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Уи. 25. Леабаг 1.
No. 25. Vol. 1.

ՄԻԱ ՏՉՃԱՐՈՒ, ՏՈՒՄԱՆ 28, 1914.
Saturday, November 28, 1914.

Լեւտ-թիցին.
One Halfpenny.

RUSSIA CUT OFF FROM THE SEA

According to the Berlin official news the Russian harbour of Archangel is now completely frozen, in spite of the efforts of ice-breakers. It is no longer possible to ship merchandise, ammunition, and foodstuffs from England to Russia.

As the Baltic is commanded by Germany and the Bosphorus is closed to Russia, this means that Russia is entirely cut off from sea communication with the remainder of the world.

MERCHANT SHIPPING LOSSES.

A British Board of Trade return gives the number of German merchant ships captured as 80, detained in British or Allied ports 166, in refuge in neutral ports 646, and unavailable in German ports as 329. The British ships captured by the Germans are returned at 49, detained in German ports at 75, and held up in the Baltic Sea as 71.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF ZEEBRUGGE.

The Sluis correspondent of the "Telegraaf" states that the rumours about the destruction of the village of Zeebrugge was exaggerated. The bombardment by the British squadron was very heavy, but Zeebrugge itself was not set on fire, and only one building in the vicinity of the port was burned. The fire of the warships was only directed against the harbour works. The real hamlet of Zeebrugge lies about 20 minutes from the port and was not affected by the firing.

One of the first British shells exploded among a party of German soldiers who were working at the construction of submarines. Fifteen men were killed and wounded.

SWISS NEUTRALITY.

German Report of a Protest.

The German newspapers of November 23rd contain a telegram from Berne stating that the Press of that city had just received the following official communication from the Swiss Government:—

"On Saturday several English, perhaps also French aeroplanes coming from France flew over Swiss territory. Thereupon they attacked the Zeppelin dockyard in Friedrichshafen. In view of this notorious violation of Swiss neutrality the Federal Council has instructed the Swiss Ministers in London and Bordeaux to lodge energetic protests with the British and French Governments and to demand satisfaction for the violation of Swiss neutrality."

The well-known Swiss journal, the "Bund," is quoted in the German Press as saying:—

"This affair has its serious side. It is an incident which affects our country and people directly, as we are desirous of maintaining our neutrality in every direction."

Branches of Cumann Na mBan are reminded that the Convention of the Organisation will be held in Dublin on Saturday, 12th December. Each Branch affiliated before 28th November will be entitled to send one delegate.

SINKING OF THE "BULWARK."

Describing the disaster to the British battleship "Bulwark," the special correspondent of the London "Times" at Chatham says:—

Early this morning the "Bulwark" lay peacefully at anchor in the Medway. Other ships of war lay close beside her. Leave had ceased at 7 o'clock, so that she had her full complement aboard; the band was playing and some of the men were drilling on deck when the explosion occurred. A great sheet of flame and quantities of debris shot upwards, and the huge bulk of the vessel lifted and sank, shattered, torn, and twisted, with officers and men aboard.

Boats of all kinds at once put out from shore and from the other warships, and all day long the search for bodies and survivors was made. The few who had escaped death were quickly taken to one or other of the ships near by, and thence removed to shore for treatment. The surface of the water was covered with pieces of wood, hammocks, boxes, fragments of clothing, furniture, and other objects.

I have now in my possession a sailor's leather purse which was blown ashore, and I have been shown this evening the written character of a sailor which had probably been stored in a locker, and which was picked up by a boat. The "Bulwark" had many confidential papers aboard, and for these search has been made. The vessel belongs to Portsmouth, so that only a few relatives of the men are here. All day long these have been making inquiries at the Naval Information Bureau.

Eye-witnesses whom I have seen assert that the debris was flung far and wide, but that no damage was done ashore or to any other vessels. The report of the explosion was heard at Gravesend and Faversham.

WILL THE LABOURERS SUBMIT?

Able-bodied Belgians to replace Irishmen.

At a meeting of Louth County Council on Monday, to consider the problem of the Belgian refugees, it was decided to inform the Local Government Board that, "owing to the number of farm labourers who had joined the army and the increased prospect of tillage," the Committee were of opinion that work could be provided for Belgian refugees.

Mr. Michael Meade stated that they would have the labourers of the county up in rebellion.

A PRO-GERMAN DISCOVERED

And charged with being Drunken!

