

An tÓglach

Edited by Major General Piaras Beaslai.

Vol. 1., No. 2.

SUMMER, 1961

6d.

PAST AND PRESENT

NO patriotic Irishman, and, in particular no old I.R.A. man, can regard without the deepest concern the depletion of the Irish countryside by the emigration in excessive numbers of the most healthy and vigorous young men and women. Excessive emigration has been an Irish problem for several generations. Under British rule, or rather misrule, the cause of it was largely economic necessity, the same cause which produced periodic famines in the West of Ireland. In the early Sinn Fein days, at the beginning of this century, excessive emigration was listed as one of the national evils to be combated, and an Anti-Emigration Society was started, with branches all over the country.

It is a puzzling and disturbing fact that in an independent Republic of our own, under a democratically elected Government, in a country where the standard of living is now higher than ever before, with expanding commerce, the evil of excessive emigration is worse than for many years past, and indeed threatens the continued existence of the Irish nation. The apparent indifference of politicians of all parties to this fundamental national problem is one of the worst features of the situation. It is the duty of every patriotic Irishman to use his influence to focus public attention on the problem. In a matter of this kind the old I.R.A. men can be very effective. They gave an example of practical patriotism in the past, when, resisting all temptations to better their conditions by leaving Ireland, they preferred to stay at home and risk the danger of the fight with England. They felt that emigration was a cowardly desertion of their post of duty. To-day their example should urge young men to show their patriotism by living and working in their own country.

One lamentable feature of the situation is that the places hardest hit by the excessive emigration are the Irish-speaking districts of the Western and Southern coasts. If the present trend continues another generation will see the end of Irish as an everyday spoken language, and any attempt to "revive" it by teaching it in the schools will become futile and foolish. The evil here is largely an economic one. There is no part of Ireland so poor in natural resources—apart from the sea fisheries—as the Gaeltacht—and there has been no part of Ireland more neglected by successive Governments, since we won self-Government, than the same Gaeltacht.

Incidentally the sea fisheries of Ireland represent a potential source of income which has been wholly neglected by all our Governments. While our fishermen struggle to earn a living with small boats and defective equipment, vessels from France, Holland, Spain and other Continental countries fitted out in the most up-to-date way, come

yearly to sweep the rich harvest of the Irish seas and make much wealth at our expense. England and France do not hesitate to use their navies to protect the interests of their fisheries. Our fishers and fisheries properly equipped and protected could prove one of the most important sources of national wealth.

The first number of our new *Oglach* has met with a favourable reception from old I.R.A. men everywhere. The historic value of the various contributions has been generally acknowledged, and we have received a number of contributions of a similar nature. We thank our contributors, but we do not wish our pages to be confined to the chronicling of the past. If anybody has anything to say on current matters of interest and concern to old I.R.A. men generally, we shall welcome a letter or article from him on the subject. Suggestions, recommendations or complaints of grievances will be freely given a voice. We should be glad, also, to receive some contributions in Irish.

MOUNTJOY PRISON 1919

A Poetical Picture

ON March 16th, 1919, Robert Barton escaped at night from Mountjoy Prison, having sawed through a bar in the window of his cell in the Prison Hospital near the canal bank wall. He scaled the wall with the aid of assistants outside, who threw over a rope ladder, and caught him in a blanket.

Thirteen days later, on March 29th, twenty prisoners escaped from Mountjoy, in broad daylight, by the same method and with the same assistance from outside. These included Patrick Fleming, "the prison breaker", who had demolished a special cell built for him in Maryborough Prison, of "unbreakable" material; J. J. Walsh, T.D., and the editor of AN tÓGLACH. Prior to this escape the last-named scribbled a parody of Fitzgerald's "Omar Khayyam", which gives a fair idea of conditions in the prison at the time. At this time Paddy Fleming was Commandant of the political prisoners, and had contrived to keep the prison authorities in hot water.

"Awake, for morning comes with iron
clang,
The keys grate in the locks, the cell-
doors bang
And see! a warder brings me in my food
I rise and seek my garments where they
hang.

"Dreaming while night was interblent
with day
I thought I heard a surly warder say
'Arise, my hardy boys, and ate your
grub;
Surely there is no hunger-strike to-day!'

And as the bells rang those who stood
before
Their spyholes shouted 'Open, then, the
door
You know how short our hour of
exercise
And once locked in they let us out no
more!'

A book of verses in a prison cell,
A mug of tea, a junk of bread as well,
A neighbour felon singing rebel songs,
And prison is—a cross 'twixt heaven
and hell!

O love, could you and I with Fate
contrive
To lock our enemies in here alive,

Say, would we let them out at half-past
four
And bring them in from exercise at five?

Yes love; but if the Prisons Board
conspire
The rights we claim to rob us of entire
Would we not smash our cells to bits
and then
Create disturbance to our hearts' desire.

For some we know, the bravest and the
best,
Smashed up their cells at Fleming's high
behest,
They played the devil with the prison
rules
And looked upon the handcuffs as a
jest*.

O keeper of my soul, for whom I sigh,
The keeper of my body's passing by,
How oft hereafter passing shall he look
Through that damned spyhole watching
where I lie.

But when at length, my dearest, all is
well,
And I've escaped to you, my tale to tell,
Like Barton's warder shall my warder
turn,
And, shaking head, pass by an empty
cell.

*A fact



Major General Piaras Beaslai, Editor of An tÓglach, Andrew Clarkin (Lord Mayor of Dublin), and Robert Barton.

A BUSY BATTALION COMMANDANT

DURING the later stages of the Anglo-Irish War (the Black-and-Tan period) copies of all dispatches received by G.H.Q. were forwarded to the Editor of AN tOGLACH. The Director of Training J. J. O'Connell ("Ginger") later Colonel O'Connell also received reports which he used in his Training Notes for AN tOGLACH. A number of these were in hands at the time of the Truce, and, in consequence of the Truce, never saw the light. One of these contributions, now published for the first time after 40 years, will be read with interest. It is the "diary" for January 1921, of a Battalion Commandant in a very active area, forwarded to the Director, who perhaps asked for it as an example to less energetic officers elsewhere. The Director has made some deletions, apparently to give no indication of the locality but it is practically certain that the report is from a Battalion of Cork No. 3 Brigade, whose area was near the Kerry border. No doubt some of our readers could guess the Commandant's identity.

