

The forged “Irish Bulletin”

Aubane Historical Society

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INTRODUCTION

The “Irish Bulletin” was the daily paper of the Irish Government established on the basis of the 1918 General election, the first Dáil Éireann. It was a hugely influential publication and played a crucial role in winning the War of Independence.

The highest compliment possible was paid to it by the British Government when it set out to discredit it by forging a run of the paper. It was an audacious and desperate project and is proof of how concerned the Government had become about its effect on political opinion in Britain itself and internationally.

This pamphlet is a collection of the extant copies of the forgery and we are pretty sure it is the complete run of what was published.

Though the whole effort proved to be a failure and was counterproductive as its exposure discredited Dublin Castle and added to the reputation of the Bulletin, it did cause confusion initially. De Valera himself was deceived by the forged issue number 59 when copied by the Press where it was claimed that the Dáil was interested in negotiating a settlement and had set up a Committee of Negotiation. No doubt others were also temporarily disorientated when it first appeared. Childers said that “*the forgeries do however cause some confusion for foreign readers*” (7/5/1921). Collins admitted to the much decorated Sir William Darling, the main organiser of the forgery, that they did “*a good deal of harm*” (2-3 August 1921). But as the Bulletin was not really read in Ireland the forgeries could have had little effect on the course of the war ‘*on the ground*’.

There are a few explanatory points and clarifications to make about the forgeries. When Dublin Castle captured the Bulletin’s entire equipment and paperwork on the night of 26th/27th March 1921, Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday morning, they set to work to produce what they assumed would be the next issue, number 56, and dated it Wednesday, March 30th. What they were not to know or expect was that the super-efficient publishers of the genuine Bulletin immediately began work on the next issue in a new location with improvised equipment on Easter Sunday the 27th. No edition would be published on Monday, the 28th, as it was a Bank Holiday (Easter Monday) and a genuine number 56 dated Tuesday 29th March was published with a report of the raid on its premises. So the publishing proceeded without a hitch despite the capture of all the equipment. When the Irish Bulletin people saw another number 56 appear the day after they immediately recognised that a forging of the Bulletin was in progress and others were also suspicious.

Close readers of the Bulletin became suspicious because of the content and style of the forged Bulletin. The first paragraph of the first forged issue, number 56, referred to “*The thousands of murdered men, women and children, the millions of ruined homes,....Ireland today is a desert*”. Later on in the same issue it claimed that “*There is less crime in Ireland than in any country in Europe except Bolshevik Russia.*” These were absurd contradictory exaggerations and a not too subtle way to discredit the essence of the real Bulletin – its factual accuracy. It was also noted by readers in the UK that the bogus issues were posted in Dublin and arrived in good time. The genuine Bulletin was not posted in Dublin for obvious reasons and always arrived late.

And forging a newspaper was nothing new to those in the newspaper world. Sir Basil Thompson of British Intelligence had forged runs of *Pravda* and distributed it in Russia. And his successors in M15 went on to facilitate the use of the forged ‘*Zinoviev Letter*’ that helped bring down the first Labour Government in 1924. At the time of the forged Bulletins another forgery was circulating alleging that the Russian Trade Delegation in London was channelling money to the IRA. All in the great tradition of the Piggott forgeries in *The Times* that nearly ruined Parnell and in the even longer tradition going back to the concoction known as *Laudabiliter* whereby Henry II was granted the right to save us from ourselves as penance for the killing of Thomas á Becket. Sir Basil worked closely with Dublin Castle and had his own

spy network there and of course he had been *'up to his oxters'* in the Casement forgeries in 1916. So the forging of the Irish Bulletin was in no way unique - though it was a unique failure.

It took the forgers quite a while to get over the initial misdating and to get their dating and numbering in sync with the genuine issues. This readjusting of the numbering may as a result have necessitated the creation of phantom issues. This makes it difficult to know for certain how many forged issues were actually produced.

If we are to believe the numbering of the forged issues that have survived it would suggest that at least 20 issues were produced between 30 March and 22 April. But this is suspect. For example, if taken at face value it would mean that five forged issues numbered 56-60 were published across three days, between the 30th March and 1st April - though the forgers misdated Friday 1st April as 31st March. This production rate is not at all credible – the genuine Bulletin never attempted or achieved such a feat. And they appear to have had no knowledge of forged issues numbers 57 and 58 and, naturally enough, they followed these publications quite closely. And there might be other examples of 'short circuiting' in trying to get the numbering and dating to correspond with the genuine Bulletin which was necessary to maximise confusion. The evidence suggests this alignment was not achieved until issue number 69 which would indicate that it took the production of 14 issues before that was possible. But there is no evidence for any issue between numbers 62 and 69. The existence of any of these six in this intervening period is therefore suspect. Again, the genuine Bulletin does not hint at any. If any more exist we would, of course, be pleased to publish them.

A further complication for the forgers in getting their numbers and dates to coincide with the genuine Bulletin was caused when the genuine Bulletin mistakenly published a second number 64 and no number 66.

It is stated in many reference sources that the genuine number 56 is not available because it is not on the microfilm, and neither is the second number 64, but they do exist and will be included in the next Volume of the Bulletin, Volume 4, which is in preparation by Aubane.

There are a number of other reasons why we cannot be certain about the actual numbers produced. The people who did the forging were not inclined to boast or leave any records of their handiwork as it proved an embarrassment and a failure - and failure, as we know, is always an orphan. The project would not have appeared on the CVs of the perpetrators. Also, the recipients had no reason to keep them when they realised they were forgeries and would have dumped them as wastepaper.

We reproduce 12 forged Bulletins and for the reasons explained above we suspect that this is the total that was produced.

There is a good example of the forgers' technique of interpolation in the forged document dated 2 April 1921 which purports to reproduce a Report of the Dáil's Propaganda Department (page 12). The genuine Dáil report is reproduced immediately afterwards on the following page. So readers can appreciate the differences and how it was done. These interpolations were aimed to discredit the genuine Bulletin as it suggests, for example, that the Department was, inter alia, looking for and would rely on deliberately false information in its reports on events of the war for publication in the Bulletin. Issue Number 74 is a 'report' of a Dáil Session of "the second week of April" that never took place.

We include two other, later, forgeries as Annexes and they may or may not be part of the Bulletin forgeries - though they are in the same vein. They also purport to be coming from Republican sources and are also more desperate and blatant as to their purpose which was to demoralise and disorientate the Republican war effort.

The first of these other forgeries headed 'The Irish Republican Army' seems to have been provoked by an interview with Collins by the American journalist Carl Ackerman published in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* on 2 April 1921. Ackerman was acting as an intermediary with Lloyd George. Collins gave a bravado performance on how well the war was going which was meant for Lloyd George's ears as an opening gambit in possible negotiations. The reference to Collins "*enjoying the charms of his talented Eileen's society in her luxurious Dublin Flat*" is undoubtedly a reference to Eileen McGrane who had an apartment at 21 Dawson Street and Collins had the use of a small room in it. (See BMH, W.S. No. 1,572). For innuendo this would take some beating!

Her flat was known to Dublin Castle and was raided on New Year's Eve 1921 and they got a cache of very sensitive intelligence material that Collins had accumulated including some of Sir John French's personal correspondence. McGrane was arrested, jailed, deported and treated badly. The find created havoc among Collins's intelligence network nearly wrecking it. But French himself saw a bigger picture. "*The British were astounded to find several letters addressed to Lord French among this haul and dutifully forwarded them to the Lord Lieutenant almost a year after they had been posted. French took this delay in his mail with remarkable sangfroid. Mark Sturgis, who handed the letters to French, recorded in his diary (3 February 1921) that "His Excellency said he always saw a strong likeness between this war and South Africa; that all we now say of Michael Collins they then said of Smuts and look at him now!"*"
(*"Michael Collins: a Life"* by James Mackay)

The second forgery dated June 6th 1921 would indicate that one off forgery efforts may have continued for some time after the abandonment of the forged Bulletins. This one tries to foment dissatisfaction by proclaiming that Dáil Éireann would pay unemployment benefit from funds allegedly available from millions of dollars raised in America. It was a ridiculous but another mischief making suggestion that would only be credible to the gullible. Any Government proclamation on such an issue was unlikely to misspell the topic as '*enemployment*' and get its possessive apostrophe wrong in spelling the '*Farmer's Union*.'

