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Леат-þиғиnn.
One Halfpenny.

ENGLAND & THE NATIONAL PRESS

Suppression "Owed to Mr. Redmond."

Yesterday the London "Times" urged the suppression of the Irish National Press, using the "German gold" story given currency by the Lord Mayor, according to the reporters of the Dublin morning papers, as an excuse. It added that the British Government owed it particularly to Mr. Redmond and his colleagues, "who have striven hard to carry out their undertakings," to suppress the National journals.

Concurrently an article appeared in the London "Morning Post" to the same effect. The Tory organ adopts the Lord Mayor story by suggesting that "Germany has no doubt its secret agents at work." It says that the Parliamentary Party seems to be doing "its best," but hints, like the London "Times," that its best is futile while the National Press exists.

It will be remembered that the "Times" and the "Morning Post" were supporting Sir Edward Carson when he went to Germany to see the Kaiser, and when his lieutenants declared on public platforms and in the Press in Ireland that if Home Rule were enacted they would invite the Kaiser to annex Ireland to the German Empire.

ROUMANIAN NEUTRALITY.

The Vice-President of the Roumanian Chamber has, according to the German official news, declared that the friendship between Austria and Roumania is traditional, and that there is no danger that Roumania will depart from her attitude of neutrality.

SERVIA'S APPEAL.

It is reported from Sofia that the defeated Serbian Army will endeavour to make a final stand at Kraguievatz and that the Serbian Government has urgently implored Greece to come to its aid.

LEIX AND OSSORY IRISH VOLUNTEERS

A meeting to form a County Committee was held in Maryboro' on Sunday, Liam Mellows, Central Committee, presiding. Joseph Fitz-Patrick, Maryboro', was appointed county delegate to Central Council, and Tomas Ua Duinn, Wolfhill, was appointed county secretary, pro tem. Next meeting to be held Sunday, Dec. 6th. All companies believing in the principles of the Irish Volunteers to send name of delegate to Secretary as soon as possible.

THE BEER DUTY.

It was announced yesterday in the British Parliament that a rebate of 2/- per barrel on the new beer duty would be allowed up to March, 1916.

THE VICTIMS.

Belgian officers interned in Holland have declared their horror of sacrificing the poor Belgian soldiers to British selfishness, and that desertions among the Belgians are common. —Berlin official wireless.

DUBLIN CASTLE AT WORK.

VOLUNTEER LEADER'S HOUSE SEARCHED.

The "Government" of Ireland is showing fresh signs of activity. On Monday morning detectives, acting on a warrant signed by the English officer in charge of Dublin, entered the residence of Mr. Bulmer Hobson, a member of the Executive of the Irish Volunteers. They proceeded to search, apparently for documents, and carried off a quantity of waste-paper. Similar incidents are reported to have occurred in the country.

HOW ENGLAND TREATS EX-IRISH SOLDIERS.

On Thursday last, at 3 o'clock, four men belonging to the Depot from which Captain Monteith was dismissed (Army Ordnance Depot, Island Bridge) were called up by Captain O'Connor and given a week's wage in lieu of notice. Capt. O'Connor told them he did not know what they were being dismissed for. The service of the men dismissed are as follows:—E. O'Mealley, 5 Richmond Place (wife and three children), 7 years in Depot; served 12 years in the 4th Bn. King's Royal Lancaster Regiment, eight years of which he served in India. James Byrne, 112 Dorset Street (wife and eight children), in Depot since South African War; served 12 years in Connaught Rangers; fought through Boer War. Thomas Owen (wife and six children), 12 years Depot service; served 12 years in 88th Connaught Rangers; fought through Boer War. Mr. Ball (wife and 9 children) 12 years' Depot service; served 21 years in the Leinsters; fought through Boer War; was one time champion bayonet fighter of British Army. He instructed Volunteers in bayonet fighting. The men called at Headquarters to ask for an explanation, and the O.D.O.S. refused to see them.

REPLY TO AN ENGLISH OFFICER.

The "Cologne Gazette" makes the following remarks on the question in an English officer's letter as to how the Germans know all about British regiments and call out orders to the officers by name:—

In the first place, the German officers have thoroughly studied geography, practised map-reading, and in manoeuvres made instructive studies of terrain, which now bear fruit in war and enable them to inform themselves regarding the enemy's position and the troops in them, or to make estimates from the news that comes in. An especial help to them is the fact that they have learnt foreign languages and so are able to converse with the inhabitants of the country as well as with prisoners, and so to obtain all the information they want. They also understand how to read foreign Army Lists and to make use of other military aids. In short, they have filled themselves with such modest amount of knowledge as can be got into the head of a poor barbarian. We will not, however, continue our betrayals, and we hope that these lines will not be noticed in England, but rather that the English will continue to cherish their disturbing, but convenient, faith that espionage prevails everywhere.

