

THE SPARK



"KEEP THE FIRES OF THE NATION BURNING"
(G. S. PARNELL)

Edited by Ed. DALTON

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DUBLIN, SUNDAY, MAY 16th, 1915.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY

THE LUSITANIA MARTYRS

THE British Cunarder, "Lusitania," was sunk by a German submarine at two o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, 7th inst., fourteen days after the issue of a public advertisement by the German Embassy in the United States, warning persons who persist in travelling as passengers by British lines in time of war of their danger. The dictionary has been burst to fragments in the "Independent" office in applying epithets to the Germans for not proving themselves liars. Although there is popularly supposed to be a great British fleet in existence, although the Germans had, by official advertisement, by letter, and by word of mouth at the wharf in New York, announced their determination, although German submarines were known to be off the south-west coast of Ireland, obviously watching for the Lusitania, it does not appear that a single British destroyer was assigned the task of escorting this ship, on which 1,200 passengers had been induced to embark, by the assurances of the British Press and the British Cunard manager in New York that the British fleet and the marvellous speed of the Lusitania were an absolute guarantee of safety.

Although the vessel floated for twenty-five minutes after it had been torpedoed, although there was one Cunard employé on board to every two passengers, although there were boats more than sufficient for all, the bulk of the passengers were drowned. In a disciplined ship, fifteen minutes would have been more than ample time to have lowered the boats with every soul on board; and as the Irish coast was but a few miles

distant, the day warm, and the sea like glass, not a life should have been lost or an injury suffered. Mr. D. A. Thomas, the Welsh millionaire, described what happened. The British crew lost discipline. The portholes were not even closed, boats were left unlaunched; many of those lowered had holes in them, and the one Mr. Thomas himself was in leaked. The British Board of Trade had passed these boats, the British crew thought primarily of itself, and so 1,200 people were drowned. But the British captain, the British first mate and the British second mate were saved.

If our corrupt and cowardly Press in Dublin were really concerned about the fate of the unfortunate passengers, it is not "the Huns" they would demand vengeance on. But their concern for the passengers drowned from the Lusitania is fictitious. The hint went forth to cover up the tracks of the Cunard Company, and to use the deaths of 1,200 people who believed Charles Sumner, the Cunard manager, and the British Press, when he and it "humorously" derided the German warning, as an advertisement for recruits for the forces of the Power upon which the travellers on the Lusitania were induced to rely for protection. The "Independent," however, excelled itself when it published, as from one of its correspondents, a bogus account of the landing of the survivors at Queenstown, in which it represented the women as being clothed in coats lent them by sailors. The inference was that the sinking was so sudden that the poor women could only rush from their beds into the

sea. The super-liar who concocted this yarn forgot that women are generally clothed by two o'clock in the afternoon.

We speak of the Cunard auxiliaries. All the Cunard liners are at the disposal of the English Government for war purposes. In July, 1903, an agreement was concluded between the English Government and the Cunard Company, under which the "Lusitania" and "Mauretania" were designed and built, and the whole fleet placed at the disposal of the English Government for a period of twenty years—i.e., until 1923. In return the Government "lent" the Cunard Company two million six hundred thousand pounds at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest (or 1 to 2 per cent. less than they could have obtained it in the ordinary market). This was equivalent to a present of from £26,000 to £52,000 of money raised out of the taxation of this country, as well as of Great Britain, to the Cunard Company annually. But this was not all. A subsidy raised also out of our pockets of £150,000 a year was voted to the Company—an annual subsidy which represented a capital sum of about five million pounds. The capital of the Company is only two millions, and thus the tax-payers were forced to put down £5 for every £2 the Company possessed.

Herewith we reproduce from the "Navy List" published by the British Government, the proof of the Cunarders being British Warships:

"ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE MERCHANT VESSELS—422.

"Royal Naval Reserve Merchant Vessels.

"The vessels named below are held by the Cunard Company at the disposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and receive an annual subvention.

Name of Steamer	H.P.	Tonage	
		Gross	Net
"Lusitania."	68,000	31,550	9,145
"Mauretania."	68,000	31,938	8,948

"In addition to the above, the Company hold all vessels, for the time being the property of the Company, at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for hire or purchase."