JANUARY 1921

- 1st. Discussed Intelligence reports with O.C. "C" Co., and also the possibility of ambushing enemy troops in his area. Decided to arrange ambush for the 4th.
- 2nd. Sent dispatches to all men of Active Service section on Christmas leave, mobilising them for the 3rd.
- 3rd. Mobilised men and inspected arms and ammunition. Secured cars & transferred all men and staff to "C" area.
- 4th. Waited for patrol from 6.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Day very cold & wet and I decided, after consulting other officers, that the patrol would hardly come out after that hour. Therefore I dismissed the men with orders to mobilise the following day. At the moment of dismissal a scout reported that lorries had left "D" Co. area. I got men together at once and rushed them into the best position available. Attacked lorries, first one of which got through. The occupants of the second dismounted & took cover, from which I failed to dislodge them before re-inforcements arrived. We retreated to a safe position, I dismissed men in turn for grub. Got back to village inside one hour, and found enemy had left. They had burned a house and taken some civilians prisoners. Waited, expecting further reprisals.
- 5th. Dismissed men and went to bed.
- 6th. Secured stuff for the manufacture of explosives.
- 7th. Made gunpowder and filled cartridges.
- 8th. Made small mine for experimental purpose. Carried out experiments with electronic battery, detonators and mine. Result fairly satisfactory.
- 9th Sunday. Attended funeral of civilian shot by enemy on the day of ambush in "C" area.
- 10th. Unwell, owing to working at gelignite. In bed all day.
- 11th. Attended meeting of Brigade Council.
- 12th.
- 13th. Went to 4th Battalion area for gelignite and detonators.
- 14th. Attended Company Council "5" area. Discussed plans with Battalion Engineer.
- 15th. Received intelligence of enemy car broken down in "5" area. Went to tow it away and destroy it. Found it to be commandeered civilian property. Thought it better to arrange an ambush of the enemy fatigue party who should come to take it away.
- 16th. Possibility of enemy lorries

being in Battalion area on 18th owing to a fair in E Co. area that day. This caused me to decide that that date would be a more certain one to bring off ambush than any other date. Therefore I had all lorries and motors likely to be used for touring purposes put out of action.

17th. Mobilised Active Service Section. Proceeded at nightfall to proposed ambush area.

18th. Got into position at 8 a.m. Three lorries arrived and stopped at derelict car for ten minutes. *Owing to actual circumstances it was impossible to engage the enemy.*

(The last sentence was inserted in the handwriting of Colonel O'Connell, in place of a deleted passage. As far as the deleted passage is legible it seems to be to the effect that the enemy had local civilians as hostages, and it was impossible to fire on the lorries without endangering these men's lives. Why Colonel O'Connell expunged this passage I cannot guess. Perhaps he thought it irrelevant to his purpose in publishing the "diary". — Editor.)

- 19th. Went to (name deleted). It seems to "East Kerry") Brigade area for Ford motor lorry and to negotiate with the Brigade Quartermaster for mines.
- 20th. Got back to Battalion area with car and a promise of mines.
- 21st. Went to 4th area to discuss joint action with O.C. 4th. Sent O.C. B Co. to Brigade H.Q. for stuff promised me.
- 22nd. Got home to my own Battalion area.
- 23rd Sunday. Overhauled old cannon. Arranged to have climber raising and lowering gear made for it. Ordered parts for Ford car.
- 24th. Arranged with Battalion Quartermaster to send some stuff from Dublin ("Dublin" is deleted and "Brigade H.Q." substituted by another hand) with Vice-Commandant for training of E and F Co.s
- 25th. Visited E Co. area to look up alleged spy. Arranged my own system of espionage on him.
- 26th. E Co. reported that a local landowner and shopkeeper had wired to the military in D area that the Martial Law Proclamation was destroyed. Decided to fine him £50. Visited E Co. area and collected fine. Reported to Brigade H.Q., and hold cash and goods for instructions.
- 27th. Arranged ambush in G area for a party of armed men dressed as civilians and travelling in two powerful touring cars. Waited from 6.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. No result. Placed scouts and asked 7th and 5th Battalions to watch other roads.

28th. Got into position at 7 a.m. Cars arrived at 12.30 p.m. Opened fire on them and stopped both cars at trench cut in road. Fight lasted exactly fifteen minutes. No casualties on our side. Enemy losses, one killed, two severely wounded, three others wounded. We captured three rifles, one repeating shot-gun, four Webleys and one Parabellum, 165 rounds of .303, 66 rounds of .45, 9 rounds for Parabellum, and 5 Mills bombs, one of those severely wounded was (passage deleted. The name appears to be "Colonel Holland") Some dispatches found on him and a large quantity of bank notes, which later were returned to him. We destroyed one car after removing magneto batteries and tools. Took away the other car, a Crossley.

- 30th. Remained in bed till midday. Dismissed squad for three days leave, as the men were tired from hardship and overwork.
- 31st. Arranging correspondence. Reports to Brigade H.Q. Planning further activities.

(To the above Col. O'Connell appends a note:— "We publish this "diary" without any criticism. It might easily pass as a chapter from General Lettow-Vorbeck's 'Reminiscences of East Africa.'")

PICTIUR

4 Bealtaine, 1916

FUAIREAMAIR roint mhaith aisti agus altanna Béarla ó shean-Óglaigh. Bhí cuid aca an-inspéise, agus táimid buíoch de sna sgríobhnóirí dá geionn. Ach is oth linn a rá nár ráinig oiread is aon aiste amháin Gaeilge chugainn. Is truaigh linn son, agus is iongna linn é, mar bhí Gaeligeoirí go flúirseach san troid fad ó. Dá chomártha san féin, seo dán do ceapadh i bPríosún Mountjoy i mí an Mheithimh 1919, ag tagairt do bhán an Phluinceadaigh, Liam Mac Piarais agus Éamuinn Uí Shála.

Triúr fé ghlais i geillín beag
I gCill Mhaighneáin seal go tláth,
Triúr do ráinig saor ón éag
Seéal dob iongantach le cách.

Triúr sínte i dtóirheim suain
Ar úrlár cruaidh go lag faon
Gur mhúscail gleo gunnaí iad
Ón gelós thiar le breacadh lae.

Arsa fear den triúr fé cheas
"Tá an bheart déanta, mo léan!
"Beannacht Dé le hÉamonn fial
"Le Liam is le Seosamh tréan."

Triúr eile d'éis bháis go moch—
Triúr máthair ag gol go fras—
Éire lag 's a clann ar ceal—
Triúr i geillín beag fé ghlais.

Thirty years ago...

WHEN THE SWEEPSTAKES BEGAN



The
Book barrows

Thirty years ago,
when the Sweepstakes began,
the booksellers with their
barrows were a feature of the

Dublin scene. It was on Saturday afternoons that they really blossomed forth; the old streets and lanes off the Quays, which during the week bustled with commercial activity, then became filled with barrows piled high with books and bundles of old magazines. Here, if you were lucky, you might have picked up a valuable first edition for a few pence, or caught a glimpse of one of Ireland's great literary figures browsing thoughtfully from barrow to barrow.