ENGLAND AND THE "SMALL NATIONALITIES."

SWEDEN SATIRICAL.

The Stockholm papers ask how the relentless Russification of Finland is compatible with England's declaration that the Triple Entente is fighting for the freedom of small nationalities.

THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS' ANNIVERSARY.

Celebration in Belfast.

The anniversary of the Manchester judicial murders was fitly observed in Belfast last Sunday evening, when a magnificent crowd attended in the large hall of the Gaelic College to hear Mr. P. H. Pearse deliver the panegyric for the occasion. The Irish Volunteers marched from their headquarters at Willowbank, with their new service rifles, and came in for a very favourable reception all along the route. Various rumours had been afloat early in the day that interference would be offered, but the Volunteers themselves believed differently and their judgment was right. On the arrival at the hall they received an ovation, the huge crowd already assembled rising and cheering again and again.

The meeting was presided over by D. Mac Con Uladh, who in a brief statement introduced the lecturer and expressed his satisfaction at seeing such a grand attendance to pay tribute to the men of '67, and particularly to the three who had given their lives in Manchester. Mr. Pearse then told the story again of all that had led up to and culminated in the sacrifices made at Manchester. He traced the various movements that had struck at British misgovernment, their hopes and failures, their dark passages and bright ones, and in a feeling and masterly oration analysed the woes of Éire and the possible remedies. A tense attention was given to every word of the address and one could feel the fervency of the audience in the subconscious prayer for the welfare of Ireland and the light of Heaven for her martyred dead.

Seosamh O'Conghaile, in proposing thanks to the lecturer, referred briefly to the position of the Volunteers and the necessity for every man who felt coming right into the fight. Mr. A. Newman seconded the vote of thanks, which the lecturer acknowledged.

Immediately after the lecture Mr. Pearse presented a new standard to the Éire Og Pipers' band, which has remained true to the original Volunteers despite the offers of monetary support from the Redmondite section. Mr. Pearse said it was one of the greatest honours that could have been accorded him to allow him to present that standard, which stood for all that was good and noble and faithful for Irishmen.

Cathal Ua Seanain, speaking in Gaelic, thanked Mr. Pearse on behalf of the pipers. He expressed the pleasure it had been for every one to be there that night and to renew their allegiance to Ireland and the men who stood by Ireland.

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In sending matter for publication the writer must enclose real name and address; otherwise it will receive no attention.

IRELAND.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1914.

CURRENCY.

Current "Culture."—Lord Fisher is a stern and rigid disciplinarian. His three "R's" of warfare are "Ruthless, Relentless, Remorseless."—"Everyman."

Current Militarism.—The essence of war is violence. Hit first, hit hard, and hit **anywhere!**—Lord Fisher, British First Sea Lord.

Current Revelation.—We print to-day a very remarkable statement by Sir Oliver Lodge, on the subject of life after death. . . . The pronouncement is of a very startling character. Sir Oliver states in so many words that he is prepared to prove scientifically that the life of man continues after death.—"Irish Times."

THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN AND THE NATIONAL PRESS.

Three weeks ago the Lord Mayor of Dublin was reported in the "Irish Times," the "Daily Express," the "Daily Independent," and the "Freeman's Journal" as having declared the previous day in the Council Chamber, where he presided in his official capacity, that to his knowledge German money had been circulated in Ireland. The charge implied could not be misunderstood. He did not impugn the accuracy of the reports until two days later when we had challenged him. Then at a meeting in Clontarf he declared that he had never made the statement which the reporters credited him with. He has been cited in the English House of Lords as the authority for the statements put into circulation that those who oppose the enlistment of Irishmen in the British Army are German-paid agents. He remained silent when that use had been made of the authority which the office he holds invests him with to the public eye. But privately he has been eager to inform those at whom his alleged charge is supposed to have pointed that he never made the charge and that he knows such a charge to be untrue.

We have now reason to believe that the British Government has taken its cue from the Lord Mayor's reported speech. It, as well as his Lordship, knows there is no truth in the story of "German gold," but if it proceeds with its design of suppressing the National Press and arresting certain Irishmen, it will use the Lord Mayor story of German gold to excuse its action.

We await the Lord Mayor of Dublin's statement.

SHIRKING FOREIGN SERVICE.

A prominent official at the Central Recruiting Office in Whitehall yesterday complained of the apathy displayed by men who were eligible for the new army, says the "Daily Mail." He declared that the reserve battalions of the Territorials were responsible to a large extent for the slowness with which the army was growing.