John Cullen, a farmer, residing at Kesh, Co. Fermanagh, was sentenced at Kesh Petty Sessions on Wednesday to one month's imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly, and also bound to the peace, or in default three months' imprisonment. Defendant called for cheers for the Kaiser, and shouted, "Bravo," William of Germany."

Chairman (Mr. Sparrow, R.M.)—It is a pity he does not go out and fight for the Kaiser.

Mr. Elliot, J.P., said that the charge was a serious one.

RED INDIANS SEND AID TO ENGLAND.

Canadian newspapers contain the texts of messages sent by Red Indian chiefs to the Canadian Government in forwarding contributions to various war funds.

Chiefs Shot Both sides and Ermine Horses of the Blood Indians send £200 from the tribal funds as a "tangible expression of their desire that Great Britain may ever remain the guardian of the weak and the arbiter of the world's peace."

The Manitoulin Island Indians send £400 "toward defraying the enormous expenses of the war in which our great father the King is at present engaged."

The Six Nations desire their gift—£300—to speak for "the alliance existing between the Six Nations Indians and the British Crown."

The Black Feet band sends £240 "for our country and her allies"; Chief Big Belly and Councillor Big Wolf of the Sarcees send £100. The Temiskaming band sends £200 "to assist in alleviating the misery caused by the European conflict, especially throughout the Belgian country."

GERMANY AND BELGIAN NEUTRALITY.

The German Government, according to the Berlin official wireless news, has authorised the publication of a photographic reproduction of the documents found in Brussels proving the existence of an Anglo-Belgian Military Convention, also the report of General Ducarme, the chief of the Belgian General Staff, in 1906, to the War Minister, concerning his negotiations with the British Military Attaché, Capt. Barnadiston. In these documents details are published as to the number of British troops that would be required, their place of landing, and their equipment. In a further document, probably dated 1912, giving details of negotiations between the British Military Attaché Bridges and General Jungbluth, the Chief of the Belgian General Staff, it is made clear that England intended to land troops in the country in any case, with or without Belgian consent, and it is reported that the British Military Attaché at the time frequently visited and inspected Zeebrugge.

PURVEYORS' HURLING CLUB.

All members are requested to attend Croke Park on Sunday at 12.30 sharp to act as Stewards in connection with the All-Ireland Football Final. It is essential that every member bring his hurley and be punctual, in order to be directed to his position before the gates open at 1 o'clock.

All members of above Club are requested to attend practice in Ringsend Park on Saturday from 2.30 p.m.; and on Sunday from 11.30 a.m. Special meeting of the members of the Junior team will be held on Sunday week (6th December). All old and new members are requested to attend. Important business.

"IRELAND"

Will be sent post free to any address for Three Months for 6/6.

Send your Subscription at once to the Manager, 12 D'Olier Street, Dublin.

NOTICE.—All literary communications should be addressed to the Editor, "IRELAND," 12 D'Olier Street, Dublin. Business communications to the Manager.

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

IRELAND.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1914.

LATEST GERMAN ATROCITY.

Last night the Dublin pro-British papers were permitted to do what the English "Daily Chronicle," the English "Daily News," and the English "Daily Mail" did on Monday last—publish the official repudiation from Berlin of any German design against the people of Ireland, and the official statement that if the fortunes of war brought German troops to Ireland they would land not as invaders but as "forces of a nation inspired by good will towards Ireland and her people, for whom Germany desires national prosperity and freedom." Mr. Redmond tried to terrify the Irish people by gory stories of what would happen to them if they did not go out to fight against Germany. Sir Roger Casement, it would appear, has secured the assurance from Germany that Germany will inflict no injury upon Ireland if she be victorious. Nothing could be more calculated to annoy the Castle Journal, and if Mr. Brayden does not rise to the occasion, as he did in the "National Press" twenty-three years ago with the "Stop Thief" articles on Parnell, he will finally miss his vocation.

SUPPRESSION OF OPINION.

"The Government are fast drifting into a sharp and disturbing collision with one of the elementary rights of a British subject—the right to criticise," says the London "Daily Mail." They began by setting up a censorship over the publication of naval and military intelligence. Nobody objected, nobody could object. It is another thing, however, when the Government seek to extend the censorship over information into a censorship over opinion. That is what they are attempting now, and we hold it to be a vital national interest that the attempt shall be resisted and be defeated. We can have no revival of divine right."

IN A LONDON CLUB.

FROM "PUCK," 14th Nov.

The Hon. Algy: 'Lo, dear boy! Not in Scotland?

Lord Bertie: Apparently not. You here?

Hon. Algy: So they tell me. Do you refresh the inner man at all?