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Irish Hospitals' £5,555 Golf Tournament Woodbrook Dublin 21-23, July

GREAT SUCCESS OF ROAD-CUTTING

THE following tactical notes by the Director of Training, Commandant (later Colonel) J. J. O'Connell were written for AN TOGLACH in 1920, but for some reason never published. They will be read with interest by old soldiers, illustrating as they do, the outlook of "Ginger" and his excellent instructions on guerilla tactics.

The systematic road-cutting operations now being carried out by our troops are having a great effect. One of our Brigade Commands reports the following results: "Night raiding completely stopped owing to danger of running into trenches during dark; lorries travel slowly in daytime; lorries often completely sink when passing over filled-in trenches owing to soft earth, causing delay sometimes for hours; lorries have to lose a lot of time going around by-roads and run greater risk of getting into better ambush positions". These are splendid results due altogether to liberal use of pick and shovel.

Besides these general results the enemy has suffered considerable direct loss. Take the following from the daily paper: "A party of R.I.C. escorting Divisional Commissioner Murrinan, R.I.C. ran into a trench on the Mullingar-Longford road, their motor being damaged." In another case a large touring car was burst up on a trench, an important officer injured, and important dispatches captured: while there have been several instances of lorries breaking up and many enemy soldiers being injured.

The enemy is quite unable to repair the damage done no matter how much civilian labour he impresses. We can break faster than he can mend. In any case mending is only a make-shift business: an enemy report states: "The trenches have all been filled up roughly, but care has to be exercised by drivers of motor cars when crossing, otherwise the springs would not stand the strain caused by the sudden jolt." It should be remembered also that as time goes on, and our troops make more and more frequent demolitions the situations of the enemy will become considerably worse. As one road is put definitely out of commission the next should be tackled systematically.

The enemy is urging through his Engineer Officers the immediate repair of roads, and as usual tries in this to strike at the civil population. He impresses labour and bullies the inhabitants of the areas in question, he threatens to stop fairs and markets; but we

will stop his lorry column which is a far greater military achievement. When the Germans in 1916 launched their great Verdun attack General Petain said: "On ne passera pas"—"They are not to pass". We say the same in the same words about the English lorries—*They are not to pass.*

The reason why road-cutting is making the enemy frantic is that he has deliberately made this a Motor War—which is a very expensive kind: for every one of these he stores 30 days supply of petrol and oil allowing for 50



Col. "Ginger" O'Connell

miles per day. Apart from all other troops he has 3,000 exclusively for motor transport duties—drivers and mechanics. A few months ago he set aside two millions for motor purposes alone, the other day he set aside another two millions, probably for the same purpose. He thought to finish the Irish people with fast-moving columns of lorries enabling him to shift troops about at will with great speed, and thus greatly increase the effectiveness of his numbers. In short, he held as he thought the King of Trumps and felt he was certain to win. But we can beat him with the Ace—the Ace of Spades.

THE STRATEGY OF ROAD-CUTTING

The first roads to destroy are those in most frequent use by the enemy—the big main roads. When these are made impassable the enemy must have recourse to the

secondary roads which should be tackled next, or where he may possibly be ambushed successfully. Finally he will be forced into boherins and lanes which the weight of his heavy motors will destroy by themselves. Thus road demolition should be general and continuous: the main roads should be broken in several places. Sometimes it will be possible to kill two birds with one stone—by road-mines. These, if used effectively, will help to ambush an enemy party and at the same time to put the road out of action. This is the method to adopt whenever the circumstances admit of it.

Stategically, Road-Cutting can be applied in "an imperturbable offensive spirit" of the most decided kind. Take an important enemy centre which is used for raiding in all directions—Athlone, Curragh, Limerick, for example. By thoroughly destroying all the roads leading from such a centre we stop his motor raids and pin him within infantry marching distance—less than a quarter of his former radius. By steadily denying him the roads in this manner wide areas can be won back from him, and he will everywhere be forced on the defensive. It must be fully realised by our local commands that the enemy has nothing like enough troops to hold the country effectively, unless he can move them quickly from point to point—that is to say if he is once deprived of his free motor transport. It should be remembered that in warfare today the pick and shovel play as important a part as the rifle and grenade.

Road demolition may be a Brigade Operation: the Brigade Commandant orders each Battalion to destroy the roads in its own area on a given night. Each Battalion Commandant then details his Companies—one to each road, or if necessary two or three to the most vital roads. Each demolition party will post covering parties of the best trained men who will drive off small enemy parties and delay larger bodies until the working parties withdraw with their tools and equipment. The Brigade Staff & Battalion Officers should beforehand work out the entire operation on the map: this saves time enormously and makes for a far better system.

Demolitions should be effective: slight damage is no good. The enemy lorries now carry planks for bridging, and plates for reinforcing filled-in trenches. It must be made impossible for them to pass the broken parts with the help of any equipment they can carry. The best way of all is to split the road at a raised part—a bridge, a causeway over a bog etc.—leaving only about five and a half feet of surface—just wide enough to lead a horse and cart across it. This is a fairly big task on some roads; but if the road is very solidly built the pick and shovel work can be made easy by first blowing a hole in the road with explosives. Raised roads in boggy districts, on the other hand break very easily having a soft bottom. Just after a frost is an ideal time to tackle the roads—before the thaw has made the roads muddy. But there is no time as suitable as the present.

INTERESTING LECTURES at the 1916-1921 Club

For no particular reason I might first mention the paper read by Sean Kavanagh, Club Vice-President on the "Visitors' Book". As Sean read down the list of patriots' names that appeared in the official gaol records in Dublin, back thro' the last century and a half, one really felt that not alone should Kilmainham Gaol be restored as a national memorial but the other official "Guest Houses" should also be preserved. Indeed photostatic copies of certain entries should find a worthy place in any National museum.

However, to move further along the line we had Mr. L. O'Hora lecturing to a packed house on "John McHale — Archbishop of Tuam". The rapt attention and the subsequent thunderous applause of his listeners paid full tribute to a wonderful lecture on a wonderful person, wonderfully delivered. To speak so enthrallingly for more than an hour on a subject that went so far back into history dealing with persons and events in their strict chronological order without having to refer to notes, demonstrated clearly the enthusiastic idealism of the research Mr. O'Hora put into his subject. Incidentally one of the guest speakers was Dr. C. Macken, a veteran of the old Western Division. Why not a more regular attendance, Christy?

Amongst the star studded list of Feis Ceoil promoters, operatic producers, R.D.S. instrumentalists etc., is there a more able and enthusiastic adherent of Irish Music, than Martin Walton? His lecture to us on Irish Music, so well illustrated by recordings and renditions by Leo Maguire made a most entertaining and instructive night's entertainment.

Is there anything can be said in this journal that has not already been said everywhere about Kevin Danaher's lectures? The talk he gave to us on "Artillery in Ireland" illustrated so profusely with his camera slides was surely, one of the highlights of the seasons activities. Even the supporting remarks of Dick Hegarty and Dom Mackay, tho' about more contemporary weapons, were most enjoyable particularly the history of Dick's entry into big time gunnery intrigue.

