

COMLUCT CONZANTA NA NΞAOTΔL ΔΞUR SPLEΔOTΔC
OΞLΔC NA HΞIPEANN

Irish National Aid & Volunteer Dependents' Fund

OBJECTS:—To make provision for the Families and Dependents of the Men who were Executed, of those who fell in action, and of those sentenced to penal servitude, in connection with the Insurrection of Easter, 1916; and in addition, to provide for the necessities of those others who suffered by reason of participation, or suspicion of participation in the Insurrection.

AN APPEAL.

No doom of law condemns to privation and penalty the relatives of imprisoned men, or the families of the sentenced Dead.

The voice of Justice forbids that injury shall be inflicted upon the innocent.

God's precepts command us to comfort those who mourn, to assist those who are bereaven, and to protect the fatherless child.

Many are the mourners in Ireland to-day, many are the bereaven, many are the children fatherless, many the homes made desolate.

Other Associations have charge of the question of general distress, and met its special and pressing claims.

For immediate and National aid, our Association has made, and makes appeal. That appeal has gone round the globe; wherever an Irish heart beats it has had an echo. The wail of an orphan reaches farther and touches the soul more deeply than the cannon's roar. From all countries and from over all seas the response has been prompt and generous.

But the need was great and still is most urgent. So sudden and so vast has been the destitution that the moneys received had to be distributed at once. For those bereaven families who have lost all but very life it has been impossible to arrange a permanent provision, however small, nor any for those whose nearest kin have been condemned to the long pain of penal prisons.

It is true that many who were arrested without accusation, or detained without trial, have been discharged—but without compensation. They have too often found themselves without homes, and without means of gaining a livelihood.

“We will deny to no man justice and right,” declares the Magna Carta of Ireland. It is for the people at large to vindicate that great principle.

Shall the voice of Justice, then, be unheard, and the Innocent be compelled to suffer injury, without sympathy and without redress?

Shall the dictates of Christianity be despised, which announce a blessing on the lovers of righteousness and declare that those only who show mercy shall obtain mercy on the great day of perfect Justice?

We make our appeal to all human hearts, whose noble compassion can reach over every obstacle to redress wrongs and alleviate suffering, that they may co-operate in this merciful and righteous work. For the sake of our country we make it, of our Nation's honour, and of our own, so that its high repute for justice shall be transmitted by our generation unsullied to future and happier times.

Comluċt Conġanta na nġasodai aġur Spleadac
Oġlac na heireann

Irish National Aid & Volunteer Dependents' Fund

10 EXCHEQUER STREET, DUBLIN.

Chairman: REV. RICHARD BOWDEN, Adm., Pro-Cathedral, Dublin.

Vice-Chairman: P. T. KEOHANE.

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REPORT.

The Irish National Aid Association, and the Volunteer Dependents' Fund were both founded in May, 1916, to put a stay on distress arising out of the Insurrection. As the result of a meeting convened by Mr. John Archdeacon Murphy, representing the Irish Relief Fund Committee of America, an amalgamation of the two societies was unanimously effected under the title of

THE IRISH NATIONAL AID AND VOLUNTEER DEPENDENTS' FUND.

The work which the two bodies, and subsequently the combined association, had to face for the past five months has been vastly greater than was ever expected. The British Government provides for the families of the German residents in England whom they interned; the families of the 2,500 Irishmen whom they interned were left to starve—or rather were left to the sole trust of the Irish People who rose nobly to that trust. The release of many of the interned men brought little reduction to the Grants; for a great proportion of the men were refused employment, and even now, after months of anxious searching, very many are still out of work. During all the early stages of the work the Grants from the two funds to meet really urgent necessities averaged £1,400 a week; even during September they averaged over £1,200 a week; and the Executive see little prospect of any immediate or substantial reduction of the latter figure.

But when these urgent and temporary calls are finally closed, there will remain the charge on the Irish People of providing for the dependents of those who lost their lives by execution, or who died fighting, or of those who lie in penal prisons herded with the lowest of England's criminals. The sacred duty of the educating and starting in life of the numerous orphaned children, in itself, involves a heavy financial responsibility.

For this work the Executive appeals for earnest and persistent effort; and especially they call for the founding of a permanent branch of their Association in every town and village in Ireland, and in every place abroad where Irish Exiles gather together.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurers of the Fund, 10 Exchequer Street, Dublin; Cheques and Postal Orders being crossed and made payable to "The Irish National Aid and Volunteer Dependents' Fund."

Instruction as to formation of branches, system of collecting books or weekly contribution cards, will be gladly furnished by the Hon. Secs.

October, 1916.