"Last week," he declared, "three times as many men enlisted in London and the home counties for home defence as for general service. Over and over again they stipulate that they shall not be sent abroad. They go before the commanding officer and say, 'We will join for home service as long as we are not bullied into signing on for foreign and active service.'"

This in an Irishman would be rank cowardice and "factionism," directed to the discomfiture of Mr. Redmond, Mr. Dillon, and the whole cohort of those whom the British Parliament pays £400 a year each to represent Ireland in that Assembly—and for the services to the "Empire" contingent upon that office, notably the hoodwinking of simple trusting Irish folk.

GERMANY AS IT IS.

The Rev. Dr. Hall, the well-known New York divine, who has returned from Germany, thus gives his impressions of Germany and the war:—

"I know Germans in all classes of society, and I do not know, even among the younger officers, one who wanted war. Germany was growing stronger and richer through her trade, and every German knew that her trade needed peace.

"Bernhardi's book, even though by some it has been taken as an indication of a warlike attitude on Germany's part, no more represents the feeling of the average German than Hobson represents sober American opinion. If we were, which God forbid, to be dragged into a war with Japan by her attempting to dominate China, would it be fair to quote Mr. Hobson as showing we all sought war with Japan?"

"France has nearly twice the percentage of her population under arms that Germany has, and spends \$6.75 a head for her army, against \$8.50 for England and \$4.75 for Germany. And the fact that France and Germany are nations in arms, far from making them want war, has a steadying effect.

"It is true that Germany has a military class, but all nations have one. And in Germany no officer can vote or take any part in political life, so that war and peace do not rest in the hands of the military men.

"There is no doubt that Russia is the real source of the trouble. She is pushing her Balkan policy, and, once sure of the support of England, she went to war to regain her prestige lost through the Japanese war, to avenge herself for what she considered a diplomatic defeat after the Balkan war. Assured of the assistance of the British navy, she considered her task of going through Austria to Constantinople an easy one.

"Germany's victory, far from being a world menace, is the best hope of peace. Germany is the only great power that has not in the last forty-four years carried on a war of aggression. England has seized the Boer republic; we have taken the Philippines; France has taken huge slices of North Africa; Italy has also struggled for Africa. Germany alone has followed ways of peace and paid for anything she got. Wars of aggression are not part of Germany's history, nor is her form of government, so very like our own, well adapted to imperial conquest.

"Germany's government is like ours in that it is a federation of sovereign states, which have surrendered a part of their state powers to a central authority, as we have done. In many ways these sovereign states are far freer than are even our States. They have more home rule and more decentralisation than we have, much to their advantage. The power of the Emperor is in many ways less than that of the President of the United States. Just like the President, his office is that of Commander-in-Chief of the army.

"Business in Germany has not been ruined by the war. Much disturbance and loss are, of course, present, but food is cheap and plentiful. In fact, I hear more about suffering in this country than in Germany. Every man, woman and child knows that Germany is fighting not for glory or territory or trade, but just for her right to live and the privilege of peaceful development.

"So far as England's entrance into the war is concerned, a small crowd of war advocates, with Sir Edward Grey and Churchill as leaders, have at last succeeded in poisoning the mind of England against Germany, and fear of her as a growing sea power, taken with commercial jealousy, has made her eager to seize the excuse of Belgium's neutrality for the attack on German commerce.

"Any Power that ventures to build ships will secure England's deadly enmity. She has ruined the fleets of Spain, Holland, Denmark, France, and the United States, and is now bent on sinking the German fleets and thus having the country's commerce at her mercy."

"Were America to build a commercial fleet and protect it by a navy we fear we would face the same hostility the Northern States faced in 1861-5, and for the same reason England demands a monopoly of the world's carrying trade."

THE NATIONALISTS!

The Clann Uladh Pipers recently marched into the British barracks in Belfast and humiliated themselves before the military garrison. They played "God Save Ireland" and subsequently the English national anthem. The conquest is not complete but there are many victims of the slave-spirit in Ireland.

HARP OR LION?

By T. D. SULLIVAN.

Here is a "Rhyme for the Times," albeit it was written by T. D. Sullivan, who is now dead:—

Air—"Tow Row Row."
Neighbours, list and hear from me
The wondrous news I've read to-day
Ireland's love of liberty,
'Tis said is dead and passed away!
Irishmen have all grown wiser,
[Now they'll go to fight the Kaiser.]
Now they'll heed no bad adviser,
They despise their country's story,
All they love is England's glory!
Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!
All they love is England's glory!
Ha-ha-ha!