All in all, the Club has had another good year. The attendances at the lectures and socials were well up to standard. The demands of Eamon Morkan on the members were fairly well met with the result he was able to present a balance sheet in black instead of red. One item of comment must be mentioned. One of our foundation members has for many years been unable to be present at any of our functions. Owing to physical disability he is not able to be around as much as he used to or as he would like to be. But his regular notes to the Hon. Sec. with the usual enclosure shows a sense of loyalty to us, his friends, that makes "Associations" worthwhile. I refer of course to Joe Reynolds. If and when you are able to be with us again in person as you are in spirit, I can assure you, Joe, of a most hearty reception.



When the time comes

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The Old Gate — Kilmainham Jail



KILMAINHAM

By LEO MAGUIRE

Kilmainham! Dark Kilmainham! What a tale your stones could tell
Of bodies bowed in anguish and of souls in living hell:
Of brave, unbroken spirits standing proudly and alone
Within your iron cages and your brooding walls of stone:
Of men who left what all hold dear, their wives—their children—home
To fight and starve and suffer, and like hunted beasts to roam:
Of terror and of torment, of glory and of shame:
What an echo of the storied past is in your very name!

Kilmainham! Grim Kilmainham! you who held the proud Parnell,
The peerless one! The lion-heart who loved old Ireland well.
You tried your best to break him, but yours was not the power:
His great soul grew in grandeur thro' every weary hour.
To-night do you remember that flashing eagle eye?
The body tall and stately and the massive head on high?
The voice that brought new courage to broken, beaten men?
Kilmainham! Ah, Kilmainham! We'll not see his like again.

Kilmainham! Grey Kilmainham! When the moonlight gilds your walls
And straggles thro' your shattered roof into your ruined walls
Do the shades of poor Joe Brady and Tim Kelly walk again
And the rest of that devoted band of dauntless Fenian men?
Is that the night-wind sighing thro' the windows stark and bare
Or an echo from the gloomy past of many a dying prayer?
How many a soul, Kilmainham, rests in Paradise to-night
Who thro' your ghastly hell on earth passed on to Heaven's light!

Kilmainham! Lone Kilmainham! Do you think, as dawn comes grey,
Of fourteen gallant men and true whose lives you took away?
Of rifles crashing loud and harsh, of blood-bespattered earth?
Kilmainham! Ah, Kilmainham! 'Twas then Freedom found new birth.
Yes, might may triumph for a while; injustice has its day:
But truth and fath and valour are the things that stand for aye.
And all things elsie shall pass away and valueless be found.
As your stout walls, Kilmainham, fall slowly to the ground.

The Kilmainham Jail Restoration Project is urgently in need of Subscriptions and Volunteers to work any evening between 6.30 and 10 p.m. or Saturdays 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Volunteers please report to the Jail any evening. Subscriptions to:

The Hon. Treasurer,
Kilmainham Jail Restoration Project,
110 Grafton St., Dublin.

COLLINS - GRIFFITH COMMEMORATION

The Annual Commemoration of Arthur Griffith and General Michael Collins will be held on Sunday, August 20th. Mass for the repose of the souls of the dead leaders will be said at St. Joseph's, Berkeley Road, at 11 a.m. Afterwards there will be a parade to Glasnevin and wreaths will be laid on their graves. All who wish to honour their memory will be welcome.

PASSING OUT

The following list of recent deaths of old I.R.A. men has been forwarded to us by the Hon. Secretary of the Old Dublin Brigade. He says that owing to his absence from Dublin for a while it is probably incomplete.

Guímíd beannacht Dé le n-a n-anmanna.

Halpin, Robert; B Coy. 3rd Batt.
Cooper, Joseph; B Coy. 3rd Batt.
Fleming, James; B Coy. 3rd Batt.
Kelly, Richard; B Coy. 3rd Batt.
Lynam, Peter; A Coy. 3rd Batt.
Sartini, Joseph; 4th Batt. Fianna.
Duffy, Thomas; B Coy. 3rd Batt.
Keogh, Peter; L. & Cyclists 3rd Batt.

Carr, Alec; D Coy. 3rd Batt.
Byrne, Michael; D Coy. 3rd Batt.
Kane, Alexander; D Coy. 3rd Batt.

Ellis, James; E Coy. 3rd Batt.
Adamson, Joseph; K Coy. 3rd Batt.

Dunne, James; K Coy. 3rd Batt.
O'Neill, Ignatius; B Coy. 3rd Batt.

The above were members of the Dublin Brigade.

Lally, Stephen; Chairman
Connaught Rangers Mutineers.

Gray, Michael; 3rd Western
Division.

Butler, Patrick; Fingal Brigade.
Grady, Patrick; Kerry No. 1
Brigade.

O'Farrell, A.; Longford Brigade.

O'Reilly, Charlie; Collinstown, Co.
Dublin; on 14th June, 1961 late of 2nd
Batt. Dublin Brigade.

O'Dwyer, Tom; Pallasgreen, Co.
Limerick on 12th June 1961 late of
First Batt. East Limerick Brigade.

Keegan, Charlie formerly of S.C.R.
Dublin, on 13th June 1961 late Cyclists
Company, 1st Batt. Dublin Brigade.

Byrne, Michael L.; Old Leighlin,
Carlow; on 7th June 1961 at St. Dymphnas
Hospital, late O/C of First Batt.
of Carlow Brigade.

Hamill, Eugene; Mount Argus Road,
Crumlin on 31st May 1961 late of G
Company, First Batt. Dublin Brigade.

Dwyer, John; Ballydonnell, Mullin-
ahone, on 1st June 1961, late B Company
7th Batt. Kilkenny Brigade.

O'Hogain, Cathal; Wellington, New
Zealand, May 1961, late of C. Company,
4th Batt. Dublin Brigade.

Forristal, James; Clonmel, Tipperary
on 29th May 1961, late Fifth Batt. Third
Tipperary Brigade.

Gough, Peter; Baldoyle, Co. Dublin
on 19th May 1961, late of 2nd Batt.
Dublin Brigade.

Murphy, Jerome T.; Rathdown Villas,
Terenure, late member of Coachford
Company, 6th Batt. Cork No. 1 Brigade
and brother-in-law of the patriot priest
the late Father Dominic, O.F.M.

Shelly, Charlie; Kilworth Rd. Drime
nagh. 5th Batt. (Engineers) of the
Dublin Brigade.

Byrne, Seamus R.; St. Michael's Rd.
Glasnevin, on 17th June 1961, late of
C Company, 1st Batt. Dublin Brigade.