Considerable thought and ingenuity went into the forgeries. It was, for example, a clever piece of mischief making to invent a Dáil "Negotiating Committee" because negotiating the settlement of a war is a most delicate business as it is replete with possibilities of mistrust, lies, deceit, misunderstanding, betrayal, confusion, etc. and this invention was a means to maximise such feelings.

The overall attempt of the forgeries was to subliminally sow discontent and doubt about whether the war effort was worthwhile. Being professional propagandists the forgers knew that an essential requirement was verisimilitude, i.e., to report on issues with a real appearance of truth. In fact they spell it out in a paragraph on '*Propaganda*' (page 15) when pretending to accuse the British Government of it and explain that "*to be effective propaganda must contain some element of truth and must be impartial*". They report a lot of incidents of the war in this fashion, putting their own interpretation on them without appearing to do so, by leaving out crucial aspects and adding bits and pieces that cannot be proved or disproved – but which are always to the discredit of the I.R.A.

Dr. Brian P. Murphy OSB, in his "*The Origins and Organisation of British Propaganda in Ireland, 1920*" (Aubane, 2006) illustrated this technique very well.

Fortunately, we now have the publication of the "Irish Bulletin" itself by Aubane, many local histories and the bureau of Military History Witness Statements online, as prepared so well by the Defence Forces, and a word search on that site will put most of the incidents in their true context. See: <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/bmhsearch/search.jsp>

Jack Lane
June 2017

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LYING INSULTS OFFERED TO IRELAND.

SIR HAMAR GREENWOODS' WEEKLY

“The Weekly Summary” is a paper issued by the Chief Secretary in Ireland to the Police Forces. It has been described as “infamous” and its object is to the hound the mercenaries of the English Government on with the “the job of making Ireland a hell.” How well it is has served its devilish purpose all the world knows. The thousands of murdered men, women and children, the millions of ruined house, the blacked and devastated country, these have been testified to by hundreds of eye-witnesses. Ireland today is a desert, and her exports of agricultural produce, which at one time went in boat loads are now so dwindled that practically all the export trade of Ireland is done by the English parcel post.

“THE WEKLY SUMMARY”.

The latest issue of this pernicious murder sheet has fallen into Republican hands. It consists of twelve columns, the first of which is devoted to a “leaderette.” Sir Hamar Greenwood has said that this sheet is written “by policemen for policemen”. He might with greater truth have said that it is written “by perjurers for perjurers”. The first of the two leaderettes is called “Propaganda against the Police”, and begins as follows:-

“Propaganda is always against the Police in Ireland.”

This is a gross falsehood. The writer of this lie hopes to persuade the English public that the Irish nation make false statements against the Police. It is on a par with the statements so frequently made in the English press and by the heads of the English Government regarding the so-called murder of police. There is no single authenticated case of a policemen being murdered in Ireland. These vile lies are the creation of enemy hacks whose business it is to defame Ireland with their pens. There is no propaganda against the police in Ireland. The Royal Irish Constabulary – as long as it was a purely Irish force – held the respect of the whole community.

“THE TERRORISED PRESS”.

“The terrorised press can find no words to say in their favour, yet it is with the re-establishment of civil government that the hope of Ireland lies.” The press are not terrorised. The press says what it likes, and has defied the efforts of the English Government with all its spies, tanks, machine guns and soldiers, to suppress it. It is well known that the Sinn Fein courts never insist on the fines being paid for offences committed. The only condition made is that such fines if remitted are to be handed to the Dail and this condition has been loyally obeyed by all newspapers. To say that the press of the Irish nation is terrorised is an insult to the indomitable spirits of a free, independent and noble race.

THE POLICE HAVE NO POLITICS.

“The Police have no politics.

“The Police want only public peace.

“All their interest lie that way.

“They would rather find the country law-abiding than rebellious.

“They don’t want assassinations.

“They don’t want ambushes.

“They don’t want arson, though from what one reads, one would suppose they delighted in it.

“Yet such is the subtlety of the propaganda of the Murder Gang, that it is made to appear that the Police have provoked – and still seek – disorder in the land.”

“The Police have no politics.” The Republican Government in Ireland is not so misinformed. The English Government can not trust its servants. It is well known that the Police have politics. They have politics all day long and, such are the activities of the undefeated Republican armies, that in many cases they have politics all night. On more than one occasion the heroic levies of the Republic have kept up the fight

for “Ireland a nation” long after the mercenary police have fled the country. No less than 18,321 enemy strongholds were taken by the Republican Forces in the month of February.

“ARE THE POLICE AGGRESSIVE?”

“The exact opposite is true, and so true it is astounding that anyone can believe the extravagant charges made against the Police. Over two hundred and fifty policemen have been murdered, and not one single murderer of policemen has been hanged. Does this suggest that the Police exceed their duty or are violently aggressive? Hundreds of carefully-prepared ambushes have taken place all over the country, but the Police have never once ambushed their enemies. Does that suggest that the Police are the murderous marauders they are usually depicted in the news for foreign circulation?”

The lying statement about policemen being murdered is again repeated. It must be as emphatically contradicted. There have been no murders of police in Ireland and even the hack who pens this piffle has admit (sic) the truth that the police have never once ambushed their enemies. All ambushes have been carried out by the Republican forces. Such actions take place daily and the gibe that the Republican forces are ignorant of the art of war is answered by their unvarying success. Irishmen have shown Europe – aye and the whole world – that, although their principles prevented them from fighting for other small nations, they can fight for Ireland.

IRISHMEN AND MURDER

“The essential unfortunate fact is that Ireland’s trouble arise out of the facility with which a number of Irishmen take to murder. The police oppose these murderers, and those who oppose the Police side with the murderers. There is no alternative choice.”

This assertion is merely a reiteration of a lie. Irishmen are not murderers. There is less crime in Ireland than in any country in Europe, except Bolshevik Russia. These facts are too well known, but such are the straits the English Government finds itself in that it invents murders in order to blacken the reputation of Ireland and so ruin her trade. The world at large is not deceived. Thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the world – from the Great Republic of America to the Republic of Andorra knows the truth. Ireland wants what Ireland wants. There is no alternative.

THE SECOND “LEADER”.

This shows the hypocrisy of the English Government. The pretence that England is not at war can not be persisted in. If it were true how does the English Government account for the fact that Mr. de Valera can not get back to America. Why is the President of the Republic compelled to remain in hiding? It is plain that the reason is that it does not suit the English Government to admit there is peace in Ireland.

OTHER HEADINGS.

The remainder of this murder-sheet is made up of cuttings from such papers as the Burley News, The Times, Daily Mail, Evening Standard, Daily Sketch, Daily News, Liverpool Daily Courier, and Daily Telegraph – all of which are paid by the English Government to disseminate the wholly false idea that there is rebellion in Ireland. The headings of these paragraphs are insulting to the National sentiment and show how grovelling in its dishonesty is this base example of enemy propaganda.

“Sinn Feiners shoot ex service men. Shot as “Spies”.” (A lie. No Sinn Feiners have ever done any shooting. Sinn Fein is a purely constitutional movement, responsible to the elected representatives of the Irish people.) “Let Ireland work the act. The way to peace in Ireland.” (Sinn Feiners have always held that the Act, though not going far enough, will do as an instalment. Leading Sinn Feiners however are “on the run” and cannot settle down to work anything. The English Government knows this.) “Is there one? Wanted, a Sinn Fein Statesman”. (Sinn Fein has produced many statesmen. It is only the jealousy of a Welsh Prime Minister and

a Canadian Chief Secretary that refuse to admit it.) “Now we all know? Sinn Fein a constitutional movement.” (This is a little line of truth by inadvertence. Sinn Fein is a constitutional movement. It is the lying English press that circulates the statement that Sinn Fein is murder). “Need of the hour, outrage must be put down.” (Sinn Fein with its magnificent police force has put down every form of outrage, and relieved the English police of their work. They are now forbidden to carry on their duties, and the blame for the outrages is placed on Sinn Fein! This is boasted English justice.)