Lord B.: If I must, I must.

Hon. Algy: You must. Come hither, Frederick. Bring in drinks adapted to the time of day, the state of the thermometer, and the ghastly fact of being in London at this time of year. Why no shooting, Bertie?

Lord B.: Due to sudden insanity of my revered uncle. It has been revealed to him in a dream that grouse are not Germans. "If you want shooting," he wrote, "shoot the enemies of your country." The amiable old lunatic overlooked the fact that I don't happen to be a soldier.

Hon. Algy: Precisely. They tell me that one must drill for six months. I'd rather be massacred where I sit.

And so on, and so on.

TYRONE VOLUNTEERS.

A meeting was held in Inchaney (Sion Mills) Hall on Sunday evening, 22nd November, under the auspices of the Irish National Volunteers. The circumstances connected with it are remarkable. About two months ago a meeting was held in the Hall to decide whether the corps would follow John Redmond's Volunteers, or the Irish Volunteers. Forty-eight of the corps voted in favour of following Eoin Mac Neill's leadership in the Irish Volunteers, and seven voted for John Redmond. Lately the Strabane Volunteers, who supported Red-

mond, had fallen away in numbers; the most they could muster was about a dozen men. But on Friday night last an extraordinary special meeting was held to give their former Captain (E. Gallagher), now a private in the Dublin Fusiliers and who is on a visit to his native town, an opportunity of pointing out to his former comrades (the Redmond Volunteers) the advantage of joining the British Army. He hoped before long he would see a number of those present in the training camp with him. Needless to say, all the cajolery of local "Nationalists" at the meeting could not induce any of those present to join the Army. During the meeting it was announced a route march would take place to Inchaney on Sunday evening, to see about re-organising "those thick-headed fellows who had foolishly followed Eoin Mac Neill's policy."

The march did take place with a muster of about 40 Volunteers, fully arrayed, and armed, if necessary to point the straight way of "Irish Nationalist's" duty to those benighted boys from sterling old Inchaney. All the wire-pullers and political intriguers and spouters of "Nationalist" Strabane marched with a deadly purpose and set view as to what they would teach these country lads. Three of the Strabane fire-eating spouters harangued the assembly, the hall, which was filled to overflowing, constantly interrupting. Evidently something was astray. Surely these country lads had not the courage to doubt after hearing such eloquence spoken on behalf of the chosen "leader" and his faithful henchmen.

But the climax was yet to come. After the "Strabane orators" were exhausted they inquired if any person had anything to say in opposition to their doctrine. Up the Hall stepped a clean limbed hardy young lad, who said he had a few words to say. When he came on the platform the house rose en masse and cheered frantically over the defeat of Ireland's true cause. He raked the followers of Redmond in a scathing tone, and pointed out the facts of the case why the Inchaney men remained loyal to Ireland a Nation. The enthusiasm which his speech produced was the death-knell of the missionaries from Strabane. He challenged them to take a vote and see how many present would support John Redmond. They knew better. They said: "We will do so some other time."

The most amazing part of the whole proceedings was that a large number of the Strabane boys all cheered and applauded the defender of Eoin Mac Neill's cause and remained silent over John Redmond.

AN OMISSION REPAIRED.

TO THE EDITOR OF "ÉIRE."

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Dear Sir,—I beg to send you a few verses, which have been unaccountably omitted from Mr. Stephen Gwynn's poem in to-day's "Freeman" on

The Irish Brigade, 1914.

Lo, I hear the football whistle; lo, I see the bounding ball

And dear England's youth responding in their thousands to the call.

Be yours the task to leave them there, and ever bear in mind—

Your duty 'tis to line the trench: they like them Irish-lined.

You have shed your blood in foreign lands. Go out; keep shedding more,

Till not a man of Irish birth remains on Ireland's shore.

Your native land you could not stand. Oh, do not ask me why,

I've really quite forgotten now what made the Wild Geese fly!

Look on the past and reckon up all England's done for you,

Think of her friendship, and her love; her plighted word so true.

Will you not help to crush her foe? Lag? when the banners wave

Of the land that never yet denied you exile and a grave?

P.

THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "ÉIRE."