For months past the German Press has charged the Lusitania with carrying on each voyage guns and ammunition for the English from the American munition companies, who are supplying England, France and Russia with shells and guns to kill Germans. On the morrow

of the sinking of the Lusitania we read in the "Irish Times":

EXCITEMENT ON NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM).

NEW YORK, Friday.

Intense excitement on the Stock Exchange followed the news of the Lusitania disaster. Prices fell within an hour fifteen and thirty points, and Bethlehem Steel, which had scored a high record, yielded all its gains, and then dropped ten more. Westinghouse broke twenty. Elsewhere the losses were proportionate. Commission houses with wire connection to the interior received selling orders from remote points of the country.

"Bethlehem Steel" manufacture cannons.—Verb. Sap.

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

X.Y.Z. Field Battery,

3rd Section, 6th Division,

George Washington Expeditionary Force,
Anywhere at all.

My dear Mother,

This is to let you know that I'm gameball and hoping you're the same. I'm writing under artillery fire, but we don't mind. We all know the Hun's artillery makes noise without doing any harm. Sure, it's our own artillery that does harm betimes.

Well, it's the grandest fun that ever was to be driving back the Huns. We don't be a minute out of our trenches till they do be running away like redshanks. They won't ever fight until they are about 10 to 1. You'd think they was R.I.C. men the way they do be.

The rum allowance was doubled last week. I wish some of them Sinn Feiners seen the atrocities I seen—women and children bet to death and everything. The churches is terrible. One of them the curnel says it was shelled. The walls were all broken in. I seen the mark of a crowbar on its, and its what I heard but the French broke it up three years back. Anyway, the French is no good. They can't fight like us.

Last night the curnel made a little speech, and told us we were after been selected for a dangerous bit of work—capturing 21 guns be the baynit. The Prince of Wales was to lead us, but his transport motor broke down, an' he couldn't

KHAKI CHIVALRY.

A woman named Lizzie Kenny, aged 26, a native of Tullow, County Carlow, went on Friday night, May 7th, to the Tivoli Music Hall, in the company of a sergeant and a corporal of the Inniskilling Fusiliers, who afterwards brought her to Richmond Barracks, where she remained until the following night. During that time she drank over five naggins of whiskey. She left Richmond Barracks *alive*, but died in the Meath Hospital the following evening. The jury found she died from meningitis—adaptable jury. The Dublin morning papers suppressed the evidence, possibly lest other Irishwomen might be warned against entering the Dublin military barracks. The fact stands out that, under the present regime, women in Dublin can be introduced into the barracks of the English soldiery, kept there all night, plied her with whiskey; and, when they die, neither a police-selected jury nor the Dublin daily Press dare even mildly censure the British military authorities.

KHAKI SANCTITY.

England claims she is out to protect the sanctity of our altars on the Continent. How does England respect the altar in the Catholic chapel in Mallow workhouse? That institution has been used for military purposes since the outbreak of the war, and the chapel has been converted into a *canteen*.

FLYNN'S JOURNAL.

The indecent, shameless old "Freeman" signals the advent of its new Editor-Manager by printing its contents bill blood-colour. Are they printed with the blood of the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers?

G A S.

The British Press is characteristically emphatic in its denouncement of the Germans for using poisonous gases against the Allies, and yet I recall that that enlightened and popular organ of British Imperialism, "The Daily Sketch," as early as December last published *actual photographs of German warriors asphyxiated by the French*. It would seem from this that the Allies are justified in employing any kind of gas they choose, but their opponents mustn't use anything stronger than the "gab" gas, such as the Redmondites employed to fight Ireland's battles "on the flure of the House."

come. When we was going up to the Huns they kept on shelling us all the night. I had like to split my sides laughing. We were all cheering and singing Tipperary and cheering for bould John Redmond. After a bit we got up beside the guns, and what do you think the Huns done, run away and left us them. The curnel then made a grand speech about the fighting race and Catholic France, an' everything like that. He is, or he was—he's dead now—a Prodisan himself. A man photograft us with the guns, an' it'll be in the "Daily Sketch." When we was coming back with them, the Huns blew up the ground we as on, an' only 10 of us was left. That's what the Huns call fighting. The 10 of us is getting the V.C., and I'm to be back soon to make speeches or something of that kind round Toomevarra.

Tell all the boys to come out. It's grand fun.

Yours affekshinately,

FUNNY IRISH PADDY.