END

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VOLUME 4. NUMBER 59. IRISH BULLETIN. THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 1921

DAIL EIREANN SESSION : MARCH 1921

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OFFICIAL REPORT.

At a session of Dail Eireann held during the second week of March where a full attendance of all available members was present, it was decided to appoint a Committee for Negotiations with the Enemy Countries with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Reports from various negotiators were presented and discussed and a decree was passed authorising the Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Committee to decide who were to be the selected negotiators.

It was decreed that no negotiations whatever be held except through this Committee, and that all negotiations at present pending be discontinued, until the negotiators and their proposals were scrutinized by the Committee. This decision has been arrived at in the interests of the Republic of Ireland as it is common knowledge that certain Republicans have been assuming the right to speak for the People of Ireland, when such right has been entrusted solely to Dail Eireann.

It is to prevent mischief being done to the National cause that this Committee is convened. Supplementary estimates to cover the heavy expenses of this Committee were agreed to.

The following resolution was, on the motion of the President, passed unanimously:-

That we record in the proceedings of this Session the thanks of this, the National Assembly of the Irish people, to the following for their great effort in the interest of peace between this Nation and the English Government.

Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M. P.
Lieut. Commander Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M. P.
J. Devlin, Esq., M.P.
Brigadier General G.K. Cockerill, M. P.

The above members of the English parliament.

Archbishop Clune, Perth, W.A.
Rt. Hon. Alexander Carlisle, K.C.

END

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THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AT WAR.

IRISHMEN'S ANSWER TO THEIR ENEMIES.

For centuries, Ireland has been mocked. Her efforts to attain here rightful freedom have been baulked but the hour of her triumph – let us not forget – is close behind the moment of her agony. Justice – and the strength and subtlety of the blows we are striking at England will bring us victory. The darkest moment is the one before the dawn.

REPUBLICAN MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS.

Forced to carry on a campaign for justice, the Irish Republican Army has had to choose its own methods, limited as it is by circumstances. Irishmen, the shrewdest race of warriors in the world, will not throw away their strength against machine guns, tanks, 12 inch howitzers and bombing aeroplanes. Counselling and guided by some of the foremost military experts of the day, (all Irishmen) the Republican forces have waged war in which their numerical handicap - owing to their skill - never been a disadvantage. Success in war lies in the ability to have a larger striking force than the enemy, at a given point at a given time. This is the daily achievement of the Republican Armies in the field.

THE ENGLISH CONSTABULARY.

The tactics of the Republican forces have been masterly in handling the situation created by the English Government in flooding Ireland with ex-soldiers in the uniform of police. In no single recorded case have the Republican forces attacked single policemen with the odds less than six to one. By this strategic handling of all combats, victory has invariably rested the Republicans. Science in war – as practised by the young men of Ireland has staggered humanity and it will be a long time ere humanity recovers from the blow.

THE ENGLISH SOLDIERY

The English soldiery are mostly boys, and these are beneath the contempt of the highly trained, carefully armed Republican forces. They have neither training nor courage and hundreds of contests have proved how utterly futile they are effectively to counter a nation in arms. Their leadership is even more pitiable for it has long been common knowledge that only the scum of the English enter her army. Employed in mobs for organised looting and savage reprisals. English soldiers are unique, but those tactics have been effectively countered again and again. When it is known that these undisciplined so called soldiers are out on reprisals the Forces of the Republic can easily – at short notice – evacuate any village or towns they may hold leaving only women or children to receive what may be called a blow in the air. This has been done repeatedly and the chagrin of the enemy is uncontrollable, when they find, after repeated searches, that the Republican Forces have eluded them by a clever outflanking movement that looks like a retreat to the hills.

DEFEAT OF THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

The blows which the brutal government whose master is the English parliament deliver on Ireland miss their mark. Irishmen fight in their own way and the victory certain. All that is planned cannot be divulged but all England today knows something of the organisation and power of the National movement. While English constabulary and English soldiers were clumsily raiding and searching, looting and burning

houses in Ireland, Irishmen have carried the war into England and England is ringed with flames. There is more to follow – for Irishmen will not rest from their endeavours until the dreams of Wolfe Tone, Michael Davitt, Patrick Pearse and hosts of other Irish Heroes are realised. ‘Ireland a nation’, is a deathless slogan.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

While waging war with an intensity which commands world admiration, Dail Eireann, ever mindful of the fact that it represents an overwhelming majority of the Irish people, is prepared to negotiate a peace with England at any time on honourable terms. To facilitate this a Committee for negotiations with Enemy Countries has been formed under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This Committee sits continuously and its sittings are on the run concurrently with Dail Eireann. The creation of this Committee will demonstrate beyond all hope of doubt, the willingness of Dail Eireann to treat with a discredited, disgraced and beaten foe. At the same time, Dail Eireann, is pledged to wage war with the full power of the nation and that only two alternatives are open to the English Government and those are War with the Irish people and Peace with the Irish People. Look where one may, there can be no middle course. On that point the Irish nation is resolute.

NOT PLAYING AT WAR

“THE YOUNG REPUBLIC’S BAPTISM OF BLOOD”

A WEEK’S CASUALTIES.

Week ending March 31:

	Killed.	...	Wounded.
Civilians	33	...	29
Crown Forces ...	<u>12</u>	...	<u>23</u>
Total	45	...	52

THREE MONTH’S CASUALTIES

Since January 1:

	Killed.	...	Wounded.
Civilians	313	...	194
Crown Forces ...	<u>177</u>	...	<u>100</u>
Total	490	...	302

The above figures are compiled from the “Freeman’s Journal” of 31.3.21, (which is not a Republican organ) and show how deep rooted is the determination of Young Ireland to baptise their “Republic” in blood – no matter whose it is.

END

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THE ENGLISH PRESS AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

“THE PATH OF FAILURE”

A leading article in the “Times” of the 28th March under the above heading seems to show that even that journal is weakening in the support of Sinn Fein methods and of the Irish National cause.

We cannot too often repeat that Ireland will not have the Government of Ireland Act at any price, nor does she desire wider powers if these have to be obtained by so-called constitutional methods. Let the English Government show its faith in such methods by putting an end to this perpetual retaliation which is ruining Ireland. Is Sinn Fein to hesitate between the Solution of the National Problem and the lives of the hireling agents of a tyranny? Let us continue to do our work without favour, and, if only it can be managed, without fear.

“THE SINN FEIN TORCH”

This is the description given in the London “Daily Mail” of the brilliant series of victories on Saturday the 26th of March by our gallant comrades in an enemy country. The destruction of no less than 35 ricks, stacks and outlying farm buildings in one day is indeed no mean achievement. All seems to have been accomplished without loss of human life but there is no reason for despondency. “We have today lit a torch which by God’s grace, will never be put out”.

OUTRAGES IN GALWAY BY CROWN FORCES

The callous disregard for all human feeling so invariably displayed by both military and police reached its zenith at Westport on Saturday morning 26th March 1921. Not content with wrecking a draper’s and grocer’s shop, these miscreants did not even spare the public house of Mr. John McGreal. Words fail us to express our horror and indignation. It is rumoured that the whole outrage was designed as a reprisal for a recent ambush in the neighbourhood and that with a certain low cunning the properties were selected for destruction merely because their owners were in some way concerned in or responsible for this ambush. How we loathe this word reprisal, and all that it implies. Does not Ireland belong to the Irish and the Irish to Dail Eireann? That we should be presented with reprisals, which we do not want, and should in addition be called upon to pay for them, is the merest travesty of justice!

EPISCOPAL INDIGNATION.

The following moving words were spoken in St. Patrick’s, Dublin, on Sunday 27th March 1921. “It is a frightful and appalling condition of things, especially so after a war for the liberty of small nations, that thousands of our young men should be hunted like wild beasts, sometimes with the blood-hound on their track”. How cordially do we agree with the Most. Revd. Bishop. Picture to yourselves these young men of ours, driven ruthlessly from their warm firesides in all weathers sometimes even over mountainous country. And who drives these young men? Who employs these savage blood-hounds? The selfish survivors of ambushes and road mines – men whom the bomb has so far failed to quell – human vampires whom our treatment has still to teach that they are wild beasts themselves. Sodden as they are with the debased instincts of self-preservation or vengeance, such creatures are, we fear, beyond the reach of the Bishop’s healing words - we paraphrase them here - “To put an end to the ruthless hunting of our young men we must not stop the murders of soldiers and police – we must ask ourselves and ask any of them that have escaped “Who refused the constitutional claim of this country for more than forty years?”.