Dear Sir,—In view of the fact that further efforts are being made to obtain subscriptions to the above as well as to the Prince of Wales' Fund the enclosed advertisement, which has been appearing daily in the "Times" for some weeks, is interesting. The advertisement, which is headed "The Word of God," is an appeal for funds to be used largely for prosely-

tising purposes, and is signed by the Rev. Bishop Taylor-Smith, Chaplain General of the Forces. It is therefore semi-official, and it informs us that already over 100,000 Active Service Gospels (whatever sort of Gospels these are), containing Lord Roberts' and Admiral Jellicoe's "Messages" (possibly inspired) have been distributed to the "Belgian Troops and Refugees," and over 600,000 copies to the "British Soldiers and Sailors," amongst whom are probably 100,000 Irish Catholics. Now the offer of the British "Word of God" with the "inspired" messages of Roberts and Jellicoe to the Irish and Belgian troops and the Belgian Refugees is an insult to the religious convictions of the recipients—meaner, because of the circumstances under which the offer is made, than was the offer of food made by the Soupers to our forefathers during the famine days on condition that they would change their religion. My object in writing is to suggest that those who wish to assist the Belgians should see that their money is not used to insult the religious convictions of their Belgian fellow-Catholics, or of the Catholic soldiers at the front. The only way to secure this is to refuse to subscribe to the British official funds. We remember the reports of how monies subscribed to Italian official funds at the time of the Messina earthquake were used to found Masonic schools and institutions to corrupt the faith of Italian children, and we may be sure that those responsible for the enclosed advertisement, as well as those who publish it, are not likely to be outdone in meanness even by the Freemasons of Italy.—Yours, etc.,

CIVIS.

The following is the advertisement to which our correspondent refers:—

"THE WORD OF GOD is being supplied to our brave soldiers and our Allies, also the Belgian Refugees and our prisoners of war by the Scripture Gift Mission. The Committee appeal for help to enable them to continue to respond to the large appeals which still pour into the office from all quarters, including our men at the front themselves. £2 5s. will supply 1,000 Active Service Gospels, containing Lord Roberts' message to Soldiers or Admiral Jellicoe's to Sailors. Vice-President: Rt. Rev. Bishop Taylor-Smith, Chaplain-General. Secretary: Francis C. Brading, 15 Strand, W.C., to whom contributions may be sent."

THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.**Headquarters' Bulletin.**

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street, Dublin, on Wednesday evening, 25th inst., Professor Eoin Mac Neill, President, in the Chair.

A Sub-Committee of Military Organisation was appointed.

The following General Order was issued:—

With regard to a recent report as to a seizure of arms attributed to Volunteers in Dublin, the Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers express its strong disapprobation of any such action, and draws attention to the previous Orders of the Provisional Committee referring to alleged seizures of arms in the North and elsewhere.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,

Dublin, 25th Nov., 1914.

A VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

A concert of Irish music, songs, and dances will be held in York Street Hall, Dublin, on Friday, December 11th, in aid of the Rifle Fund of the Dublin Mounted Corps. The programme will be an exceptional one. Amongst the artistes contributing are Miss Maire Nie Shiubhalaigh, Miss Eibhlin Ni Annrachain, Miss C. Evans, and a host of other well-known Irish-Ireland artistes. The Emmet Choir will sing the Volunteer song of 1782 and a number of other choruses. Full details of the programme will be announced shortly. The men of the Dublin Mounted Corps look to their brother Volunteers to support them in this effort to secure their arms. Tickets (1/- and 6d.) may be obtained from any member of the Corps, from Messrs. James Whelan and Son, Ormond Quay; or Mr. O'Hickey, 14 Synge St., S.C.R. Several recruits were enrolled within the last couple of weeks. Drills as follows:—Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at Fianna Hall, Camden Street; Saturdays at 3.30 p.m. at Larkfield, Kimmage.

"THE VINDICATION OF SINN FEIN."

On Wednesday night, at 6 Harcourt Street, Pádraig Ua Muireagain will lecture on above subject. Chair at 8.30.

THE WAR DAY BY DAY.

The Russians in Poland.

This week has been a week of Russian "victories." They began—to be announced—on last Monday and they have continued since. On Monday a German division was captured. On Tuesday it was a German army corps. On Wednesday it was two German army corps. On Thursday it was a force of 250,000 men. On Friday it was the whole German army in Poland consisting, so it was said, of twelve army corps. If it goes on like this there won't be a German left in Germany by the middle of next week. We have become accustomed now to having the Germans decimated and annihilated, but such slaughter as the papers described this week has been unheard of since the war began. It can only have two causes: (1) that the Allies wish to rush the Balkan States and Italy into the war or (2) that the correspondents in Petrograd have had inside information which the Russian authorities modestly refused to officially announce.

What a Russian Success Means.

