

Another Version Of Surrender Of Arms In Limerick In 1916

ANOTHER version of the surrender of arms to the British by the Irish Volunteers in Limerick in 1916 is contained in the second volume of "Devoys Post Bag," just issued. This account is from Mr. Stephen J. Dinneen, who was then Captain of "A" Company of Limerick City Regiment, Irish Volunteers. Mr. Dinneen, who wrote under date 23rd of July, 1916, says that the Colonel of the Regiment, who was Commandant Michael P. Colivet, offered Sir Anthony Weldon, then Commanding the British Forces in Limerick, "if he gave the women and children permission to leave the city we would fight him for the city, or if he allowed us to go outside the city we would fight him outside the city whatever the odds were." The arms, however, were later given up.

The second and final volume of Devoys Post Bag, issued quite recently, completes a very interesting chronicle of Fenianism from the inside. The first volume covered ten years of the life of John Devoys between 1871 and 1880 and the second deals with the 48 years from 1880 to 1928. The material in these two valuable books consists of a wide variety of letters that passed between Devoys and not only the leaders of the physical force movement of his time but the prominent leaders of the other national efforts and organisations as well.

USEFUL AND INTERESTING LIGHT

The second volume is probably the more interesting and important of the two. It throws a great deal of useful and interesting light on the events and inner happenings and legends of a most eventful stretch in Irish history. The letters and documents quoted show the high idealism and unselfish sincerity of the Fenian leaders and other extreme men of those days. They also throw into bold relief the wisdom of the New Departure and the fact that only for the work of Davitt and Parnell in detouring landlordism, the chief and most powerful bulwark of British rule in Ireland, there could be any hope of securing freedom for this country.

LIMERICK IN 1916.

For local readers an account given of "What Happened in Limerick and District During Easter Week, 1916" will be of special interest. This article or report is dated 23rd July 1916 and was written by Mr. Stephen J. Dinneen, then Captain of the "A" Company of Limerick City Regiment of the Irish Volunteers. According to Mr. Dinneen, the rifles were to commence on Easter Sunday evening. Limerick City Regiment was to move out from Limerick on Sunday morning and encamp at Killonan and at 7 a.m. to commence operations by cutting the telegraph and telephone wires, etc.

The writer then deals with the scheme of military operations drawn up and makes reference to the arms that were to be landed at Fenit, but did not arrive.

"EVERYTHING OFF"

On Easter Sunday morning, he says, the O'Rahilly arrived in Limerick by motor from Dublin with a signed order from Eoin MacNeill that "everything was off." Then orders were sent to all the outlying corps to disband and go home and Limerick City Regiment encamped out and encamped at Killonan. On Monday morning at about 11 a.m. our second messenger arrived at Killonan with Father McDonagh with a message that all was off. He had gone to Dublin from Galway to get information and was returning home via Limerick. Miss Daly arrived at Killonan with a message from P. H. Pearse to carry out orders.

Mr. Dinneen continues Mr. Dinneen, "the Regiment had paraded on Sunday morning with 176 men; weather conditions being very bad, 75 men returned home on Sunday night, which left 101 men under arms. Limerick had 189 rifles, 30 rounds per man, a reserve of 20,000 rounds; some of the men had a good many rounds of their own and some shot guns. . . . The Battalion Council did not know whether to believe Miss Daly or their own off-

cers who had gone to Dublin, and also they had MacNeill's order in his own signature brought down by O'Rahilly."

In any case, nothing was done and the Volunteers came back to Limerick from Killonan.

AN OFFER TO WELDON TO FIGHT

Coming to the surrender of arms to Sir Anthony Weldon, then commanding the British Forces in Limerick, Mr. Dinneen says: "Col. Weldon, through the Mayor, opened negotiations with us about the surrender of some of our arms. We refused to surrender any. We exchanged several notes on the subject and still refused to surrender. Our Colonel, through the Mayor offered Weldon, if he gave the women and children permission to leave the city, we would fight him for the city, or if he allowed us to go outside the city we would fight him outside the city, whatever the odds were. Our orders to our men at this time were if the officers were arrested or an attempt made to arrest them, or if the police or military tried to disarm Volunteers, they were to resist and suffer death sooner than surrender anything."

Weldon, however, we are told, "refused our offer to fight and threatened to blow up the city if arms were not surrendered."

DECIDED TO SURRENDER

"Then being asked by the clergy and people to surrender arms, to save the women and children, and the city being caught like rats in a trap and surrounded on all sides," the Battalion Council and Committee decided by a majority "to surrender arms and a certain amount of ammunition, about 30 rounds per man. The rifles were broken up and handed in on May 4th. The men not knowing anything of what was to happen on Easter Sunday, the Council did not think it fair to lead them to their death as there was no chance when arms did not land."