END

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VICISSITUDES OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATIONREPORT ON PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT

Since the last report was submitted by this Department to a Session of Dail Eireann (January 18th, 1921) the Director of the Department has been arrested and the General Bureau raided by enemy agents.

There is no part of the work of the national Government that has caused the anxiety of the English Government more than the activity of the Ministry of Information in circulating the truth about Ireland. Although there is no National press in Ireland - every independent Republican journal having either been closed down or burned out - the "Irish Bulletin" exercised an influence on the Press of the world a thousand times greater than its circulation. This is due solely to the fact that nothing has appeared in it which is not the truth. It is the Truth that will in the long run prevail and all this propaganda-fed lies of the enemy's kept press cannot conceal the righteousness of Ireland's case, judged at the bar of the Nations.

A NEW DIRECTOR OF PROPAGANDA APPOINTED

A new Director has been appointed and the work of the Department in all its services has been carried on as usual. The "Bulletin" is circulated daily to 200 English newspapers and public men, and weekly to 200 other persons including many continental newspapers and journalists. The enemy Government has made repeated endeavours to prevent the circulation of the "Bulletin". They have been successful in a number of instances only but the "Bulletin" still reaches the greater number of those for whom it is intended. There are a number of plans in hand for furthering public knowledge of the situation. The Department assisted in the publication of the pamphlet "Who burnt Cork City?" which has had an extensive sale in England. A brochure on the evils of the system of English local government is being compiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as a "Short History of the War, 1916 -?" which will be from the pen of the Minister for Finance. This latter work is a monumental one, although the inscription has not yet been decided on.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH WORK

The Minister of Education has in preparation an excellent series of text books, the first of which "What is Irish?" will shortly be available. The Department has had some difficulty in finding a printer but this has now been got over. It only remains to write the book for which is a large sale undoubtedly waits. Another projected text-book "Irish Ireland", has been undertaken by the President whose qualifications for the preparation of simple story books are well known. His long experience with children joined with the fact he himself is not an Irishman, gives the book a detachment which is most winning.

COMMUNICATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Better communications with foreign countries and the Colonies is being arranged and preparations have also been made to extend the work and the production of the Department. The Department would suggest to all members of the Dail and supporters of the Cause generally to arrange in the constituencies for the collection of statements from the victims of enemy aggression, especially in the case of murders, floggings and attacks on women. Where true statistics can be secured this should be done, but if, because of enemy aggression it is impossible for members of the Dail to visit their constituencies suitable statements can be prepared from any other sources at their disposal. The well documented and unvarying brutality of enemy forces is now so well established that it is only necessary that events described by members should be attached to a place and to an individual. This has frequently been arranged in the past but there has recently been some falling off. The supply of suitable statements - preferably signed- must be kept up at all costs, especially during the phase of negotiation which the Dail has now sanctioned and is entering upon generally.

DIRECTOR OF PROPAGANDA.

The genuine Dáil Éireann Report on Propaganda

Dáil Éireann Report on Propaganda

Dublin, 10 March 1921

Report On Propaganda Department

Since the last Report was submitted by this Department to a Session of Dáil Éireann (January 18th 1921), the Director of the Department has been arrested.

A new Director has been appointed and the work of the Department in all its services has been carried on as usual. The 'Bulletin' is circulated daily to two hundred English newspapers and public men, and weekly to three hundred other persons including many Continental and Colonial newspapers and journalists. The enemy Government have made repeated endeavours to prevent the circulation of the 'Bulletin'. They have been successful in a minority of instances. The 'Bulletin', however, still reaches the greater number of those for whom it is intended and is used with effect by many of its recipients.

The Department assisted in the publication of the pamphlet 'Who burnt Cork City?' which has had an extensive sale in England.

The interviewing of foreign journalists has been somewhat disorganised since the arrest of Mr. Desmond FitzGerald, but it is hoped shortly to rectify this.

Better communication with foreign countries and the colonies is being arranged, and preparations have also been made to extend the work and the production of the Department.

Steps have been taken to maintain closer touch with the Irish Press and to supply it, so far as can be safely done, with information of an authoritative character.

This Department would suggest to all members of the Dáil to arrange in their constituencies for the collection of signed statements from the victims of enemy aggression, especially in the case of murders, floggings and attacks on women.

Director of Propaganda

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT'S NEW WEAPON."FORGING" ALONG A PATH TO PEACE.

Since the seizure of the offices of the "Irish Bulletin" by the agents of the English Government a number of forgeries have been circulated. These can be detected by an examination of the matter they contain and in every case they are so clumsily executed that they have deceived no one who did not want to be deceived. The only authentic issue of the "Irish Bulletin" since the date of seizure are Numbers 59 and 60, and also a special report of the Director of Propaganda was sent to a limited number of subscribers on April 2nd, 1921. There is no such number as 56, a litho bogus issue purporting to be that number has been put into circulation. The agents of the English Government fell into the trap prepared for them. The Director of Propaganda did not issue a No. 56.

"THE COMMITTEE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ENEMY COUNTRIES"

The official report of Dail Eireann Session, at which the above Committee was elected, is an authentic document and in spite of the efforts made by interested English journalists to throw doubt on the authenticity, the fact remains. Dail Eireann has sanctioned the appointment of a Committee for negotiation with Enemy Countries and that Committee has since been in session. The proposals of certain negotiators have already been scrutinized and rejected. Others who have been attempting negotiations have been warned that only one channel of approach exists for such advances. The President has himself made the position of the Committee for negotiations clear and the attempt by some newspapers to cloud the issue by confusing the unmistakable Official report of the Dail with transparent forgeries is none the less malicious because it has miscarried.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following points from the President's message of April 1st, 1921 make the position of the elected representatives of the Irish people in the matter of negotiations abundantly clear to those who want to see the situation in its proper light.

"If Lloyd George really wants peace between the two nations and conciliation, he can have it tomorrow on the basis of which alone peace and amity between nations is possible – on the basis of right and justice.

Let the wrong which is being committed by the nation, or groups of nations, of which he is the responsible head, upon our nation be righted. Let the aggression of which he is guilty be ended. Nothing more is necessary. We desire no quarrel.

Time after time we have indicated that if England can show any rights with which Ireland's right as a nation would clash, we are willing that those be adjusted by negotiations and treaty".

END.

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TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF THE "IRISH BULLETIN".A MISUNDERSTANDING

As the result of our recent and rather hurried decision to move into a new office it appears that there has been a certain amount of confusion and dislocation. In one specially unfortunate instance it became necessary to withdraw a whole paragraph of the "Bulletin" from publication. It had been intended to write a paragraph dealing with the relations between America and the Irish Republican Army under the heading United States and the Irish Republican Army. This heading with the word "explain" was sent by mistake to the printing office and in the hurry and confusion was taken by the compositor as an instruction to himself. It was not intended that the paragraph should appear :- "U.S. and I.R.A." This seems to mean "You shoot and I run away". The episode is the more unfortunate seeing that it seems to give the wrong impression of the two Republics.

TO CLEAR THE AIR

We are receiving countless letters from intending sympathisers in most of the European countries, in the United States, the British Empire and Ecuador complaining that no exact definition of Irish aims and aspirations seem to be procurable. One correspondent complains that that he is drowning in a sea of platitudinous generalities and that his ardent desire to place at the disposal of our Cause his fortune and all his energies is quashed only by his inability to ascertain of what the Cause consists. The following brief summary of the position should make matters perfectly clear, encourage our supporters and convince waverers.

1. The Irish people look for, fight for, live for a settlement on the basis of justice and right.
2. The Irish Cause aims at the development and realisation on normal lines of Ireland's legitimate aspirations.
3. The definition and generous adjustment of Irish national ambition is the ardent desire of every true Irish patriot.
4. In order to attain these objects and to realise these ambitions Ireland is, always has been, and ever will be, ready to suffer and, if necessary, to die.