Now we all know what the Russian Press did during the Russo-Japanese War. It was full of victories while, in truth, the Japs inflicted on the Russian army a series of smashing blows. Let us accept in some measure, however, the reports of a German defeat in Poland, which have been in circulation in the Russian capital since last Monday. What does it mean? Possibly it means that the German offensive in Poland has been broken and that they have sustained serious losses there. But on their own frontier they have a network of magnificent railways. If they are compelled to take up a defensive war on their own frontier they will be able to do so under the most favourable conditions. They have at their back huge fortresses like Thorn and Glogau and Breslau and Cracow. Considering that the Russians have been hammering away at the outpost fortress of Przemysl for three months their chances of taking the immensely stronger ones of Königsberg, Dantzic, Graudenz, Thorn, Breslau, Glogau, and Cracow are not immediately likely. Of course it may be said that they can mask them—that is, leave an investing force around them, as they have been doing at Przemysl—and then march on to Berlin. They might do this with one or two of the frontier fortresses but they cannot do this with all of them, and to capture even one of these fortresses would cost enormous loss of life. The Russians have not got the big 17-in. guns of the Germans, that batter fortresses to pieces. Will they, therefore, waste their time taking them, or will they undertake the new tasks which the Grand Duke in command of the Russian armies recently announced.

The Russians' Real Objective.

The more probable course which the Russians may pursue in the event of a German reverse in Poland would be to leave a sufficiently large force in Poland and in East Prussia while the bulk of the Russian armies move south towards the direction in which all Russian ideals are centred—and that is, Constantinople. Russia feels and she certainly has every right to feel that she has done more than her share against Germany, and that it is time for the French and the English to be up and doing their share. In fact, as I have seen stated by a well-informed writer in the American Press, it is quite probable that the most staggering blow which England and France will receive may come, not from Germany, but from Russia. The entire policy of the Russian Government—even its international diplomacy—is based on cunning, deceit and treachery. What does the reactionary plutocratic, autocratic Government of Russia care for France or England. It is fighting for its own ends. It is fighting for ideals long cherished. Not one of these ideals is the preservation of small nationalities. It would wish Serbia to succeed so as to be a thorn in the side of Austria, but it would ruthlessly crush Roumania and Bulgaria because they stand in the way of its direct communication with Constantinople.

Russia's Invariable Policy.

Russia, if it suits her purposes, will sell her allies just as surely now as she has done in the past. All she wants is to be sure that Germany is sufficiently reduced so as not to be a menace to her own designs, and once she is convinced that she has accomplished that purpose she will proceed to carry out her own programme against the Austrians and the Turks quite regardless of the aims and purposes of her allies. When she does so there will be remarkable developments. The Eng-

lish Press has been lavish in praise of the work of the Russians up to now because Russia has been temporarily playing their game. Readers who may like a contrast should preserve these leaders in praise of Russia and compare them with what England and France may be saying about Russia bye and bye. It may be a sharp contrast.

The British Battleship Disaster.

The British battleship "Bulwark" was blown to bits in Sheerness Harbour on Thursday morning. Terrible scenes were witnessed and the whole countryside around was shaken. It is now announced that the disaster was caused by an internal explosion. If it had been caused by a German submarine it would have what Sir Stanley Buckmaster called a depressing effect on the public. Whatever the cause the battleship is in bits at the bottom of Sheerness Harbour, and nearly 800 British sailors have lost their lives.

C.

IRISH-ARGENTINA REPUDIATES MR. REDMOND.

The "Southern Cross" of Buenos Ayres, the organ of the Irish of Argentina, which hitherto gave a qualified support to Mr. Redmond, definitely repudiates him in its issue to hand yesterday. It writes:—

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, has issued the following Manifesto:—

"The whole-hearted endorsement by the Irish people and the Irish Volunteers of the spirit of my declaration, made on the impulse of the moment, and without seeking for any conditions whatever, that the defence of Ireland might safely be left to the sons of Ireland themselves, shows the profound change which has been brought about in the relations of Ireland to the Empire by the events of the past three years."

We Irish all agree that the defence of Ireland ought to be left to the sons of Ireland; but the British do not agree to it and so do not leave the defence of Ireland to the Irish.

"The Irish people know, and appreciate the fact fully, that at long last, after centuries of misunderstanding, the democracy of Great Britain has finally and irrevocably decided to trust them, and to give them back their national liberties."

"By overwhelming British majorities a Charter of Liberty for Ireland has been three times passed by the House of Commons, and in a few hours will be the law of the land. A new era has opened in the history of the two nations."