Now we all must grieve to know
The deep offence our fathers gave,
Meeting men with thrust and blow,
Who came to rob them and enslave!
We should blush for their ill-doing,
Give their errors no renewing,
And unlike those old transgressors,
Never hurt our isle's oppressors!
Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!
Never hurt our isle's oppressors!
Ha-ha-ha!

Only think of Hugh O'Neill
Thundering down in furious style,
To assail, with lead and steel,
The reivers from our sister isle!
Chief and clans from all directions,
With their far and near connections,
Warriors bold and swift uprisers,
Rushing on their "civilisers"!
Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!
On their gracious "civilisers"!
Ha-ha-ha!

Surely, friends, the chance is great,
We'll cast a cloud on Emmet's fame,
Scoff at Tone and Ninety-Eight,
And scorn Lord Edward's honoured name;
Then in quite a loyal manner,
Clip and dye our old green banner,
And where shines the harp of Brian
Place the sickly British lion!
Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!
Place the sickly British lion!
Ha-ha-ha!

Truly, friends, it seems to me,
England's self ere now should know,
These are things she'll never see,
Let Ireland's star be high or low.
That's the truth: who'er denies it,
Scouts it, flouts it, or decries it,
Aids to spread a vile invention,
Drawn from where I will not mention.
Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!
From the place 'tis wrong to mention!
Ha-ha-ha!

ANOTHER ALLY FOR MR. REDMOND.

The "Northern Whig," an Orange newspaper, calls for the suppression of the Nationalist journals. "It is high time," it says, "that action should be taken for the suppression of the sedition-mongers in our midst."

LECTURE BY MR. JOSEPH CROFTS.

To-night at 6 Harcourt Street a Musical Lecture will be given by Mr. Joseph Crofts, entitled "Some examples of the German, Austrian, and Hungarian Music." Mr. Crofts will be assisted by Messrs. Gerrard, Ua Croifte, J. Paul, F. Roe, and V. Jackson, who will render vocal items to illustrate the lecture. Owing to the length of programme the meeting will open at 8 o'clock and not at 8.30 as hitherto.

DIPLOMAS FOR RESEARCH WORK IN IRISH.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Dublin College of Modern Irish, 20 Kildare Street, on Friday evening, Professor Osborn Bergin, Ph.D., presiding, it was decided to institute a diploma for research work in Modern Irish. Candidates for the diploma must submit for examination by Professor Bergin and Mr. T. F. O'Rahilly, editor of "Gadelica," some original work dealing with the grammar, the sounds, or the literature of Modern Irish. The collection and preparation for the press of a poem or piece of prose from manuscript sources or the elucidation of grammatical or phonetic phenomena not previously fully dealt with in published works are suggested as subjects for the diploma dissertation. Instruction on the collecting and editing of texts and the arrangement and classification of matter relating to the sounds and grammar of the language is given in the college.

THE WAR DAY BY DAY.

The Fighting in Poland.

It is difficult to form any accurate idea as yet of the fighting in Russian-Poland. It has been going on now for over a week. At the start the Germans secured a masterly advantage, capturing almost one entire Russian army corps and driving the Russians back on Kutno and on Plock. They followed up this victory by a march on Lodz, and on the other side of the line from the direction of Cracow the Austrians also advanced. Up to Saturday last these operations were working out very favourably for the Germans and Austrians. It is now announced, however, from Russian sources, that the Germans have met with a severe set back. One report from the Russian headquarters states that the German army operating in Northern Poland has been cut in two, while in South Poland it is added that the Austrians have been driven back and that Cracow has been bombarded. Until the official versions on both sides are published it is impossible to say what the precise effects of this set back to the Germans may be. I am inclined to believe that they have in fact met with a set back, but its precise nature cannot be gauged until the official messages are published.

The Calais Canard.

Readers possessed of even a modicum of military knowledge must smile as day after day the old story of the German effort to get to Calais is reported. Of course the Germans are making no such effort. To get to Calais, leaving behind them the Allied armies unbeaten would be a profitless undertaking indeed. The real objective of the Germans, both in France and in Poland, is not to capture Calais or Warsaw, or, in fact, to capture any particular town at all, but to secure certain strategical positions which would help them to beat the main Allied armies. In France the Germans are trying to take Ypres not because it is a town of some size, but because it is the centre of a net-work of railways, the possession of which would be useful to the German line of communications, and the loss of which would be equally felt by the Allies. Of course the reason why the fight for Calais is so much exploited in the English Press is to stimulate recruiting by bringing it home to the rather sluggish imagination of the English people that the war is nearer their shores, and that accordingly they should be up and doing in the cause of their country.

The Balkan Imbroglío.

