put that mistake behind us and go forward"—forward with **Sinn Fein**.

H. Q. 4th Northern Div.,
3rd August, 1922.

To the Members of the I.R.A. now serving under the Provisional Government:

Comrades,

It is a dark hour in our country's history when we of the I.R.A. are fighting each other and the enemy still unbeaten. In July, 1921, we were the finest military organisation since the Fianna, proud of our cause, our dead heroes and living comrades, confident in the knowledge that our willing sufferings and deaths were bringing our country towards freedom in our generation. In July, 1922, we find ourselves through the trickery of our common enemy in two camps using all our talents and energy in fighting, abusing, and even maligning each other. We are the same men, the difference is, as an old priest said, that war with the foreigner brings to the

fore all that is best and noblest in a nation, civil war all that is mean and base.

Now, there is good and evil in all of us. We must cultivate the good, destroy the evil, and rectify our mistakes. At present we are tempted to a dishonourable peace with England. It is not through lack of personal courage that some of our officers would accept the oath of allegiance, but because they are influenced by the fear of terrible sufferings for the country they love. That is our big national mistake, and the cause of the civil war.

We must put this mistake behind us and go forward. The degradation and barrier to National Independence which would result from the taking of the oath to England and acceptance of the Constitution must be avoided.

The sufferings and deaths of the past months will not have been in vain if the Provisional Government, and you who are with them, realize the mistake that was about to be made. The onus of stopping the fight rests on you, while you track the men who can never accept that oath you are in the wrong and must be met. It is clearly your duty if peace is not made to down tools.

Misc.

(Signed), Frank Aiken, Taoiseach.
Ceann Roinne.

SINN FEIN MEETINGS.

Meetings in support of the Sinn Fein Candidate were held on Sunday last at **Bellurgan, Ravensdale, Flurrybridge and Clogherhead**. The speakers were Mr. P. J. Daly, Mr. Kelly, Miss Dorothy Macardle and Mr. O'Harte. Extreme interest was shown in what the speakers had to say, and the enthusiastic response to the call to unite again under the unstained and undefeated banner proved that the spirit of Cuchulainn's people lives dauntless still.

The following meetings have been arranged:—
Wednesday, August 15th:

Ballypousta, after 10 o'clock Mass.

Ardee, after 11 o'clock Mass.

Omeath, 3.30 p.m.

Castlebellingham, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 16th:

Whitestown, 4.30 p.m.

Sunday, August 19th:

Mullatee Chapel, after 9 o'clock Mass.

Grange Chapel, after 11 o'clock Mass.

Boragh Chapel, after 11 o'clock Mass.

Carlingford (the Square), at 1 p.m.

Sheelagh, after 11 o'clock Mass.

The Editor of the "Republican Leader" requests that reports of meetings, news from prisons, and all items of interest to the Republicans of County Louth should be sent to the office without loss of time.

Offers of assistance with the distribution of the paper will be gratefully considered.

Address: The Editor, "The Republican Leader" c/o. Miss Morgan, News agent, 12, Bridge Street, Dundalk.

THE WAR-MAKERS.

Advice gratis to Lord Birkenhead from the Free State Press.

As if the threat of war had not thundered loud enough at Downing Street and in those first shameful pro-treaty speeches in An Dail,—as if the British Ministers had shown themselves so incapable of inventing terrors against Ireland that they needed Irish help, the following suggestions were offered in the "Freeman's Journal" of Monday last:—

"England could place at Holyhead a gun-like that fired by Hindenburg on Paris, seventy miles away. Such a gun at Holyhead could raze Dublin to the level of the hotels in O'Connell Street, destroyed by Mr. de Valera . . . British ironclads, without the loss of a midshipman, could shell to ashes in a week places like Derry, Larne, Belfast, Newry, Dundalk, Drogheda, Balbriggan, Dublin, Kingstown, Bray, Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Tralee, Limerick, Kilkee, Galway, Sligo. Where would Ireland stand then? Athlone and Kilkenny, now lying coastwise, might even be assailed by modern sea-guns. Aeroplanes could, moreover, drop gas-bombs on all our cities without effective resistance. Bombs will in future wear rain down poison-shells on old and young, women and non-combatants to smother them in unappeasable agony."

VITAL FACTS.

This eloquent writer forgets, however, certain vital facts—that Ireland is England's best customer, and England, ruled by business interests does not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs; that Southern loyalists might reasonably object to being mown down by English guns, that a devastated country is of no use to its conquerors, that the British Dominions jealously maintain that to secede is a dominion right, that England's existence depends on friendly relations with Europe and America, and that right is might.

AN EXPLODED BOGEY.

Besides, it is too late to repeat this bluff: Lord Birkenhead himself, three weeks ago, gave the whole myth away. Speaking in the British House of Lords, referring to the signing of the "Treaty," he said "If a settlement had not been arrived at there would have been at least 100,000 armed men in Ireland to maintain the only alternative system to the Treaty. The War Office estimate was that 200,000 men would have been required for Ireland alone—and that was a moderate calculation. Parliament would not have granted you the money, and the country would not have given you the volunteers."