We feel some confidence that any person who can understand this will be able to understand anything.

PROPAGANDA.

We are informed that the enemy is devoting unusual energy to the publication of propaganda and apprehension has been expressed lest these efforts may be productive of some effect. There is no danger of this. To be effective propaganda must contain some element of truth and must be impartial. The flood of enemy verbiage which inundates our country and the columns of its own press can never overwhelm IRELAND, since it does not contain a particle of truth. We have ample proof on the other hand that our own propaganda, though studiously moderate in quantity and tone and almost judicial in its impartiality, is producing the most valuable results. This is especially the case when it is blended with a certain amount of coercion.

BIGOTRY OR PIGOTTRY

A clumsy attempt has recently been made by some person with more leisure than intelligence to counterfeit the "Irish Bulletin". So clumsy is the forgery, so ponderous the humour, so turgid the style that no sane man could for a moment be deceived.

This presumptuous piece of futile effrontery has been and is daily castigated as it deserves by those loyal Sinn Fein newspapers, both Irish and English, which were taken in by the fatuous folly.

The epithet “bigoted” has often been applied (quite unjustly) both to Irish Politicians and to Irish Catholics. We would rather be wrongfully described as bigoted than truthfully as Pigotted. Political forgery! What a weapon! And anonymous at that! How the forgers must have feared the “Irish Bulletin”.

A British Cabinet Minister said with reference to the Bolshevist “PRAVDA” that a true statement of fact is good propaganda. The enemy is convicted out of his own mouth. How can the “Bulletin” be considered and why should it be countered as though it were good propaganda? The enemies of Irish freedom cannot have it both ways.

The issue by us of an anonymous forgery of their anonymous forgery would be beneath our dignity. Moreover the exact destination to which such a course might ultimately lead seems a trifle obscure. As things stand our prestige is quite undamaged.

END

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VOLUME 4. NUMBER 69.

IRISH BULLETIN.

FRIDAY 15th April '21.

THE TACTICS OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

There are many supporters of the National movement, who are inclined to be critical of the War policy of the Irish Republic. They are - it must be admitted a minority and for the most part - live out of Ireland. We, who live in Ireland, know how completely the policy of hitting the enemy where we can and how we can has been justified. By no other means could the National cause have been advanced to the position it occupies in men's minds today. From being merely a pious aspiration, the War policy of the Republic has advanced the Cause of the National Freedom to one of the first places among the historical struggles of Right against Might. The steps that brought about the decision to fight England as the Republic is fighting her, were the results of a very careful and prolonged examination of enemy psychology.

THE ENGLISH TEMPERAMENT.

The English temperament is fundamentally a timorous one. This may seem an unusual statement, but reflection will show that it is true. It is shown by Englishmen's innate conservatism which, all psychologists agree, arise out of fear. The faith of Englishmen in constitutionalism is the political expression of this conservatism, which – at bottom – really just is fear. The statesmen of the Irish Republic recognised this profound truth and, and in consultation with the leaders of the National Army, laid down the lines of their attack. It was recognised that the steady execution of individual members of the various enemy forces would have an effect far exceeding the effect of a like number of casualties in open warfare. The basic fear of the English Government spies is aroused to the pitch of terror by the ability of the Republic to execute who it likes and whom it likes and where it likes, while the fear of public opinion makes it impossible for the English Government to combat our methods effectually by the only way open to them, e.g. taking of hostages. Clear-thinking peoples, (like the Teutonic races for example) because they are untrammelled with the fear of public opinion would have been able to effectively counter our methods – but, fortunately the claims of the Republic are not urged before an oligarchy of experience. Our success is easier to achieve and our methods in consequence are simpler.

ENGLISH BULLIES TRUE TO TYPE

The task of holding English opinion to its natural timidity has been the most difficult of any which has fallen to the lot of the Government of the Irish Republic. There have been those in England, principally, of the military caste – who have urged the taking of hostages as the only certain method of dealing with our victorious offensive, but, by the indidious (sic) handling of English public opinion, the bloody-minded

statesmen who might have supported them have been muzzled. All credit is due to the Minister of Information for this achievement as, by his skilful dissemination of the truth about Ireland, these advocates of the taking of hostages have been rendered harmless, and a real danger to our gallant levies and their supporters thereby removed.

The enrolment of individual publicists in England - in the service of our Cause without the conscious knowledge of these individuals – is a propaganda achievement beside which the much jaunted (sic) efforts of Lord Northcliffe during the European war appear childish in comparison.

THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

But although our policy of individual executions of all enemy agents has had, from the point of view of the world at large, an unlooked for success, supporters of the Cause must be ever ready with pen and voice to defend it. Defeatists are everywhere urging its abandonment and, by so doing, they are – consciously or not – playing into enemy hands.

Individual executions if steadily increased in numbers and made to include all agents of the foreign Government – will enable the forces of the republic to secure victory in full at length. To this policy the armies of the Irish Republic are now committed. England - because of her hypocrisy – is self forbidden to take the only effectual counter action possible, and, because of this defect in her morale, her overthrow is inevitable. The slogan of the moment cannot be more fitly expressed than in the words of the indomitable Minister of Finance himself “Fight on fight on”. The unchastened Will to Conquer of the Irish people – functioning along its own carefully laid plans of action – cannot fail in its aims, if Irishmen are true to the principles of their elected representatives.

THE ANSWER TO THE DEFEATISTS

Defeatists urge that the victorious policy of the Republican forces has brought disaster on individual Irish Citizens. It may be true, but the most careful inquiries of the Ministry of Home Affairs have failed to produce any confirmation whatever of this view. Even if it were so, it is none the less true that Irishmen have determined that the Fight for Freedom will be fought out now at all costs and, that for all patriots, - both at home and abroad and especially in America – the motto of the hour is “Never again”. With a record of some hundreds of successful executions to the credit of the Republican forces, it would be folly to turn from a path which has brought victory actually within sight. The soldiers of the Republic have responded to the call “On with the work” and their equipment was never more complete for their duty. Their morale is undaunted and with such material at the disposal of the Republic, the representatives of the Irish Nation have no option but to continue the campaign on the lines already laid down until victory is with us and the Irish Nation is free.

END

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VOLUME 4. NUMBER 70. I R I S H B U L L E T I N. Monday 18th APRIL '21.

“DUBLIN CASTLE’S “PUBLICITY” DEPARTMENT”

The Irish Bulletin is the only official mouthpiece of the Irish Republican Army, and it is to it that the world must look for exact and true information as to its achievements and the policy which dictates those achievements. The Dublin Castle Publicity Department lose no opportunity of vilifying the National Army

and police as the following quotations from an “Official” report shows. It should be noted that the whole tone of the report, is an endeavour to blacken the Republican Forces when the facts are apparent that the incident recorded was merely an ordinary operation of as understood by and carried on by all civilised nations.

EXECUTION OF SIR ARTHUR VICARS.

The following is the Dublin Castle report:

“Further official details have been received at Dublin Castle with regard to the murder of Sir Arthur Vicars. News of the affair reached the police at Listowel at 11.20. A party immediately proceeded to the scene, arriving there about noon.

They found the body of Sir A. Vicars about 30 yards from his house lying across a footpath at the spot where he had been assassinated. His head was practically blown away by revolver bullets.

From such evidence as could be collected, it seems that the murderers were about 50 in number. They were tall, and believed to be strangers in the district, and presented the appearance of a roving band.

They were armed with revolvers, shot guns, and bombs. One of the party was noticed to be in the habit of talking to himself aloud. Most of the men were between the ages of 20 and 25. One older man was present.

It seems that after the crime had been committed the inmates of the house were given two minutes to clear out. They were then held up until the house had been set on fire and burned. To assure the destruction of the building the raiders placed bombs inside to prevent any attempt being made to save it. Around the neck of the body the police found a string, on which was attached a label bearing the words “Spy; informers beware; I.R.A. never forgets.”