Now that the defeat of Serbia is so patent that it can no longer be put down as a strategical retreat of the Servian army, desperate attempts are being made to get Roumania and Bulgaria to declare against Austria. It is suggested that Serbia should make over to Bulgaria the territory which she seized after the second Balkan war, on condition that Serbia is guaranteed the possession of Bosnia. The task, however, is one of exceeding difficulty. It is only a year since Bulgaria, having borne the brunt of the war against Turkey, was despoiled of her victories by Serbia, by Greece, and by Roumania. To get her once more to join hands with Serbia may be accomplished if money and rosy promises can do the trick, but it is hard to believe. The atrocities committed by the Servians on the unfortunate Bulgarians surpassed any alleged against the Turks even in the days of their wildest excesses. Serbia and Bulgaria hate one another as a result with a deadly hate. Had the European war not taken place so early after the second Bulgarian war, this hatred might have had time to die down, but to imagine that in about twelve months the Balkan States can forget their bitter animosities so much as to join hands once again is to believe in a very wonderful thing. Most wise people will believe it when they see it—not sooner.

However the swaying fortunes of war may be tending on the French and Russian frontiers, the Turks seem to be holding more than their own in the Caucasus against the Russians. The Russian communiques from this theatre of the war show a sobriety of language not altogether due to military modesty. As a matter of fact the map speaks more than any communique. Batum, for example, is well within the Russian frontier on the Caucassian side. It is on the Black Sea. The Turks are in front of this. This speaks more plainly than official messages of repeated repulses inflicted on the Turks. Of course the Russians are hampered by the want of railways on their side, but the Turks are equally impeded. The real reason, however, why the Russians are unable to make headway in this theatre of the war is because they find it a task of super-

human difficulty to make war effectively on four fronts. It would have needed resources equal to those of Germany, net-works of railways equally good, and the energy and offensive powers of the Germans themselves to do this with success. Even so, the immense areas of Russia would be a barrier to speedy movement of troops. As a result the Turks are succeeding at present, though the ultimate results of their advance will be finally determined by the nature of the fighting in Russian Poland and in Galicia, where alone decisive results can be achieved.

C.

GERMAN INVASION PLANS.

THE CALAIS STORY.

Richard Klegin, writing in the New York "American" of Nov. 13, says:—

When the Kaiser opened the "war game" he had several weapons under cover of which the world knew nothing; the Krupp newest siege guns, the most formidable on earth, the 42-centimetre, the 32-centimetre, and, above all, the 61-centimetre, which hurls a tremendous highly explosive projectile thirty miles.

The Kaiser has ordered Calais to be taken at any cost. Capture it he will if it costs an army corps for each 61-centimetre gun planted on its steel and concrete foundations in Calais, with its terrific muzzle pointing towards Dover Castle. Krupp experts will place the guns in position.

And the Kaiser possesses eight of these 61-centimetre guns that I know of. He will plant them in Calais if it costs eight army corps, 320,000 men more; of this I am assured.

From Calais to Dover the English Channel is only twenty-two miles wide. The wits of Berlin declare that behind the first projectile from Calais will stream a pennant thirty yards long, on which will be inscribed the letters eight feet high: "Made in Germany."

Most scientific German ordnance officers have told me that one shell from this murderous weapon of modern warfare would shatter into atoms a structure as large and solid as New York's new Municipal Building.

I can believe this more readily because with my own eyes I saw the tremendous effect of a shell from a German gun of very much less power and calibre than the 61-centimetre. I saw this at Termonde, Belgium.

A substantial five-story stone building stood out prominently. A German shell bored through the front wall as easily as a red-hot poker penetrates a cake of lard. The shell exploded within the building.

The ponderous building seemed to be lifted bodily; instantly and simultaneously the five stories collapsed, crumbled, crashed to the ground. All that was left were a few narrow sections of tottering walls.

Ordnance officers, amazed, have told me when one of these guns is discharged it recoils 300 feet on rails especially constructed and laid to receive the recoil, which overcomes tremendously powerful pneumatic resistance.

Now as for Germany's plan to invade England—no one knows its details better than Lord Kitchener, one of the very best soldiers on earth. Military experts of at least four nations have told me that had Great Britain made Lord Kitchener all powerful over her army three years ago, the world would be at peace now. The Kaiser has the greatest respect for Kitchener.

The River Elbe, for miles up from its mouth, contains thousands of floats, rafts and specially constructed flat-boats of deep draught, all propelled by petrol motors. I have seen them. After the Germans have captured Calais, after the 61-centimetre guns are in position at Calais, many of these floats and rafts in the Elbe will be sent wild—without crews—into the English Channel between Calais and Dover to explode the mines, which the English have planted there almost as thickly as sturgeons eggs are packed in a tin of caviar.