O'Moore, Eamonn; Upr. Gardiner
St. Dublin., on 17th June 1961 late of
H. Coy, Fourth Batt. Dublin Brigade

Transvaal Irish Brigade, 1899-1902

THE following account of the Irish Brigade who fought for the Transvaal Republic against England sixty years ago has been forwarded to us from South Africa. It is the work of David Conroy, an old I.R.A. man, who is now a Major in the South African Defence Force. He has been to great pains to verify his facts from the existing records. Major Conroy was a Battalion Adjutant in Clare in 1919.

The recent emergence of South Africa as an independent Republic reminds us of that small but gallant body of Irishmen who fought so bravely in the defence of two small nations—The South African Republic in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State Republic, in the Anglo-Boer war of 1899 to 1902.

In the 1890's many Irishmen were employed on the gold mines in and around Johannesburg—Arthur Griffith for a short time was one of them.

It was obvious—particularly after the Jameson raid—that war between the South African Republics and England was inevitable and a large number of Irishmen determined that when the time came they would fight for the land of their adoption.

There was at that time but one Irish Society in Johannesburg—the Irish National Foresters—and under cover of that organisation Irishmen on the Rand planned the formation of a Brigade to fight for the Transvaal.

The driving force behind this movement was John MacBride, who had come to South Africa in 1895 and was working on the Langlaagte Mine. He was an energetic man of great moral courage. He was ably assisted by Tom Byrne, happily still hale and hearty in his native Dublin and the last surviving officer of the Irish Brigade.

Early in 1899—but particularly during July and August of that year—Byrne and Dick MacDonagh of Listowel were given the task of visiting all mines where Irishmen were employed to recruit volunteers for the proposed Brigade.

Fearing victimisation by the mine owners the work had to be secretly done and each Sunday they reported the results of their activities to MacBride.

Sufficient recruits having responded favourably a letter was sent to President Paul Kruger offering the services of a body of Irishmen willing, and anxious, to fight for the Republic should the necessity arise.

This letter is preserved in the Union Archives, Pretoria. It was signed by S. Gillingham, J. Geraghty, B. J. Oates, J. Connolly and J. Stone all of whom were well-known in the Transvaal.

An endorsement in Dutch by the State Secretary—F. W. Reitz, (an ex-president of the Orange Free

State Republic) authorised the establishment of an Irish Corps of 750 men. However, when war did break out the Government was unable to arm, equip and mount this number and at first about 125 men went on active service.

Also to be seen in the Union Archives are MacBride's appointment by the State Secretary as a Major in "the Irish Corps", his appointment as a Special Justice of the Peace to enable him to attest other members of the Brigade, his renunciation of British citizenship and the grant to him of full franchise rights in the South African Republics. The four documents are dated 2nd October 1899—10 days before war was declared.



Major John MacBride (Boer War.)

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

On 1st October 1899 a meeting under MacBride's chairmanship was held on Von Brandis Square, Johannesburg, when it was resolved to form an Irish Brigade. Colonel John G. Blake, a graduate of West Point and a former United States Cavalry officer was elected Commandant with Major John MacBride as Second-in-Command.

MacBride told the gathering of arrangements made with the Government and the meeting closed with great enthusiasm and cries of "To the front!"

Republican records at the Archives also show names, home addresses and regimental numbers of 125 members of the Irish Brigade.

Under No. 3314 is recorded: "T. F. Byrne, No. 14 St. Vincent Str., North Dublin".

No. 3335 is "J. MacBride, Westport, Co. Mayo".



Commandant Tom Byrne was an officer in the Irish Brigade in the Boer War 1899-1901. He was Commandant of the First Battalion, Dublin Brigade from 1917 to 1921. Later he was, for many years, Captain of the Guard in the Dail.

THE REGIMENTAL FLAG

The Brigade Chaplain was No. 3367, Father A. Baudry, O.M.I., a Frenchman, whose successor Father Van Eck, O.M.I., safeguarded the regimental flag on disbandment of the Brigade.

This flag was presented to the Brigade by Maud Gonne and her Iníní na hÉireann and through the instrumentality of a Mr. K. Wappenaar of Pretoria and of Cathal Brugha's eldest brother Eamonn it was sent to Dublin in the early 1920's and may now be seen in the National Museum.

On the outbreak of the war the Brigade promptly went into action in Natal distinguishing itself in many engagements around Colenso and Ladysmith. It then fought in the Orange Free State and Transvaal.

After the fall of Pretoria it was disbanded in the Eastern Transvaal—members escaping into Portuguese territory from where most of them eventually got to the United States and Europe.

Michael Davitt in his excellent book "The Boer Fight for Freedom" has recorded many details of the Brigade in action.

So far we have been dealing with the 1st Irish Brigade only. In January 1900 a second one under command of Colonel Arthur Lynch was formed. Its members represented many lands. Davitt

in his book remarked that Lynch "succeeded in enlisting about 150 "Irishmen" from several European nationalities not hitherto reckoned as subordinate members of the Celtic racial family."

The Second Brigade fought with great courage and dash during the war and was often in action.

Mention must also be made of the 58 Irish Americans who entered the Transvaal through Lourenco Marques as an Ambulance Unit. They promptly "took up the Mauser" when they joined the Republican Forces. Their names appear in the Union Archives. Their five Doctors were Herbert McAuley, A. F. Conroy, Jeremiah Slattery, George Aderhald and Ross Swug. Apart from the two Brigades several Irishmen fought with the regular Commandos comprising the Republican Forces.

Here in South Africa the Irish Brigade is not forgotten. Under the patronage of many distinguished South Africans and Irishmen a Committee has been founded and funds are being collected to erect a suitable memorial to them on Brixton Ridge overlooking the city of Johannesburg. The memorial will take the form of an Irish Round Tower.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Fund is Mr. R. I. C. Scott-Hayward, Johannesburg, Hon. Consul for Ireland in South Africa.

FÁILTE Ó GHAEILIGEÓIR

Fuaireamair na línte seo leanas ó n-ár gceara Liam Ó Riain, sean-Óglach:—

"Guim ádh agus amhantúr ar an bhfoillseachán nua so. Tosach maith leath na hoibre!

Liam Ó Riain

MÍCHEÁL Ó FOGHLUDHA

Is mór an méala linn bás Mhichíl Uí Fhoghludha, fear do dhein cion fir Seachtain na Cásca agus do dhein breis is dícheall céad fear i n-obair na Gaeilge agus in ngach obair eile mar mhaithe le Náisiúntacht na hÉireann, ar feadh a shaoil. Bhí sé lághach chun cháirde agus borb dána chun namhad na hÉireann. Trócaire Dé ar a anam!

CAPT. JOHN KEEGAN

Capt. John Keegan, Calderwood Road, Drumcondra, died on 9th February, 1961. He was late of E Company, 2nd Batt., Dublin Brigade 1919/22. Joined the Army on its foundation and was Liaison Officer in the taking over of military barracks from the British until 1924 when he resigned and entered the Civil Service. Was Minor Staff Officer, Patents Office up to the time of his death.