GHOULISH GLOATING OF HACK JOURNALISTS

Sir Hamar Greenwood’s “Publicity” Department delights in false information and spreads itself with ghoulish pride over an incident of this kind. There is no need to publish details at all. The execution was carried out on a strictly judicial fashion after all proper formalities had been gone through. The Publicity Department hacks send the story out to the press with all the lurid details they can rake together. Any journalist can find horrors at an execution. War as waged by the forces of the Republic is no kid-gloved affair but decent journalism does not give “publicity” to horrors for the sake of horror. The officers of the Active Service Unit who carried out their orders had no liking for what was to them a distasteful duty. Their report on the matter was brief and soldierlike and the government which claims to be within its rights when it “executes” ROGER CASEMENT, KEVIN BARRY has no right to be squeamish at executions carried out in a lawful way by other belligerents.

THE STATUS OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

It is the deliberate purpose and intention of the English government to defame the forces of the republic. President de Valera has laid down that the Irish Republican Army is the authorised force of Dail Eireann and is bound by the rules of war. “The young men of Ireland as saying to themselves that at the best the span of life is only seventy years. We must all die. So why not die in circumstances like, these....” It is that outlook - that appeal which the young men have answered and find unanswerable. The taunts of Sir Hamar Greenwood’s “Publicity” Department leave them undaunted. The gibes of the paid hacks of the English government leave them unmoved. They know they are no “Murder Gang” but patriots, who having counted the cost, are ready to “go on with the work.”

END

NOTE: Our readers are requested to scrutinise carefully all issues of the IRISH BULLETIN in their possession. Forged issues are still being circulated from Dublin castle and usually bear a Dublin post mark.

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FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS IN THE GUERILLA WAR.OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN REPORTS.

The following are official Republican reports of some recent engagements in the war in Ireland. The greater number of them give details of actions in counties frequently described in the British Parliament as "peaceful". They show that guerrilla fighting is general throughout the country, and is not restricted to any particular number of counties. Actions take place daily in Munster. In Connaught many attacks have been delivered against enemy patrols during the last week. The reports published below refer to engagements in which the Republican forces were successful.

ACTION IN TRALEE

On April 15th a British Auxiliary police party consisting of two officers were engaged in playing golf in the Golf Links at Tralee. News was received on the arrival of this enemy detachment and a party of twelve Republican troops were at once sent out to make contact. They surrounded the Links and dismantled the car in which the enemy had arrived. An attacking post was carefully concealed in a bunker and immediately the enemy got within range, fire was brought to bear on them. One officer was killed and the other refused further action. The Republican troops suffered no casualties and returned to their base, but later in the evening, Black and Tan constabulary atrociously murdered one of the gallant party of attackers whilst he was taking refuge in the mountains

AN ENGAGEMENT IN DUBLIN CITY

On April 16th a British Auxiliary police party consisting of one officer and three men were proceeding in a Ford Car along the Quays. This party had repeatedly been sought for by Republican troops but has always refused battle. A special section of the Active Service Unit were detailed to seek battle. They were posted at convenient fighting distances along the Quays and armed with bombs. They took their stand on buildings in course of erection and as the enemy passed beneath them in the car, bombs were dropped with effect. Dublin Castle states that no casualties resulted to the Crown Forces but Republican information enables us to state that two of the enemy were killed and the others wounded. Search parties were sent out by the enemy but with customary skill the Republican troops withdrew. There were no Republican casualties.

TWO ATTACKS IN COUNTY MONAGHAN

Republican troops are active in many parts of Co. Monaghan. At Carrickmacross on April 11th a patrol of ten enemy constabulary were attacked. Three of the constables were seriously wounded. The Republican forces had to suspend the action owing to the presence of civilians. They sustained no casualties. At Moylemuck about two miles from Kochcorrig (Rockcorry, J.L.) an enemy spy called HUGH DUFFY was attacked by a small party of Republican troops. DUFFY was an army pensioner and for the purposes of the enemy was employed as a casual potman (sic) (postman, J.L.). By a ruse, he was sent out of the town where he was met, tried and executed. Dublin Castle officially stated that this spy was shot in the head, heart and lungs, when found by the enemy police. The Republican report of the execution states that DUFFY was shot in the body only. The execution was a judicial one and properly conducted in accordance with the decision of the Sinn Fein courts of law.

SENTENCE CARRIED OUT IN CO. MAYO.

The Department of Justice has in co-operation with the Republican police been compelled to take steps against those who use enemy courts and thereby render the lawful courts of Dail Eireann liable to

contempt. Thomas Coleman, a farmer of Co. Mayo, entered a claim at Swinford Quarter Sessions for debt. He was informed by the Republican police that this action was illegal but – in spite of such warning he persisted in his intention. He obtained a decree from the English courts and the Department of Justice decided that his case was one on which action should be taken. He was sentenced and the following notice published in the press will serve as a warning to others.

“Thomas Coleman, 60, farmer, Carraghcastle, Swinford, Co. Mayo, was taken from his house, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, by armed men who blindfolded him and kicked him along a mountain road for over a mile. They left him with his hands and feet tied. A label was found with the words “Spies, beware death penalty, I.R.A.” This farmer obtained a decree for debt against a neighbour at Swinford Quarter Sessions on 13th inst.”

The Minister of Propaganda arranged that this decision of the Department of Justice would receive the fullest publicity in the Irish Press so that the consequences of resorting to enemy courts might be thoroughly understood.

OTHER REPUBLICAN OPERATIONS

Mails seized from train at Lis(s)elton (Kerry). Bridges blown up near Thurles and seven other places in Tipperary. Mail van raided in Dublin and police mails seized. Raid on College Road Post Office, Cork. £41 old age pension money seized from Islandeddy (Islandeady, J.L.) sub-post office (Mayo) and handed to Department of Finance. War material and stores seized from Cork railway station and delivered to local Active Service Unit for disposition. 51 telegraph poles cut and wires and insulators seized near Millstreet (Cork). Enemy courthouse destroyed at Skibbereen an in Wexford. A bridge demolished at Lissard (Cork). Trenches dug in West Cork roads and in Wexford. Broadstone Railway Works Dublin raided and engineering tools taken: three women punished for contumacy to republican police. Rosslare express held up at Campile station (Wexford). An Auxiliary policeman disarmed and robbed of despatches. (N.B. This man was subsequently released unharmed). Two military foot police disarmed and bound in Donegall Street, Belfast. Derry House, Rosscarberry, residence of Serjeant (sic) Sullivan K.C. destroyed by fire. Telephone wires between Belfort (sic) and Dublin cut near Banbridge. Telephone and climbers taken from linesman in Dublin, for use by Active Service Unit. Receipts given. Military lorry and car burned at Wexford. Two army horses killed and two horses and a mule wounded in Dublin streets. Belfast bread van at Londonderry burned, an employee wounded in resisting Republican police. Mails held up at Ballymagan (Londonderry). Two military ambulances burned at Bray (Dublin). Belfast bread van burned at Newry. Eight barrels of stout consigned to military, destroyed at Clara station (King’s County). £346 in cash and stamps taken from Thomas Street Post-Office, Dublin and handed to Minister for Finance. Louth rate collection robbed of large sums of money – one of £5,000 and another of £3,000 for transmission to Local Government Department. Military bacon seized at Cork for use of local Active Service Units in the field.

END

NOTE: Forgeries of the IRISH BULLETIN are still being circulated from Dublin Castle. Copies stamped with a green circular stamp and bearing the words “Official Copy” are not necessarily authentic.

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ENGLISH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter has appeared in the English "Morning Post."
 DAIL EIREANN. (Department of Finance), Mansion House, Dublin. 21st March 1921.

To:- DIRECTOR OF PROPGANDA

A Chara,

The enclosed copy of notes from Ireland will probably be of some interest to you. I have previously sent some copies of these and other things from the Unionist Alliance people.

Many figures have been given in the papers recently with regard to the R.I.C. resignations, dismissals, recruitment. All these questions have been asked on instructions from me, and I think you may be able to make very good use of some of them. For instance, in the 10th March "Hansard" (pages 688 and 689) are given the figures which appeared in the Independent some days ago. In a few days time we shall get total strengths and numbers recruited over certain periods.

I have got an arrangement made in London whereby the Independent correspondents will always quote the figures pretty fully for our benefit.