The question is not whether the British democracy trusts us but whether we can trust them. It is false that the British democracy has finally and irrevocably decided to give the Irish their national liberties—as yet we have got nothing. Even the paltry and meagre Home Rule Bill can be revoked at any moment; and in any case an Amending Bill will be brought forward before the law is put into execution. Moreover, by this Home Rule Bill Ireland does not come into her national liberties; she gets little more than a promise of the rights that any camp municipality enjoys in this country.

Ireland would be false to her history and to every consideration of honour, good faith and self-interest if she sent her children to die on foreign battlefields fighting the battles of the stranger in a war that she has neither provoked nor knows anything about. Those who have brought on and declared this war should fight it out. Whenever Ireland had made war her sons have been men enough to do the fighting; they did not remain at home and ask the stranger to do it for them. Ireland is not alone in this way of thinking. The Argentine Republic, Brazil, Chile and all the Latin-American republics, the United States, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Greece, etc., have decided to take no sides in this war. Why does not Mr. Redmond appeal to the sympathy of those strong nations, instead of seeking to deprive Ireland of the few children that remain to comfort and help her in her hour of need?

The Swiss Government was advised by one of the belligerent Powers to protest against Germany for violating Belgian neutrality. The answer was swift and curt: "Switzerland has enough to do to defend her own neutrality."

Ireland needs all her sons of every creed and of every political opinion. And we say to all: do not fight other people's wars; remain at home and build up a strong and free

Ireland. There is work for all in that dear Ireland whose honour has been handed down untarnished through the ages into the hands of the present generation.

Redmond's day is gone; he got the chance of being a great man but has failed.

"SOLDIER PRIESTS."

The following letter appears in "The Cross," the organ of the Passionists:—

To the Editor of "The Cross."

Rev. Sir,—In an article published in your November issue on "Soldier Priests," the writer informs your readers that there are soldier priests in the German armies.

If the writer had taken the trouble to ask any of his German colleagues serving on the Scottish or English mission, he would not have made such a mistake.

This, of course, is nothing strange even amongst those who should know better, because there seems to be a great deal of ignorance amongst Catholics in these countries with regard to the Catholic Church in Germany, particularly with regard to the Catholic Church in Germany to-day.

During the famous "Kulturkampf" in Germany after the war of 1870-71, it is true that priests and aspirants to the priesthood had to serve in the German army as their confrères in atheistical France; but to-day that is all changed.

Since the end of Bismarck's attempt to coerce the Church in Germany and the famous Falk Laws, which have been repealed, and full restoration of Church property and compensation made to the Catholic hierarchy after some years of persecution, there have been no soldier priests in the German army.

Amongst exemptions made in favour of certain professions, priests and aspirants to the priesthood were also exempted from military service, and this has been the case now for thirty years or more.

In an article which appeared recently in an American Catholic newspaper, a correspondent who is with the German armies in the field tells us there are over 1,000 priests serving as chaplains at the front, and much of the ambulance work and nursing of the sick and wounded is done by Catholic Sisters.

In the Catholic soldier's knapsack a book of Nietzsche's philosophy does not find a place, but the military prayer-book for Catholic soldiers has a prominent place.

That this is true we know from our own soldiers at the front, who have testified that they have found wounded, dying, and even dead men in the trenches using, or having beside them, these self-same prayer-books.

It might be of interest to your readers to know the full strength of the Church in Germany—no doubt, the statistics will surprise many.

They are taken from Father Streit's famous "Atlas Hierarchicus," the most remarkable work of recent years on religious and statistical geography. At present in Germany there are 24,260,250 Catholics and 40,628,440 non-Catholics, 5 Archbishops, some of whom are Cardinals; 26 Bishops, 1 military Bishop; 17 Coadjutor Bishops, 817 Deans, 11,299 parishes, 21,850 churches, 22,137 secular priests, 29 seminaries with 2,779 students, 39 preparatory colleges with 4,070 pupils, 42 lay colleges with 3,370 pupils. The regular clergy have 290 houses, 1,826 priests, and 3,591 lay Brothers. There are 5,267 convents with about 60,000 Sisters, 8 high schools for boys, with 2,405 pupils; 49 high schools for girls, with 8,759 pupils; 214 orphanages with 5,000 orphans; finally, 740 hospitals.

A formidable array, no doubt, but that is not all. The "Chronicle of the Christian World"—a Protestant organ—gives further proof of the enormous strides which the Church has made in Germany; it deplores this more than the abandonment of religion en masse on the part of the Protestants.