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BRIGADES IN JUNE 1921

AMONG unused "copy" for AN tOGLACH of Black-and-Tan days, probably held up from publication by the Truce, is the following summary of Brigade reports from various parts of Ireland:—

A report of the South Wexford Brigade for June shows that during the month 8 bridges were destroyed in the area and roads were trenched or blocked on 18 occasions. Enemy mails were seized 8 times and wires were cut 3 times. Belfast goods were seized and destroyed on 2 occasions and the enemy courthouse at Wexford was burned down.

The diary of the Mid-Clare Brigade for May shows incessant Volunteer activity and increasing enemy demoralisation in that area. The barricading and trenching of roads all over the area was carried out almost daily. The report says that no sooner had the enemy cleared a road than our men rendered it impassable again. All the Rate Books for the County were seized and deposited in a safe place. Ambushing parties were frequently in position but the enemy rarely came out, showing an increasing disinclination to come out. The Active Service Unit marched openly through a Battalion Area in broad daylight but failed to come in contact with the enemy anywhere. On the 19th, Tiermaclane R.I.C. Barracks was sniped at. The R.I.C. kept sending up Verey lights for 3 hours after and enemy Verey lights were also sent up from Ennis, Clare Castle, and Kildysart but no reinforcements came out until 11 a.m. on the following day—a striking example of enemy timidity. In an encounter on the 22nd and 27th one Black and Tan was killed and a soldier and four Black and Tans wounded. On the 21st a patrol of 12 marines was attacked in Ballyvaughan. Their casualties were 8 killed and four wounded. Our troops captured 4 rifles, 4 bayonets and 200 rounds of ammunition. Our troops suffered no casualties.

A report from the Tipperary No. 3 Brigade shows that on the 19th June, 3 armed officers (enemy) were captured by 4 Volunteers, one only of whom was armed.

Tuam Brigade reports wire-cutting and road-trenching all over the Brigade Area, during the last fortnight in June: Mails were raided throughout the area 3 times during the fortnight. The report says: "we had 6 ambushes

prepared within the fortnight' but the enemy would not come out". It is very hard to get them in this area. On June 26th, an R.I.C. patrol was attacked at Milltown within 150 yards of their Barracks and lost 2 dead and 2 seriously wounded. Our troops suffered no casualties. Owing to the fire from the barracks and road, which was lighted up by Verey lights from the Barracks, it was not possible to capture the enemy's arms.

Athlone Brigade reports that on July 2nd, 3 Volunteers attacked Capt. Tully and 4 R.I.C. men who were in a private car near Drumraney Chapel. After a fight lasting 15 minutes the enemy retreated into the Chapel yard and the men had to cease firing for fear of the bullets entering the Chapel or the Parochial House. "Another obstacle in the way of our men was that the enemy had two hostages on the car so that they had to fire with great caution and judgment". It is believed that 2 of the enemy were seriously wounded. We had no casualties. On the 3rd July in a conflict between Black and Tans and Volunteers at Ballymore one of the former was seriously wounded. The reports adds: "A bomb was placed by Military between stones that were taken off the road near Tang. Some Volunteers discovered it, placed their fingers on the lever and removed the stones. They then put the pin in the bomb".

A report from East Clare shows that the O/C 6th Battalion while engaged on an operation accidentally came in contact with an enemy military patrol of 12 men. Mistaking them for Volunteers he got within 3 yards of the party when the enemy officer fired at him and missed. He immediately levelled his rifle and shot the

officer through the chest. He got back to his own men under heavy fire. The enemy suffered 4 casualties from the one bullet. The enemy officer (Lieut. K. C. Warren M.C.) has since died from his wound. It is stated that on several occasions he brutally ill-treated unarmed civilians.

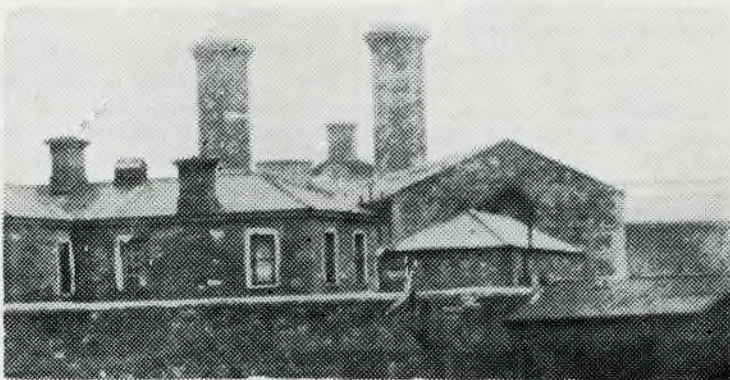
The Official Report from Cork No. 1 Brigade of the Youghal landmine operation on June 1st differs materially from that which appeared in the Public Press. It says: An Armed party of military about 250 strong, left Youghal accompanied by a band, on the morning of the 1st June, for the Rifle Range situated less than 2 miles from the town. An armed advance guard preceded the Band, who were followed by an armed main body. About one mile from the town a land-mine had been laid. This mine was successfully exploded under the main body, the advance guard and band being allowed to pass over. In all there were 15 killed and 45 to 50 wounded. It may be remarked that some band boys were killed and others wounded by flying shrapnel (stones) at a distance of 300 yards from the scene of the explosion".

Cork No. 1 Brigade reports the

following activities:

"An explosive charge was placed on a destroyer lying in Haulbowline Dockyard, and successfully exploded. A large plate in the destroyer was blown away, causing damage of £1,000. This destroyer was being used to patrol the coast. A land-mine was exploded under an enemy lorry of soldiers at Carrigwohill wrecking the engine of the lorry and wounding one officer and private. The three young women arrested and court-martialled in this connection were thinning turnips in an adjacent field at the time and were not aware of the presence of a mining party. On June 24th, at 1 p.m., an enemy column, 200 strong, encamped near Ballinagree, Co. Cork were sniped. Much confusion was created amongst the enemy, who replied wildly and ineffectively with machine gun and rifle fire. They broke camp about 2.0 a.m. same morning."

North Roscommon Brigade reports an attack on an enemy patrol outside Tarmon Barracks on July 2nd, resulting in a loss to the enemy of 2 dangerously wounded and one slightly wounded. Our troops had no casualties. The Sergt. (Special) was one of the badly wounded.



MOUNTJOY PRISON—See page 1.

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THE "ORANGE CARD"

ORIGINS OF IRISH PARTITION

THIS story of English political trickery is contributed by Kevin R. O'Shiel, Senior Land Commissioner, who played a prominent part in the struggle for independence, and helped the fight with pen and voice. It is interesting to note that the first English politician to play the "Orange Card" was the father of Winston Churchill.