A tremendous artillery fire will be kept up, although, of course, each mine exploded will cost a raft or a float. At the same time a large fleet of Taube aeroplanes will incade the air over the English coast, dropping bombs intended to throw into a panic the people of Dover and of neighbouring towns.

There will be 200 or 300 of these Taubes. England has no such aeroplane force to engage them in aerial battle.

Closely following the Taubes a fleet of Zeppelin dirigibles will protect the channel, attack Dover and, indeed, London. I know that an incredible number of Zeppelins have been built with feverish haste in Germany in the last few months. Fifty factories are making different parts of Zeppelins, and these parts are being

assembled so expeditiously that a perfect Zeppelin is turned out every three days.

The combined attack of the Zeppelins, the German General Staff expects, will silence the English batteries at or near Dover and put to flight the defending forces more than eight miles inland from Dover, which is to say out of range of the German 61-centimetre guns at Calais.

Each of these new Zeppelins carries at least four ton weight of high explosive or petrol bombs. The latter, bursting into flame when they strike, ignite anything inflammable.

Behind the Zeppelins will approach the English coast—remember, I am telling only the sketchy outline of the German plan of which I have been informed—the submarine and the small, fast cruisers, preceding the German dreadnoughts. These, of course, will take the line cleared of mines by the floats. If the German plan goes well the English and French fleets can offer little resistance to the invasion, for it has been proved off the Belgian coast that the Allies' battleships dared not come within range even of the German 42-centimetre guns.

Following the German fleet will steam an armada of transports and great deep flat-boats, carrying the German army of invasion. The purpose is to land at least 10,000 men an hour, so that in a day and a night there will be about 250,000 invaders on English soil. Then the Germans expect to march on London.

ENGLISH CONTRACTORS AND THE WAR.

The "Daily News," quoting yesterday from a workmen's representative on the manner in which certain British Army contracts are being carried out, said:—

"The soldiers' huts are not lined inside, and the flooring is laid on the bare joists, no felt being used. There is a door at each end and three windows on each side. There are no partitions of any kind—simply a great bare building with one stove in the centre.

"The men sleep four inches off the floor in little box beds. When the flooring dries plenty of fresh cold air comes up through the joints. The sides and the ends of the huts are simply weather-boarded, allowing the wind to work its way through. The roofs of many of the huts let in both the sunshine and the rain.

"At many of the camps the water lies on the ground for days before it soaks through the soil and the place drains dry. When the hut contracts were given out it was understood that the huts would be properly constructed, and they were estimated for accordingly, the prices ranging from £139 to £150, some over this latter figure.

Not Fit for Housing.

"In order that the troops should be housed quickly some contractors decided to dispense with the usual construction put into such work and instead of any morticing, or tennoning or housing-in of rails, struts and braces, they simply square-cut and cheek or tosh-nailed all framing. This scamping and rushing of work is general. Although the amount of necessary workmanship has been cut down to a very great extent, the prices for the work remain at the figure quoted for genuine craftsmanship, the difference in cost going into the pockets of these contractors.

"The brick piers built underneath the plates are simply bedded on the earth instead of on a concrete bed. The posts running into the ground are also in many cases only placed on the earth and then filled round with concrete; each post should rest on a stone slab or concrete bed.

"A firm of contractors (a) rushed up the huts at a total cost for labour of £10 to £12 per hut. The figures are taken from the cost clerk's books and were given by three of their foremen, who also kept a record of the cost of erecting each hut. These men are prepared to give evidence if called upon. In my opinion the huts should be handed over to the Government with 25 per cent. discount allowed off; even then a handsome profit would be made by the contractors.

"If the war lasts until next winter the huts built now will not be fit for housing soldiers; indeed, I am very doubtful if a health officer could conscientiously pass them as they are for human accommodation.

"With the officers' huts it is very different. They are well lined inside, and rooms are partitioned off with felt under the flooring, and, I understand, linoleum over the flooring. Instead of felt roofing they have corrugated iron, which prevents the rain getting in."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE R.I.C.—ENGLISHMAN'S AMUSING
SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "ÉIRE."

Liverpool, Nov. 23, 1914.

Sir,—I see by the Irish papers that the Irish Parliamentary Party are recruiting officers for our Army. They seem to be asking the young men to become recruits. What I marvel at is why our Government do not take the trained men of Ireland, namely, the Royal Irish Constabulary, who are drilled and fully equipped.

Say, take three-fourths of them, and the other fourth would be quite enough to keep law and order in the most crimeless country in the world, which can be proved from the lips of the Judges at the County Assizes.