It predicts that in a few years there will be as many Catholic children as Protestant children; it says more—it predicts that in 1961 the number of Catholic children will be 6,205,076, and the number of Protestant children 6,147,032 at the present rate of increase. Consequently, it adds, the former will be in the majority, if the progress continues at it has been doing, and why should it not?

Where the Church has liberty and is powerfully organised, both politically and religiously, as in Germany, it advances by leaps and bounds; where it is persecuted, as in France and Russia, its virility and progress are slow—in fact, in Russia and in France the priest

has hardly the life of a dog, so violent is the persecution on the part of the Governments.

In conclusion, I beg of you to publish this letter, written partially to clear up a mistake, partially to pay a tribute to a race much calumniated and maligned by the press and books of this country to-day, because it is the fashion, no doubt.—Yours, etc.,

“A HIGHLAND PRIEST.”

GERMANY DEFENDED BY AN AMERICAN WOMAN.

The following letter from an American lady, married to a German officer, appears in the “Philadelphia Public Ledger”:

As a former American and a partisan of justice and fair play, I am writing to ask you to publish this letter, which I write as a protest against the bitter, unjust and often grossly false statements of many American papers about Germany and the German campaign ever since the outbreak of hostilities. I am often speechless with surprise and indignation to see how self-respecting and supposed to be reliable journals can publish statements which are so utterly at variance with the facts. Before me lies a copy of the “Washington Post” of Aug. 21. On the second page, in large headlines, one reads the following stupendous and utterly ridiculous falsehoods:

“Germany Raising Amazon Corps.”

“Boys with Bayonets Guard Berlin.”

“London, Aug. 20.—The “Times” correspondent at Rotterdam telegraphs a statement which he says was made to him by a party of Chinese medical men who have arrived in Rotterdam from Berlin.

“When we left Berlin on Saturday night,” says the statement, “the city was in the hands of old men and boys, not an able-bodied man was to be seen. All the bridges were guarded by boys of about 14 years of age, who stood with fixed bayonets.

“A corps of Amazons is being raised in Berlin, leaflets having been distributed calling the women to arms.”

How can any self-respecting paper publish such nonsense?

I have been living in Berlin for the last two years and can assure you I see absolutely no difference in the aspect of the streets from what it was in times of peace, with the one exception that there are fewer autos seen on the streets. As far as the town being left in the hands of old men and boys is concerned, it is utterly false. On the contrary, I have been astonished and even indignant to see streets, cafes and restaurants almost as full as ever with able-bodied men of all ages, and have even asked some of them with scorn, “Why are you here? Why are you not at the front?” only to feel abashed when answered sometimes in a quivering voice, “Because they do not want me yet. I am hoping every day for my summons.” One man I know of tried six regiments before he was finally taken. Just about a week ago I read official notices in the daily papers from reserve regiments in Berlin, warning volunteers that it was useless to apply, as their ranks were full—that does not look as if Berlin were guarded only by old men and boys.

The American papers are full of “German atrocities” in France and in Belgium. Up till now I have not found in any of them any reference to the atrocities of the Belgian, French and Russians against not only our soldiers, but also against perfectly inoffensive civilians—men, women and children.

Why do American papers never by any chance write of the atrocities committed by our enemies against the German soldiers and civilians, instead of only, only the dreadful “German atrocities?”

Has America ceased to be the champion of fair play? Have its people not taken the time and trouble to read the statements of the well-known journalists: Roger Lewis, of the Associated Press; Irvin S. Cobb, of the “Saturday Evening Post” and “Public Ledger”; Harry Hansen, of the Chicago “Daily News”; James O'Donnell Bennett and John M. McCutcheon, of the “Chicago Tribune,” to which they pledge their “professional, personal” word that as far as they have been able to observe, after weeks with the German army, they are unable to report “a single instance of unprovoked reprisal?”

It would require too much space and time to attempt to refer to the absolutely distorted accounts of the various engagements of the war, where in almost every instance German successes were always reported as French vic-

tories. Since many of these absolutely unjustified reports were printed, the lie has been given them in the most effectual way by the German occupation of numberless Belgian and French cities and fortresses.

I was among the Americans caught in Aix les Bains when the dreadful storm broke over Europe. After five days there of isolation from the outside world, receiving no news except the so-called “official” statements from the neighbouring garrison of Chambery, which each day furnished news of terrible German defeats and disasters on land and sea—east, west, north and south of the empire—I was finally ordered by the prefect of police at 11 o'clock at night to leave the next morning at 6, as being the wife of a high German officer they could not be responsible for my safety; from there I went to Turin, where I spent more than two weeks while trying to obtain money from America, as at first I was entirely cut off from communication with Germany, and the banks refused to touch my checks.