When the General Elections of 1885 gave Parnell and his Irish Party the balance of power at Westminster English public opinion was surprised and staggered. The incredible had happened and the "Mother of Parliaments" was in the virtual control of "Irish rebels and gangsters". The Tories, in particular, were flabbergasted and dreaded what they thought the return of the Liberals and their Irish allies would lead to. Was that overwhelming triumph of their enemies the writing on the wall for them and their order? Was their historic party, composed of England's prime ruling stock, the class, whether Tory or Whig that had held the government of the country in its hands for centuries—was that elite at last to get its congé and lose for ever its rightful and traditional hegemony? That awful possibility and its consequences obsessed their minds and bit into their souls and was intensified by their horror at the type of legislator the electors had commissioned to fill their shoes. Instead of good-class people with the authentic public school background, maintaining the traditions and carrying out the government of their ancient Kingdom, whose "language" they spoke and understood, there was a crowd of upstarts from the detested "middling" classes, dissenting ministers' sons, chapel people and the like whom that "old Spider", Gladstone, had thrown open the doors of parliament to by his Reform Act of that year. What country could be safe in the hands of such a "rabble"? Was it not their duty to Queen, Church and Empire to rescue the country from Gladstone's "riff-raff" and keep the House of Commons, if no longer quite "a gentleman's club," at least controlled by gentlemen?

In their bewilderment the first reaction of the Tories was a curious one; they actually contacted Parnell, to see if they could secure the Irish vote to restore them to power in consideration of some settlement in Home Rule. This is significant as showing that they were less fearsome of Irish autonomy,—subsequently the great casus belli,—than they were of a Liberal-Radical hegemony. Whilst their talks with Parnell were in progress it so happened that Gladstone had decided for Home Rule but did not make his decision public as he was hoping to make it a non-party issue. Gladstone's son, however, without



Mr. Justice Kevin R. O'Shiel.

informing him, rashly disclosed his father's decision whereupon the Tories at once broke off their negotiations with Parnell and sought another course.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

With their minds full of such sombre thoughts the Tories looked round for some bold, unscrupulous man to give them a lead. Someone other than the heads of the Conservative Party who were too hidebound in parliamentary constitutionalism to be of any use in such a predicament. Such a man was forthcoming, Lord Randolph Churchill, the son of the great Tory magnate, the Duke of Marlborough, and an existing Minister of the Crown.

Lord Randolph had been one of the Tory negotiators in the abortive Parnell talks. He had been thinking hard on the new situation and had come to two conclusions, one that the Tory problem could only be settled by unconstitutional means and two, that those means, if necessary, must be adopted. Now, for the justification of such means a very powerful *raison d'être* was essential; and the fertile mind of his Lordship soon found that. On December 22, 1885 he wrote to the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, "If the Government went out and Gladstone introduced a Home Rule Bill I should not hesitate, if circumstances were favourable, to agitate Ulster even to resistance beyond constitutional limits."

There was no mealy-mouthedness about that threat, nor was it, in any sense, the hot-blooded, impulsive decision of a rash man. Nor, indeed, did the Prime Minister repudiate that deliberate intention to spurn the constitution,

coming as it did, from one of his senior colleagues in the Government.

"THE ORANGE CARD"

This threat he followed up six weeks later in his famous Letter to Lord Justice Fitzgibbon in Dublin wherein he declared that if Gladstone "went for Home Rule the Orange Card would be the one to play". And the potential rebel added, somewhat guiltily, "Please God (sic!) it may turn out the ace of trumps and not the two."

Somewhat later Gladstone was returned to power and Churchill prepared to carry out his threat with the covert backing of the Conservative Party. He crossed over to Ulster and proceeded to agitate the Protestants there, not, indeed, for their benefit but to defeat the Liberals and maintain Tory ascendancy. "The end justifieth the means." The rousing of evil passions and bigotted prejudices in the best of us is easy to accomplish. See how successfully Hitler worked that line and the ease with which he was able to recruit any number of sadistic guards and wardresses for his prisons and internment camps.

Randolph Churchill took on his assignment with his eyes wide open, fully realising the nature and import of his action. He swept through the Northern Counties like a cyclone rousing the worst passions in the Orange bosom and declaring that if Parliament passed Home Rule they must resort to "the supreme arbitrament of force." He was addressing, as he well knew, audiences reared on the strong meat of Torquemada's Inquisition and Fox's "Book of Martyrs" and they reacted to his speeches exactly as he had anticipated. He left Ulster in the grip of one of its bitterest and bloodiest pogroms that took several weeks of big police and military reinforcements to allay. The "Orange Card" certainly proved the ace of trumps on that occasion when an electorate, alarmed by wild speeches and mob violence inflicted a crushing defeat on Gladstone and his Home Rule policy and re-established the Tory firmly in power for years.

"A TURN IN THE TIDE"

The Tories remained solidly in the saddle until the General Election of 1906 swept the Liberals into power with the unprecedented majority of 157 over all other parties. History had repeated itself; once again the Tories found themselves and their friends out in the wilderness, devoid of power and badly damaged in prestige.

It was bad enough to have suffered such a deadly blow but what made it harder to bear was the type of their supplanters, even worse than those of Gladstone's era. There were impossible fellows like Maxton, Smyllie and Lans-

bury, avowed Socialists and wild "bottom dog-ers", and there was that pestilential little attorney from Wales whom they feared and hated. However, for the first years of the new government they lay low and gave little trouble mainly because of their own internal dissension. But when their "bête noir", Lloyd George, was made Chancellor of the Exchequer the Tories were so chagrined that they came together and decided to make his first Budget the issue on which to renew the big struggle for the restoration of Tory supremacy. It is not possible here to go into the details of that famous contest; suffice it to say that it led to two significant events,—a new general election and the passing of the Parliament Act. The former had resulted in the return of the Liberals but deprived them of their over-riding majority, and the latter limited the powers of the Lords by providing for the automatic enactment of any bill passed by the Commons and vetoed by the Lords after a space of two years. The Liberals had lost 103 seats and were, as in Parnell's days, dependent on the Irish Party which, once again, was given the balance of power at Westminster with a much greater strength than then.

The Tories had badly overplayed their hand. Their initial mistake was to have elevated a far from revolutionary measure to the height and importance of a major constitutional issue; and they added to that mistake by forcing the passage of the Parliament Act right up to the threat of the royal appointment of peers to secure its passage. In this the Tories were stupidly shortsighted for it is certain that if the Budget had not been thrown out by the Lords there would have been no Parliament Act, or any other attempt to interfere with the powers and privileges of the hereditary House. Looking back on that period and, having regard to the personalities involved, it is unthinkable that anything in the nature of a Parliament Act would have been called into existence for the sole purpose of clearing the way for the passage to the Statute Book of a mere Irish Home Rule Bill. And had there been no Parliament Act the Home Rule Bill, 1912, would certainly have been thrown out by the Lords and Asquith would have had no alternative but to appeal to the country, with, judging from the way the general election and by-elections were going, the almost certain result of his defeat. A Tory Government would have succeeded him and Home Rule would, once more, have gone into the moth balls without there having been a gun landed in Ireland.