TO PROFESSOR LIEUTENANT KETTLE

(On his promotion to a staff appointment in Belfast).

Kettle! whose honeyed words have oft rung out
And prompted laughter and sometimes applause
In Empire's senate-house, where Empire's laws
Are made to bind us north, east, west, by south.

Thy martial mind for long had felt the wrench
That soul so great as thine should stoop to grind
For paltry sum of gold th' adolescent mind,
And thou full-oft wert fain thy woe to drench.

But hark! a bugle-call! 'Tis Belgium's wrong,
And Hunnish fiend is trampling liberty!
Gird on thy sword and write thee out a lay
To rouse the common mass; sing thou thy song
To urge them out to guard neutrality.
At no far distant date thou'lt join the fray.

M. J. L.

"A" Company 1st (Dub.) Batt. Irish Volunteers
Great Excursion to Limerick

On WHIT-SUNDAY, 23rd MAY.

Return Fare, 4s. (4s. 6d. on morning of excursion).

Children half-price. Bicycles, 1s.

Tickets may be had at the various Drill Halls throughout the City, or at 5 Blackhall Street any night of the week.

THE "HOLY" STEAM-ROLLER.

Thus writes Herbert Carey, a prominent American (neutral) war correspondent:

"The Russian made war in 1915 precisely as he made war in 1515. He ruined for ever the lives of the unfortunate women who fell into his hands. He burned every house he came to. He acted up to the highest standard of old-time looters. He was followed by a crowd of thieving peasants from Russia, who completed his work of destruction. He sent long, hopeless lines of women and children as prisoners to Siberia. He broke every law of war between nations, and every rule of honour and every consideration of decency."

MIRACLE PLAYS AT THE IRISH THEATRE

Two miracle plays (one in Irish and one in English), by Mr. P. H. Pearse, will be produced at the Irish Theatre, Hardwicke Street, from Thursday to Saturday of next week, by the students of St. Enda's College. The plays are "Tosagan" and "The Master." During the interval Mr. Pearse will deliver a short address on the Irish Style of Dramatic Speaking, illustrated by the performance of the only fragment of a pre-revival drama known to exist in Irish.

NUGENT AND VIVIANI.

We understand that Mr. J. D. Viviani Nugent has informed the Grand Orient Hibernians (late A.O.H., Board of Erin) that it is not true he sat on the right hand of M. Viviani, Supreme Councillor and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Orient Freemasons at the luncheon in Paris. Mr. J. D. Viviani Nugent is accurate. He sat on Viviani's left hand. The account published in the "Freeman's Journal" of May 4th (page 5, column 2) states T. P. O'Connor sat on Viviani's right, while Nugent sat on Viviani's left.

NO CREDIT.

Everyone knows that England loves Belgium. Everyone knows that it was this love of "Catholic Belgium" made England go to war. Everybody will therefore read with emotion England's latest proof of her love for "Catholic Belgium." This is it—a proclamation posted up this week outside every police-barrack in Dublin: "The importation of all Belgian banknotes into the United Kingdom is prohibited." The proclamation signed by King George V. Money talks.

LICENSED THUGGERY.

I am asked by a reader to comment on the fact that depositors with the Birbeck Bank (London), which went smash about three years ago, are to receive 9d. for every £1 of their money. The fact requires no comment. Deposits with such banks are useless to Ireland, and, as the sequel shows, useless also to the individual.

THE ACCOMODATING BRITON.

"Just at the moment we are not prepared to believe all the stories of the tyranny of the Russian Government. It would, indeed, have to be a time of peace, or even of enmity with our Ally, which could induce us to give credence to the behaviour of their administrative procedure."—"Morning Post" (London), May 10th, 1915.

LIEUTENANT MOUSE O'BRIEN.

Will Cruise O'Brien state definitely that he has been refused a commission? Incredible as it may seem, I have noticed men inferior to him in physique dressed as officers. Now that the Germans are using asphixiating gas the Yibs should take "the gloves off" and send out Crusoe in khaki to overcome them with "laughing gas." Don't say "go," Crusoe, but "come"; and, whisper: "we can well spare you!"

CORK I.D.A.

I have been sent the eighth annual report of above body. It is a useful publication, and its pages of statistics are peculiarly appropriate at the present time. A copy will be sent free on application to the Secretary, 28 Marlboro' Street, Cork.

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4 Findlater Place, Dublin.

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