During the three weeks of my enforced exile I could obtain Italian papers filled with “official reports” from the French and English papers, describing the utter disaster to the German arms, whole regiments annihilated (one of which, the Royal Garde de Corps) was still on the train on its way to the front when the papers announced its total destruction on the field of battle; this latter was vouched for by the quartermaster general of the army.

Liege passed into the possession of the Germans on Aug. 7. When I reached Domodossola on Aug. 21 the Italian papers, copying French and Belgian reports, announced: “The forts of Liege resist all attacks.”

In all America, is there no voice to sound the German victories? No sympathy for a nation with its back to the wall, fighting for its very existence in a war not of its own making, a nation who is giving the world examples of self-control, heroism, patriotism, self-sacrifice never excelled in all history?

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NEW WAR TAXES.

Dublin, 25th Nov., 1914.

TO THE EDITOR OF “EIRE.”

Sir,—The suggestion of your correspondents that Gaels should give up tea drinking is an excellent one for (tea)totalitarians, and one which it is to be hoped they will carry out.

Such as are not, however, will, unless they give up the consumption of beer (so long as the war tax is on it) be as inconsistent as a man dressed in a suit of shoddy advocating the support of home industry.—Yours sincerely,

A GAEL.

MR. BALL.

25th Nov., 1914.

Sir,—With reference to the statement appearing in this morning's issue of your paper to the effect that Mr. Ball, one of the gentlemen dismissed from Islandbridge Depot on Thursday last, instructed Volunteers in bayonet fighting, I beg to inform you that such is not the fact.

To my knowledge Mr. Ball was not at any time engaged in the work of imparting instruction in bayonet fighting or any other form of drill to the Irish Volunteers, nor was he ever a member of the Volunteer force.—Yours faithfully,

M. J. JUDGE, Hon. Sec.,

Dublin City and County Board.

IRISH WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF “EIRE.”

Westmoreland Chambers,

Westmoreland Street,

Dublin, 25th Nov., 1914.

Dear Sir,—I beg to draw your attention to the following resolution, proposed by Mrs. Wilkins, seconded by Miss Cahalan and carried unanimously, at a public meeting held by above League on Tuesday, Nov. 24th., in Westmoreland Chambers:—

“That no suffragist should assist in any way the present anti-suffragist Government; and that we urge all women householders to refuse to fill up the census-paper now being issued to them on behalf of the Government for military purposes; and we adopt this policy as a protest against the Government's denial to women of citizenship, while expecting from them the duties of citizens.”—I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

KATHLEEN HOUSTON,

Assistant Sec.

COLMCILLE BRANCH OF THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

Irish language classes are held at the Colmcille Branch of the Gaelic League, 5 Blackhall Street, as follows:—1st, 2nd and 3rd years, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m.. Children's classes, 7 and 7.30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Advanced class at 8 p.m. Wednesdays. All the classes are in charge of capable and experienced teachers. The children's dance class meets every Friday, and is in charge of Miss M. Neville. A Sgoruidheacht is held every Sunday from 8 till 10 o'clock, to which Gaels are always welcome. A Ceilidh will be held in the Branch Hall on Saturday, 2nd January, commencing at 9 p.m. Tickets now on sale: double, 3/6; single, 2/-; address, 5 Blackhall Street.

THE AONACH.

“Aonach” is not the name of a German battleship, it is the name of the Irish Fair organised each year by the Industrial Committee of Sinn Féin, for the purpose of capturing Christmas trade for Irish manufacturers. This year the Aonach will be held in the Abbey Theatre (entrance Lower Abbey Street) from December 7th to December 14th. Readers of IRELAND will hardly need persuasion regarding the necessity for whole-hearted support of the enterprise.

CONNRAÐ NA SÆDÖLSE.

CRAOÐ NA PARÓISOE TĒAS. I SCORCAIḂ.

beirō

CUIRM CEOL.

SA “ḂREANÁN,” SRÁIO NA BAINRIOḂNA,

UIMĪR A TRĪ,

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FOUND, on Tuesday, 24th, Ladies Watch Wristlet, between Dame Street and Westmoreland Street. Apply “Watch,” this office.

PEKINGESE MALE PUPPIES FOR SALE, 7 weeks old, good breed. Apply to “Pekin,” this office.

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