A Chara,
 (Signed) Michael Collins.

MEMBERS OF THE DAIL AND THE ENGLISH HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

There is no need to deny or affirm the authenticity of the above. That the Minister for Finance should write to the Director of Propaganda would seem natural and right and that the English Government should raid private correspondence and give it to its kept newspapers is also natural (for the English Government) and right (for the English Government). The IRISH BULLETIN is only concerned with the wider point of view. The question of R.I.C. resignations, dismissals, and recruiting are matters of the most vital concern to the Minister for Finance as well as matters of general public interest. Although the Irish people do not want the Black and Tan constabulary, they are, unwillingly, compelled to pay for them. The question therefore was – from all points of view – a fit and proper one and the suggestion that, because members of the Dail decline themselves to sit in the English house of parliament, they have no right to get the supporters of the Cause of Irish Freedom to ask questions for them there – is a suggestion the absurdity of which is patent.

POLICY TOWARD ENGLISH INSTITUTIONS DURING TRANSITION STAGES.

The Cabinet of Dail Eireann decided many months ago what policy should obtain during the transition stage from subjection to the English parliament to Free National Independence. It was decided for example, that the English post office would be permitted to function pending the establishment of the Irish National Post Office but that the English local government board should be opposed and destroyed forthwith. Both aspects of this policy are now in successful operation. The same meeting of the Irish Cabinet decided that questions might be asked and points of discussion raised in the English houses of parliament and members of the Irish Cabinet, (of which Mr. Michael Collins is one) were given permission to get in touch with friendly members. Despite the unparalleled brutality of the English government, the IRISH BULLETIN – in the interest of the Truth - is prepared to admit that there never have been wanting ears willing to listen to the claims of the Cause of Ireland. The policy of the IRISH BULLETIN is to tell the Truth about Ireland – the whole truth and nothing but the Truth.

END

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THE REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

NO CONCEALMENT OF ANYTHING

The following appeared in the "Freeman's Journal" 19.4.21.

"MONAGHAN WOMAN SHOT. Body found in a Boreen by a Police Patrol. A woman named Kitty Carroll (45), who resided in a cottage with her aged parents on a small farm at Aughnameena, (Aghanameena, J.L.) a mountainous district in Monaghan was taken from her home early on Sunday morning 17.4.21 by masked men.

Her dead body was found by a police patrol some distance from the house. It is stated that about midnight a knock was heard on the door, and Kitty Carroll, who had long before retired for the night, opened it to find that a party of masked men were outside. They entered the house and told the unhappy woman that they had come for her.

Apparently she resisted attempts to remove her, but was overpowered. She was taken from the house despite her pleadings that she alone was left to look after the little household, and the men led her for a mile down the boreen.

When discovered the victim's hands were tied behind her back, and the clothing was soaked from exposure to the rain.

A card attached to the body bore the words: "Spies and informers beware. Tried, convicted and executed by the I.R.A."

The aged parents were heart-broken when informed of the tragedy. The police at once took steps to investigate the shooting."

A report issued by Dublin Castle states: - "Kit Carroll (45), of Aughnameenagh, was bound and dragged from her house on April 16 by armed and masked men. Her dead body was found at 7 a.m. on Sunday. She had been shot."

"On the night of April 16th a number of armed and masked men visited the house of Mary Gallagher (56) of Derrybeg, and cut off her hair apparently because she had reported a neighbour to the Crown Forces for having poisoned her dog. That same party shot and wounded, in the leg, Morris Cole, aged 80."

HONEST PUBLICITY

The IRISH BULLETIN owes a duty to the world as well as a duty to Ireland and wishes to conceal nothing of the National Movement, not even its defects. That the above fully detailed incident was the work of Republican Forces is not denied and the Minister of Defence can be safely trusted to look after the discipline of his commands whose excess of zeal may prove an embarrassment to the Cause. What concerns the IRISH BULLETIN is the self righteous attitude of the English government. In the issue of the IRISH BULLETIN, Volume 4 Number 68 Thursday 14th April 1921 will be found particulars of OUTRAGES ON IRISH WOMEN, which to unprejudiced readers is a sufficient answer to anything that English government may say about this unfortunate incident.

In the House of Commons on March 19th 1921 Sir Hamar Greenwood, explaining the objects of the Dublin Castle Publicity Department, said:-

"It is an honest attempt to give to the House and to the country the facts whether they are in favour of the Government or against the Government..... No one is more anxious to get a clear, accurate,

unquestioned statement of facts on any event (in Ireland) than I am....I am all, in the words of the hon. and gallant Member for Lanark, in favour of letting the daylight in.” (Official Debates. Vol. 139, Col. 2070).

The IRISH BULLETIN – long before Sir Hamar Greenwood thought of it – was making “an honest attempt to give.....the facts.” The IRISH BULLETIN is still giving the facts but unlike Sir Hamar Greenwood’s Dublin Castle Publicity Department, it gives the facts whether they are favourable to the Irish Cause or no. The case of Kitty Carroll is an unfortunate one but no attempt is made to gloss it over. The Irish Republic is responsible for its armed forces and share with their shame as well as their glory.

THE FAKED BULLETINS.

As referred to at length in the IRISH BULLETIN Volume 4 Number 63 of Thursday 7th April ’21, the issue of faked copies is still being carried on. The paper, envelopes and general set-up of the issues are identical with the genuine BULLETIN but an examination of the style of writing as well as the matter shows at once, which is the real and which the false.

The typewriter on which the earlier forgeries were produced has been discarded and a new Machine, still using elite type however, has been substituted. This is a consequence of the exposure in the BULLETIN of April 7th. The forgeries are being issued, reproduced in purple ink, whereas, since the raid on the offices of the Publicity Department of Dail Eireann on March 26th, the genuine BULLETINS have been produced in black ink. The element of “humour” which was a “feature” of the forgeries has now disappeared and there is evidence that another hand (or hands) is being employed in this work by Dublin Castle or its agents in London. The “Official Copy” stamp in green, which had been used for foreign issues only by the Republican Publicity Department, has been used by the perpetrators of the forgeries on issues made by them in Ireland and although the use of the stamp is now general, readers are warned that it is not necessarily a guarantee of authenticity. There is reason to believe that faked copies are being posted by agents throughout Ireland and Scotland. Recently it has been reported that faked copies have been posted in LONDON, Newcastle, Liverpool, Burton-upon-Trent, Glasgow and Forfar (Scotland). Doubtless the methods of posting are varied week by week, but the genuine BULLETIN is posted either in DUBLIN or LONDON. Arrangements are being made to deliver more copies in those centres in future by hand, which reduce the risk of forgeries passing into general circulation. Recipients of the BULLETIN who can give an alternative address to that in possession of the Publicity Department prior to March 26th are invited to do so, as it is the aim of the Department to render the list of addresses taken by Auxiliary Police on that date useless to the perpetrators of these forgeries.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Press recipients are requested to refrain from making any comments on these forged BULLETINS, which are being circulated. Republican information to hand enables us to say that the object in circulating the forgeries is to bring the genuine BULLETIN into doubt and an editor of one London evening journal has gone so far as to say the originals and forgeries are indistinguishable. This is playing into the hands of the forgers and it is this atmosphere of dubiety that Dublin Castle hopes to engender. Nothing would suit Sir Hamar Greenwood’s Publicity Department better than that the veracity of THE IRISH BULLETIN be impugned, for, if so, they would be rid of the only unchallengeable and independent service of information on Ireland, which stands in the way of the dissemination of what they call “Official Reports.”

The director of Propaganda earnestly asks that, therefore, no reference whatever be made to these contemptible forgeries which the English government are to in their anxiety to stifle the demand of the Irish People for justice and national rights. By a press boycott of these impudent forgeries and an unrestricted use of the matter contained in the genuine BULLETIN, the malicious of the perpetrators of the forgeries will miscarry and recoil, to their disadvantage, on their own heads.

END.

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DAIL EIREANN SESSION : APRIL 1921

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A Session of Dail Eireann was held during the second week of April. There was a full attendance of available members.

Reports from various Departments of the Ministry were presented, discussed and adopted.