I spent some time in Ireland and I was located in a small inland town on the Shannon, and in that little peaceable town were forty policemen, and on the Leinster side were—if my memory serves me right—one-half of these men and on the Connaught side were the other half; whereas to my mind twelve policemen would have been quite enough—say five men and a sergeant on the Leinster side, five men and a sergeant on the Connaught side. I have no idea of the number of men in the R.I.C., but I could see there were too many of them when I was in Ireland, and, from what I can hear, the same number of fine, able, over-fed young fellows are kept as an idle army in Ireland still.

I saw them in the winter time when on patrol, sitting over the fire in the houses of the peasantry, and in the summer time basking in the sun under hedges reading novels.

Why not form three-fourths of these fine able young men into a regiment and call them say, "The Irish Patrol."

I spent some time in three of the Irish Provinces—I haven't been in Ulster, and it often occurred to me that it was a pity to have these fine young fellows idling their time away looking after pigs, goats, asses, and hiding themselves behind back-yard gates in order to bring a prosecution against an unfortunate publican in the county districts who was trying to eke out the tax he has to pay to the Revenue in order to be allowed to sell a pint of porter. I do not suggest that these men would be any use at the front, because physically strong as they are they would not be able to bear the hardships of the poor workers in the trenches, who were accustomed to hardship before they enlisted, but they could be sent to keep the garrisons in England and Scotland and Wales, while during this crisis, anyway, the Ulster Volunteers and the National Volunteers could sink their religious and political differences and look after the Irish garrisons. Here in this great city of Liverpool we have one policeman per thousand of the population, while in Ireland you seem to have ten per hundred of the population. I am liable to correction in this, as I haven't statistics at hand.

Hoping you will oblige by finding space for these remarks, and thanking you in anticipation,—Faithfully yours,

OBSERVER.

IRISHMEN COPY YORKSHIREMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "ÉIRE."

Sir,—“Home Rule,” such as it is, is to become law, but to be moratoriumed till the war is over, perhaps two if not three years. But will it ever come into operation? I trow not. The consensus of opinion in this country is that the Conservatives will be in power next year. The war fever alone, independent of other powerful forces behind them, will place them in power. What chance then has the Home Rule Bill of becoming operative? None whatever. It is the old, old game over again, building up on promises from Englishmen never to be fulfilled.

Irishmen should not allow themselves to be fed any longer on such windy food.

What senile and anti-Irish advice that is that has been given to Irishmen to enlist in England's Army and go out and fight as mercenaries her battle, just because a further advancement of “Home Rule” has been conceded. As matters stand this advancement only amounts to another empty promise or trick, and right well Carson knows that. England cannot get her own sons to go out and fight: that is, those of bone and muscle. She can get plenty of the starved out-of-works, but Kitchener knows the value of this sort of man and does not want him. The better class of professional young Englishmen Kitchener does want. But they will not enter the fighting ring.

Travelling much of late through Yorkshire,

I have put the question, on several occasions, to this class of man—Why he does not join the Army and back up his country? Here I quote the answer from one: “Oh, no, he is not going out to be shot.” He will stay at home and clap the Irishmen for doing his fighting as they have done before. A few more promises to John Redmond about “Home Rule” will get all the men they want from Ireland. Promises have kept him (Redmond) quiet for the last 20 years, and they will keep on promising. How nice and how true. To this man I said the savage shooting of the people in Dublin streets a few weeks ago by the Scottish Borderers had put a damper on Irishmen's ardour for the British Army. “Oh,” said he, with great venom, “it served them damned well right, and more of them should have been shot for jeering at our soldiers.”

When will Irishmen learn that “John Bull” has not changed towards them; that he is still the same deceitful, selfish, and cruel tyrant as of old. Irishmen, copy the Yorkshiremen; stay at home and do the applauding; shun the English Army, under whatever nomenclature false friends spread the net. Stick to your own army—the Volunteers.—Yours faithfully,
M.

P.S.—Irishmen should now use their common-sense in weighing up this “Home Rule” fraud. Of what profit to Ireland will it be in its present stage? Has not Asquith pledged his word to the Opposition that he would not ask the King to sign the “Home Rule” Bill till the Amending Bill accompanied it for signature? Where is the Amending Bill now, and what is to be its scope? That is, it appears, a small matter, to be attended to after the war. Kitchener is now preparing for three years' war. Where will the “Liberals” be then? Assuredly out of action and in a place of rest. Of course the whole thing is rank humbug.—

THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

LIVERPOOL PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

On Sunday last, November 22nd, the Irish Volunteers, in co-operation with the Wolfe Tone Clubs, celebrated the anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs by marching to Ford Cemetery, where a number of '67 men were buried. Simple laurel wreaths were placed on the graves, and short addresses were given by local Irishmen. The men, to the number of 150, presented a very smart appearance, and much interest was taken in the demonstration. On Thursday evening next, the 26th, a lecture on the Manchester Martyrs will be delivered to Volunteers and their friends by Sean Mac Diarmuid in the Gaelic League Rooms, 78 Duke Street, Liverpool, commencing at 8 o'clock. It is to be hoped that there will be a large attendance. Appropriate songs will be rendered.