CERTAINLY SEEMED VERY BRAVE

The offer to Weldon to fight his forces "for the city" seems certainly very brave in view of the position given by Mr. Dinneen of the position of the respective sides at the time of the surrender. "England," he says "was prepared. Kerry was unarmed, Clare was unarmed, Cork was unarmed and Limerick County had only a few odd rifles, about 50 in Castleconnell, 30 in Killonan and a few in Dromcollogher; none in Newcastle, Hospital, Newport and Meelick."

VALUABLE BOOK.

Letters from Mr. de Valera and Arthur Griffith and a number of other prominent people in 1918 are very interesting documents included in this second volume of Devoys Post Bag. They are of particular interest just now in view of all that has taken place since they were written. The book is in many respects a valuable contribution to the understanding of the period covered by its contents. Published by Messrs. C. J. Fallon, Limited, Dublin. It is on sale at 30/-.

BALLYHAHILL I.C.A.

At the annual general meeting of Ballyhahill Guild of the Irish Countrywomen's Association, there was a large attendance and Miss E. Fitzgerald, President, presided. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Eileen Fitzgerald (re-elected); Vice-President, Mrs. Mangan; Secretary, Phil O'Sullivan; Treasurer, Ursula O'Connor; Press correspondent, Anna Costello; Committee, Anna O'Shaughnessy, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Una Ryan, Kit Walsh, Mrs. Thornton, Nellie O'Brien and Mary Hayes.

The President arranged the programme for the monthly meetings. The meeting then concluded with the singing of "My Land."

ATHLETICS

(BY K. O'B.)

A MEETING of the Co. Board was held at the Gaelic League Rooms on Saturday night. Mr. M. Casey presided. Mr. Moorehead, vice-chairman; Mr. P. O'Connell, treasurer, and Mr. C. O'Mahony from the County Board were present. Delegates from Limerick A.C. and Croom were present.

This meeting was held to decide what the County Board, N.A.C.A., would do about holding a sports during Tostal Week.

Mr. McGuire attended the meeting as a representative from the Tostal Board. He said that it would be a grateful gesture if the N.A.C.A. co-operated. Every other branch of sport will be represented. He said that there were a lot of people going around saying that the Tostal wasn't going to be a success, but if all did their bit and did it well, it would have to be a success. He said that he would let the Board know as soon as possible if there was a Sunday available during the Tostal, and also if there will be a suitable venue.

He assured the Board of giving any help they required in connection with the sports. He then thanked the Board for having received him.

Replying on behalf of the Board, Mr. Casey said that they would be honoured to co-operate and if there is a Sunday available they will put on a suitable programme in harmony with the aims of the Tourist Board. "That is," he said, "in showing our visitors what we can do."

It was decided at the meeting that the five mile All-Ireland title will be held at this sports meeting.

Bro. Fagan, of Copewood College, was also another welcome visitor at the meeting. He stated that he was endeavouring to revive the athletic club in the College. He stated that there was plenty talent available there and he would like to see them getting an opportunity.

This is heartening news. More good news comes from Sarsfield Barracks. They are also forming a club.

J. Moloney, Knocksonna, was congratulated on winning the Southern Command title. Limerick were well represented on the winning team. C. O'Mahony, of Croom, finished 4th; J. Hallinan, of Athlone and P. Fitzhenry, of Patrickwell, making up valuable points. This goes to show that there is plenty of talent available in the county. All that is wanted is to bring it to the fore and this can be only done by having more athletic clubs.

It was proposed by Mr. V. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Moorehead, that the secretary write and thank the Croom Branch, I.C.A., for the part they played in making the Munster Junior Cross-Country such a success. That concluded the meeting.

Next meeting - March the 7th.

Clare had a surprise victory in the All-Ireland junior, held at Ballgriffin, Co. Dublin. They captured both individual and team titles. P. O'Malley, Clare, led from start to finish. Limerick put up a great fight and were placed second, Tipperary being placed third. Thus Munster were supreme. This was a different Clare team from the team that competed in the Munster junior. They were strengthened by the inclusion of some of the team that won the Munster junior title last year.

The Limerick team that did so magnificently were: P. Carmody, 11th, and Willie McKenna, 19th, both of Blackboy; John Moloney, 21; Maurice Brazil, 22; Knocksonna; Willie Deery, 25th, Blackboy; Jack Bourke, 26th, Croom.