THE WORK DONE.

That monstrous piece of bluff has done its work; it has split Ireland from end to end, completed England's campaign of Terror "with an economy of English lives," torn a fair province of Ireland from her side, slain many of her strongest champions, her noblest leaders, changed many of her sons once faithful into brutish and mercenary slaves.

It has done its hideous work, but that work, if we have honesty and courage can yet be undone. Now that the people of Ireland have been taught by blood-sacrifice the awful truth,—now they have taken the little measure of the treacherous "government" and craven press,—now they have taken heart again that bogey, like the ghost of Caesar, vanishes. They know themselves to be men and women who can dare to speak the truth and abide by it and endure what comes. They know that Ireland has gallant soldiers and wise leaders still to safeguard her right.

A FURTHER SUGGESTION.

In the same journal we read:—

"His American friends ask, 'What security has de Valera that he will not be dragged from his platform in Clare?' One hopes the answer may be 'None.'"

The "Government" declares the elections are "free." Desmond Fitzgerald says "De Valera and all like him will be kept on the run." Eamonn de Valera does not appear to have allowed this threat to change his plans. He is speaking to-day in County Clare. The "Sunday Express" says he will be "permitted to speak;" the "Freeman's Journal" "hopes not;" its circulation would be increased

possibly, should the tornado of war and chaos be let loose again.

Cosgrave found a unique way of celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Mountjoy prison; maybe he contemplates a similar sacrifice for the Feast of the Assumption in County Clare.

There can be no man the British Empire would more heartily wish to kill than this man whose dauntlessness of thought and deed so nearly wrested Ireland from its grip. He is in danger from his country's enemies. But do what they may to him, his work can never be undone: it is rock-built on justice; treachery may delay its fulfilment, but neither death nor time can tear one stone of its foundation away.

TRUE STORIES FOR CHILDREN—No. 1.

The Free Staters were so afraid that England was going to bomb Ireland that they cried out: "Don't hurt us and we'll help you to kill the others."

But they couldn't manage the big, heavy guns themselves, so Englishmen had to work them after all. But they did kill the prisoners themselves. That was quite easy, you see. They killed ever so many of them, much more than the English Black and Tans killed, so they were quite proud of themselves and told the people to choose them for their rulers again. But the Irish people were not sure that they liked prisoners being killed.

AN ANGLO-IRISH VOCABULARY.

For the assistance of Irish readers who may find Parliamentary language and the elevated style of Ministers difficult to understand we offer simple translations of a few time-honoured phrases occurring frequently in the speeches of orators of to-day:

MURDERER, ASSASSIN, INCENDIARY, LOOTER=Soldier of the Republic.

IRREGULAR PERSON=An Irishman or woman who believes that Ireland should be free.

WILD WOMEN, HYSTERICAL FEMALES=mothers who protest against the murder of their sons.

WILD MEN, COWARDS=Men who when attacked with English artillery, defend themselves with rifles and revolvers.

FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER=The Crown Forces.

FORCES OF ANARCHY=Irish men and women who keep their oath.

COMMON SENSE=Peace (with England) at any price.

PARASITES ON THE NATION (Kevin O'Higgins)= Breadwinners arrested and interned.

ANARCHY, CRIME, SABOTAGE (K. O'H., Aug. 12)=War for the Republic.

LITTLE CURS AND COWARDS (K. O'H., Aug. 12)=Erskine Childers, Harry Boland, Cathal Brugha.

PEACE, SECURITY AND NATIONAL LIBERTY (Eoin MacNeill, Aug. 12)=The Pax Britannica, with Ministers sure of their positions and "rebels" in jail.

A NATIONAL POLICY as distinct from **A SECTIONAL OR CLASS POLICY** (Sean Milroy, Aug. 12)=Dominion Status Pax Partition as distinct from the recognition of Ireland as an independent Irish Republic.

A NORMAL ELECTION (P. J. Hogan, Aug. 12)=An election with Candidates, Organisers, Agents and thousands of Voters of the Anti-government Party in jail.

NORMAL CONDITIONS=as "restored" (after a brief interval) by the Free State Government.

Irish workers starving to pay the upkeep of an Imperial Army. His Excellency's household an unknown Imperial tribute and a home of spies.

Representatives of the people in prison and on the run.

Suspension of Habeas Corpus, raids and destruction, imprisonment without charge.

Catholics perishing in Craig's prison-ships.

Interference with public meetings, interception of letters, intimidation of the Press.

A huge British garrison in Ulster.

Way-side murders of Republican men.

England's friends and agents enjoying security and wealth.

Thousands of Irish men and women, who love Ireland's freedom better than their own, rotting in Irish jails.