It was reported in view of the continued success of the Belfast Boycott, that the time had arrived to inaugurate a general boycott of all English goods. The Minister of Home Affairs was instructed to prepare plans and submit them to the next Session, pending the issue of those plans and, in pursuance of the decisions of the March Session, the department of Trade prohibits from May 1st by Decree the import or sale of any of the following articles of English origin.

Coal, whiskey, woollen, cotton and linen cloths, paper (newsprint may be imported by special arrangement with the Department of Trade, under licence) motor cars, bicycles and accessories, pianos, gramophones and musical instruments, clocks and watches, foreign games, flour, cakes, biscuits, confectionary, china and glass.

A Scheme for the creation of Conciliation Boards for the amicable settlement of disputes between employers and employees was approved and will come into force on May 1st. Proposals for dealing with Unemployment Problems were also considered and a scheme adopted for substituting unemployed Benefits from Republican Funds in lieu of the English system. This will also take effect from 1st May.

A decree was passed authorising the Minister of Home Affairs to forbid the making of speeches in connection with the forthcoming elections in May in any other than the National Language. The proposal to issue the IRISH BULLETIN in the National language was vetoed but will come up for further discussion at the next session, the Director of Propaganda to prepare a report. The issue of forgeries of the IRISH BULLETIN by the English government was reported on by the DIRECTOR of PROPAGANDA and instructions were given to the Minister of Home Affairs to deal with the perpetrators of these through the republican Police.

The Minister of Finance reported the decision of the Special Committee on proposals for the increase of the salaries of the cabinet of Dail Eireann and these were agreed to.

The following resolution was on the motion of the President, passed in silence, the Members standing – as usual.

“ That we record in the proceedings of this session our deep sympathy with the relatives of the brave soldiers of Ireland who have during the last month died for her sacred cause at the hands of the brutal soldiery and constabulary of the British government.

That we regret the heavy cost in young life of the present struggle but we re-affirm our determination to hold fast to the positions we have taken up as the elected representatives of the Irish People, confident that these sacrifices will be justified when we, the elected representatives of the Irish People, take our seats before the world as the fully recognised Government of the Irish republic.”

END

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ANNEX 1

IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY.

In its official Organ G.H.Q. informs us that our Army has scored a number of brilliant victories inside the past few weeks & that from a military point of view the situation is excellent?

In the safety & comfort of his hiding (?) place in DUBLIN our Commander-in-Chief has told an American journalist that we are in a better position than when we (sic) saw him last August, that the Crown Forces are virtually beaten & that it is only a question of time until we have Ireland cleared of the enemy.

Now, does any sane man in the VOLUNTEERS believe such claptrap?

It is high time that the men who have borne the brunt of the fighting, & their wives & mothers, worn with anxiety & heart break, should take stock of the situation.

We can understand why these leaders (?) safely hidden in the bedrooms of their female admirers in Dubbin – the men who handle sums of REPUBLICAN MONEY – should desire a prolongation of this unequal struggle.

They at least are safe, the Castle Hirlings (sic) are in no particular hurry to arrest them & in any scheme of settlement they will get a free pardon.

In short they are having a good time.

Not for those pampered Rebels, the hunted existence of brave men now hourly dodging death in the hills & bogs of Ireland.

How many of our best Volunteer Commandants have fallen recently? How many pine away their young lives behind the grim walls of English Prisons? How much more sorrow must our loved ones endure before our G.O.C – in Chief in his lady's apartments in Dublin realise the desperate hopelessness of our position?

While this MILITARY GENIUS – so strangely immune from arrest – was enjoying the charms of his talented Eileen's society in her luxurious Dublin Flat, the volunteers he so gaily sends to their doom, were being hunted down, their homes laid waste, and their families driven to desolation and despair in Munster.

VOLUNTEERS who dared to speak their minds were seized by his specially paid Murder Gang, tried by mock Courtmartial, and executed as spies and traitors.

Terror rules the I. R. A. to-day & innocent Country boys are conscripted into the so-called Active Service units and driven by the bullet and lash to face the best trained soldiers in the world.

If Irish Mothers could only realise the brutal floggings and executions by which these wretched youths are held to discipline, we would soon have an end of Michael Collins & his headquarters staff tyrants.

But these sinful men, leading immoral lives in Dublin, have so fooled Irish Public Opinion that no one dares to speak & a reign of terror has been set up as a (sic) soul-destroying as that of ROBBESPIERRE (SIC) or TROTSKY.

What is our real position?

No Irishman of Sinn Fein views can count on his life for one day for we are goading the enemy into imitating (sic) our Campaign of Murder.

God only knows how many souls we have destroyed, for Murder is Murder no matter what anyone says.

Many of our pure Irish girls have lost their virtue in the abnormal lives they we are leading. Many have been contaminated by the women sent down from Dublin by our loose living Headquarters Staff.

Can we win an Irish Republic? What about the British Navy which could starve us out in a week?

Will America, the Bolshevics,(sic) Fthe Germans, the Italians, the Hindoos, the Egyptians, or the Triple (now the crippled) Alliance fight for us?

We can Murder a few Peelers, it is true, but will that bring us any nearer to the victory which Mick Collins tells us is in sight?

Meanwhile there is unemployment in England and for every Peeler we (kill) one hundred (100) BLACK AND TANS will be clamouring to take his place.

We soon shall have hunger and unemployment in Ireland too, for there is a World Wide slump in trade and then we shall have more and more Auxiliary Police and Black and Tans, Secret Service Spies, and years of Crown Colony Government or maintenance of the system of Martial Law.

What a cheerful prospect for all of us but our G.H.Q. Staff in Dublin so mysteriously safe from arrest?

You can see for yourself wether (sic) we are winning or not. Police barracks are springing up in every village and town in Ireland and the enemy becomes stronger, better armed, and more confident every day.

VOLONTEERS, (SIC) think and act for yourselves, and call on your Catholic fellow Countrymen to back you up. It is easy enough to get rid of the ladies boudoir-Commander-in-Chief and his Murderous G.H.Q. if we can act unitedly. He cannot Murder all of us.

FATHER O'FLANAGAN and ARCHBISHOP CLUNE may be safely left to settle for us. If they had been left alone we could have had an honourable peace long ago.

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DAIL EIREANN

Trade Department.

June 6th. 1921.

PROCLAMATION.

Unemployment.

Whereas as a result of Conferences between the Irish Labour Party, the Famer's Union and the Ministry

Be it known that the Present Enemployment in Ireland is due:

1. To the fact that as Ireland is economically linked up with the British Empire she is now experiencing the terrific trade slump from which that Empire suffers, and
2. To the traditional policy of British Statesmen in keeping Ireland in such a state of poverty that she can support only about 4,000,000 persons.

It is decreed that an employment benefit of two pounds weekly be paid to all Irishmen (residing in Ireland) who, owing to enemy aggression, are without employment or are unable to follow their usual employment this benefit is payable for twelve weeks only from May 30th, 1921, and funds to meet it have been sanctioned by the Minster for Finance from the American 10,000,000 dollar Fund for Irish Relief. Applicants for the benefit must apply to the Ministry for Labour, Unemployment Department, Mansion House, Dublin., for cards of registration, stating their circumstance and whether applicant is in receipt of unemployment benefit from the English Government. No payments can be made without cards. On production of these however, payment of benefit will be made on demand through T.D.s, secretaries of County Councils and others whose names – for each area – will be announced locally. Such officers of the Irish Republic will be known as Comharloi Oibrigthe (Director of Labour Exchanges) and will receive no salary.

(signed) EARNAN DE BLAGHD

Minister of Trade.

COPY.

Forgery

(Advance Notice.)

DAIL BIREANN.

*Dot in
Proclamation
handwriting*

Trade Department.

June 6th, 1921.

Demerit Published in paper June 14 1921

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(Signed) BARNAN DE BLAGHD.

Minister of Trade.

*Propaganda
This is bogus
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'Brian Murphy offers a well-researched examination of a neglected aspect of the Irish War of Independence... it is a fascinating work.'
JOHN BORGONOVO, *Editor Florence and Josephine O'Donoghue's War of Independence*

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This pamphlet is a collection of all the extant copies of the forgery and we are pretty sure that it is the complete run of what was published.

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