KEVIN R. O'SHIEL

With compliments

DAVID COUGHLAN,

BRAY.

AN ANECDOTE OF SIR ALFRED COPE

THIS anecdote is by Professor Liam O'Briain, who for many years was Professor of Romance Languages at University Coll. Galway. He fought with the Dublin Brigade in 1916, and has written a very interesting book in Irish on his experiences at the time. The Alfred Cope, later Sir Alfred mentioned was Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland in 1920-21 and was one of the British signatories to the Truce of July 11th, 1921. Subsequently he acted as a kind of British liaison officer in regard to the observance of the Truce and had many friendly contacts with I.R.A. leaders.

In the Autumn of 1920, herself and meself, as the song says, were thinking of it; I mean of course thinking of getting married. I wasn't long out of Belfast Gaol where I had spent the previous winter. I had been appointed a professor in Galway some time before that. Things in the country were getting hotter and hotter, with plenty of prospects of more Gaol or other trouble ahead. So we were thinking of "snatching a fearful joy", possibly a week or so away from the British flag, in Paris or Switzerland while the chance offered. I looked at an old passport I had and found it quite out of date.

I applied for a new passport and after some close questionings by the newly appointed police commissioner for Connacht, (Cruise) and satisfactory answers on my parts, to the effect that I would be travelling at my own expense—quite true—and for professional purposes—foreign languages were my business—I was granted the passport.

I then told herself to apply to Dublin Castle for one also. She



Prof. Liam O Briain

did so and there was quite a delay. After some weeks she was invited to call to Dublin Castle.

"A DANGEROUS PERSON"

There she was ushered into the office of a very courteous Englishman who introduced himself as Mr. Alfred Cope. He was profuse in his apologies for having brought her to the Castle before giving her her passport. "But you see" he explained "we had to have a look at you. We have your name on our books as a dangerous person."

"Dangerous?" she said in astonishment. She ran over in her mind rapidly some of the sins of her past life. Could it be that now, in 1920, they had heard something of certain trips to England, returning with very heavy luggage—small arms for the Volunteer companies in 1914?

No; she was quickly re-assured. He was referring to the suffragettes! She and her sister had belonged to the Women's Franchise League. In the days before there was a gun in the country, the "G" men had nothing better to do than follow the suffragettes.

Her sister was the dangerous person. She had on one occasion, when Asquith was over here, broken a window in the G.P.O. with a hammer—the first attack on that historic building—and was fined 40 shillings—or a month and was preparing to go on hunger strike when to her speechless rage, her brother Charlie Lawlor of Fownes Street came in and paid the fine. But the "G" men could never distinguish between one sister and the other and so followed both impartially round the town.

PLAIN SPEAKING

"Oh yes" continued Mr. Cope "we have you down as quite a dangerous person. Now that I look at you, however, I know that a refined, educated young lady like you would have no sympathy with those awful things that are going on, those terrible murders of policemen by this brutal Chicago-inspired murder gang calling itself the I.R.A."

She looked at him in frank astonishment.

"No sympathy with the shooting of policemen, Why, I think shooting is too good for them . . . boiling oil . . . slow fire . . ." On she went for about half an hour.

She gave him all the history of Ireland. She said things to him, the recital of which to me, a few days later, made my hair stand on end. But Cope's reactions are the interesting thing. The more she went on, the more violent she became and instead of sending for the guard, the more attentive and astonished was Mr. Cope.

"I had no idea . . . I never thought that there were people like you in sympathy . . . stop, . . . do you mind if I get in Sir John to hear this". (Sir John was Sir John Anderson, an even higher official who had come over along with him to estimate, I think, the progress accomplished by Sir Hamer Greenwood). "But I have been told that this I.R.A. gang were terrorising the Irish people". And so on.

THE RESULT

Mr. Cope walked down to the Castle gate in his bare head, thanked her for the enlightenment she had given him and promised her the passport. It arrived in due course. But we didn't use it then. Instead I went into Galway Gaol, and other places and only when on a parole in September '21 did we finally take the plunge. Mr. Cope on hearing of it extended my parole to a fortnight!

I think this incident may have a bearing on the attitude of Cope, which in due course led to the truce. He was only in the country six weeks, he had been completely in the hands of the "right people", my wife was pro-

bably the first person to let him know that the majority of the Irish people were frankly and wholeheartedly with the I.R.A. and not "terrorised" by them.

COPE'S BACKGROUND

Cope, I was told had been previously engaged in tracking down the drug trade in London. It had been his business to frequent clubs, greenrooms, and dressing rooms in theatres and keep his eyes open. He had probably been at home in the West End Bohemian life where often there was less prejudice about Ireland than anywhere else in England. In addition, he would have brought to Ireland the post war mind, influenced by aerial warfare. To the older politicians fighting about "Home

Rule" among themselves since Gladstone's time, but of course a strictly moderate measure of "Home Rule" with, of course the British Army still in the country, a man like him could have said: "Why keep the troops in Ireland at all when the airforce can fly over after breakfast, bomb Dublin and be back for lunch? And why not let them have their own army? They will never be able to afford the cost of really modern land, sea and air forces?"

As we know, Cope took greatly to Mick Collins. I have heard it said they met first in the house of the late Dr. Bob McLaverty in Merrion Square. Cope was reported to have burst into tears at the news of his death.

LIAM O'BRIAIN

"Secret" Service in Dublin Castle

THERE was a very large attendance in the Hall of the Association of the Old Dublin Brigade on Friday, March 3rd, when Mr. Leon O Broin, Secretary of the Department of Posts & Telegraphs, delivered a lecture entitled "Secret Service in Dublin Castle from the Inside". He dealt with the revelations of a police official who occupied a high and important position in the British administration in Ireland, during the period of the Parnellite Agitation, and, as such, was a witness to and participant in a great deal of dirty work, dishonest and treacherous tricks against all who supported the national cause.

In his old age the same man,

whether influenced by remorse or angered against the British Government who, he thought, had not adequately provided for him, endeavoured to secure publication of the facts, which are, in effect, a damning indictment of the British administration in Ireland. The lecturer gave many interesting details which were followed with the keenest attention by all, and a number of pertinent questions were asked at the conclusion of the lecture. The chair was occupied by the President, Major-General Beaslai. Other speakers were Mr. Martin Walton, Mr. Michael Noyk, Cathal O'Shannon, Professor Liam O Briain and Mr. Sorahan.

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