“C” Company, 1st Battalion.

The non-commissioned officers and men of above company held their first annual social at Wynn's Hotel on last Wednesday evening. The guests were Captains Judge, Daly, Beasley; Lieuts. Dolan, Fahey and Sullivan. After Mr. J. E. Lyons had taken the chair, Serjts. Bevan, Read, Dodd and McGuinness rendered some fine Irish songs. The O'Carroll Bros., with pipes and violins, played a beautiful selection of Irish melodies. But the item that seemed to amuse most was Mr. H. Milford, the Irish magician, who gave a clever display of “natural magic.” Mr. C. O'Byrne, C Coy., 4th Bn., presided at the piano. A vote of thanks to Mr. J. E. Lyons, proposed by Capt. Judge, brought a most enjoyable evening to a close, by the singing of “A Nation Once Again.”

“B, E and F” Companies, 2nd Battalion.

The above companies, meeting at Fairview, announce a Smoking Concert under their auspices for Friday night, the 27th, at Clontarf Town Hall. The usual attractions of such entertainments will be fully maintained, and in addition an excellent musical programme will be provided. The names of Messrs. W. Sheehan, G. Crofts, M. J. Maguire, J. J. Smart, Eoghan O'Briain, and Seamus O'Haodha for songs; Messrs. D. Cuffe and J. Devoy, dances; T. Cuffe and Caulfield, recitations; and Messrs. Corr, instrumentalists, form a guarantee of a first-class programme. All Volunteers not urgently engaged elsewhere should utilise this opportunity of meeting their brethren in social intercourse. One of the greatest factors for efficiency is the development of esprit de corps, through the growth of a spirit of comradeship. Occasions such as Friday night next will bring this about more rapidly than per-

haps anything else, and will blend the different elements of which the Volunteer force is composed into a uniform whole, imbued with the one spirit and ideals.

THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

In these days of stress and strife and trouble and turmoil and work and worry, it is, indeed, heartening and inspiring to find that workers in the National movement are not forgetting that the spirit of the toilers must find outlet in some form of endeavour less exacting than the ordinary routine of their daily labours. A little relaxation, a little repose, a short period of friendly intercourse with their fellows, are just as necessary to the success of their labours as the spirit and hope which animate them. Materialism as a god has been dethroned and the wants of the soul can no longer be denied. As with the individual, so with the nation. The Irish language is Ireland's soul, and Erin's sons and daughters in the Gaelic League will not see it destroyed as long as they have life and energy to guard it. But to guard it effectively **your** help is needed and **you** can lend your aid in many ways. If you desire to see and discover for yourself whether Gaelic Leaguers are cold-blooded cranks or warm-hearted and generous Irish men and women, come to the great Ceilidh which will be held in the Mansion House (by kind permission of the Lord Mayor) on the night of Saturday next, the 28th inst. There will you hear the tongue of the Gael in all its natural beauty, and your heart will be gladdened by the strains of Irish song and music.

An energetic Committee, composed of representatives from the Dublin Branches and the Dublin Coisde Ceanntair, is in charge of all arrangements, and tickets, double and single, may be obtained from any of the Branch Secretaries, or at the Chief Office, 25 Parnell Square.

BELGIUM'S ALTERNATIVE.

Irish-American Paper's View.

The “Chicago Citizen,” a well-known Irish-American Journal, deals with the alternatives that faced Belgium at the beginning of the war:—

“What was Belgium's duty when Germany asked permission to cross her territory in order to reach French soil without delay? What did her honour and integrity demand of her? Was she obliged to do as she did, or was there an alternative? Our humble opinion is that she could have adopted another course. In saying this we are not denying her right to do what she did. But we think there was another way altogether consistent and honourable.

“Belgium, be it remembered, was under a protectorate, France, England, and Germany guaranteeing her neutrality and safety. In other words, she was a minor in the family of nations; and as such her right was to appeal to her august protectors when danger threatened. We think, therefore, that she could, in honour, have denied Germany's request, fired a shot in protest, and then retired before a Power with which she was not expected to cope. Having done this, she could, with the best of good grace, place her interests in the hands of those who had engaged to guard them.”

THOMAS DAVIS

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