One man's Birth of a Nation

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**The RIC**

The British were still in occupation of the country. The British Army was concentrated in barracks strategically located while the eyes and ears of the system of occupation, the Royal Irish Constabulary, operated in the towns and villages. This was because the police force was the almost accepted police but a paramilitary force armed with rifles whose main function was to keep the country in subjection to England.

The members of the force were all of native stock and a rigorously enforced personality of the force was that no member could serve in his native county.

One of its main duties was to report regularly to Dublin Castle on activities of those suspected of separate leanings or activities as were in any way connected with nationalist organisations.

Mr Berrill, Chief Secretary for Ireland, told a Royal Commission that:

“We have the reports of the RIC who send us in almost daily reports from almost every district in Ireland which enable us to form a correct general estimate of the feelings of the countryside in the different localities.”

A further extract, this time from the official records of the RIC, stated:

“Against political agitations, the RIC have invariably proved themselves most effective. It is largely due to the efficiency of their excellent organisation that the Rebellion of Easter Week 1916 was kept within bounds and speedily suppressed throughout the country.

It is clear, therefore, from the foregoing that the way of the Dublin IRA was to operate as far as possible to the people, but the RIC had to be dealt with.

Dublin IRA was a resolution of social opposition against the force, which resulted in many detentions and executions. This was followed by attacks on police barracks throughout the country and, later on, we see that this campaign was effectively waged in Easter Week.

**The National Loan**

To FINANCE the work of Dublin IRA a national loan was floated for the sum of £500,000. The British declared that the loan was illegal and took steps to suppress it. They made every effort to identify the person and to keep it in collection of the money and in the identification of the bank account to which the money was lodged.

The **Reparations**

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**Limerick Chronicle, Tuesday, November 5, 1921.**

(continued)