Judging from the points it can be seen that Limerick displayed excellent team work.

Special mention must be made of Joe Keogh, Blackboy, and M. Leahy, Knocksonna, for making all arrangements and looking after the team.

Thirteen teams took part in the race. Of the field of 158 starters, 131 finished. Next cross-country - Munster Senior Cross-Country, Millstreet.

TRAGIC LOSS

The parish of Galbally and surrounding parishes were enveloped in gloom on Saturday last when it was learned that Mr. James ("Jimmie") Fitzgerald, Roundhill Nurseries, had passed away in a Limerick hospital, after a very brief illness (writes our Galbally correspondent).

The deceased was a man of outstanding qualities, being a great friend and neighbour. He gave a lot of much needed employment at his nurseries and was most popular with all sections of the community.

He was a most zealous worker and member of the Galbally Parish Council of Muintir na Tire, in whose interests he always gave of his best, as he did in all matters pertaining to the religious and educational life of Galbally and district.

To his bereaved widow and five young children we tender our sin-

A FREE TRIP TO FRANCE



At the Press Ball, held in Cruise's Hotel, Mr. (Cement, Ltd.) won tickets for trip for two from Ireland, United States Lines, presenting the tickets. The trip will be made in the luxury liner s.s. "Am to be chosen by Mr. Thompson. Also in the picture of Limerick (Mr. K. Bradshaw), the Mayoress, and Mrs. Macken.

Drama Competition For Tostal Cup

The drama competition organised in Bruff by the local Guild of Muintir na Tire, in connection with An Tostal, had an auspicious opening at the Hall, Bruff, when a large audience was present to see the production of "The Righteous Are Bold" by the Caherconlish Catholic Institute Players.

This drama in three acts, by Frank Carney, was excellently produced by this group, and the acting impressed the adjudicator, Mr. D. Doyle, County Librarian, very much. Those taking part were May Nelligan, Dan Connors, Ann Marcus, Jackie Reardon, Tom Pigott, Bridie Chamberlain, Ned Bennett, Timothy Ryan, Joan Kelly, Nora Bourke. The play was directed by J. Reardon, stage manager was John Madden, stage and lighting effects were in the hands of Tadgh Ryan, and the stage settings were carried out by Simon Casey and Pat Connell.

Supporting the production were items by the Institute Troupe of Dancers - Misses E. Clifford, V. Kirby, M. Leahy, E. Clifford and N. Dinneen - while N. Bennett, J. Delane, D. Connors, J. Leahy and M. Nelligan rendered vocal items.

This play was the first of a series of productions to be given at Bruff in connection with an An Tostal programme arranged by the Bruff Guild of Muintir na Tire for An Tostal Cup, presented by the Guild. Productions will take place each Sunday night during Lent and in some week nights. On next Sunday night, the Monaleen Players will present "Tappytossey," a comedy in three acts by Ruddick Millar, and "Thomas James Takes A Wife," a comedy in one act by Robert Spence. The winners of the competition will give a special production during Tostal time.

Important Radio Event For Limerick

New radio artists from five counties will make their debut in "Beginners, Please" Radio Eireann's famous variety feature, next month, when three programmes will be played and recorded in one night at the Savoy Cinema, Limerick, on Wednesday, March 11th.

The Savoy will suspend its cinema programme for the night for the appearance of the artists, who come from Limerick, Cahil, Tralee, Cashel, Kilrush and Galway. The Radio Eireann Light Orchestra will travel from Dublin for the occasion, together with its conductor, Dermot O'Hara, guest artists Francois D'Albert (Violin) and Liam Archer (Accordeon). Compere will be Roy Croft and accompanist Mollie Phillips, who has made over 500 broadcasts.

The new artists who will make their debut for radio at the Savoy, include two comedians, twelve other solo artists and the Shannon Mills Choir, which has been gaining a high reputation in the Limerick area.

Michael O'Loonha, Radio Eireann's recently named Director of Productions, will also be visiting Limerick for the event.

First An Tostal Visitors

The first visitors to Ireland for An Tostal were received in the Town Hall, Limerick, on Monday, by the Mayor (Mr. Kevin Bradshaw).

They are Mr. Andrew O'Higgins, his wife, Mrs. Eileen O'Higgins, and their two sons, Michael, aged 9

WILD BIRDS

The following Wild Birds are published - public, and will see that they are often

For all wild game birds, close time from the 31st day to the 1st day. During lawful to shoot for the purpose use any trap, instrument for ing alive or to take alive or (except during days of close sale, or has wild bird killed. - Sect. 2

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