

AN TÓISLÁC

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READY AND STEADY.

ONE or both of two contingencies, intimately concerned with and powerfully affecting the national destiny of the Irish people, will have to be faced by us before very long. These contingencies are an attempt by the enemy to enforce conscription in Ireland, and the advent of a General Election.

The first of these contingencies is, of course, the prime concern of Volunteers. In our last issue we stated clearly the unanimous decision of the Executive of the Irish Volunteers to resist conscription to the death with all the military force and warlike resources at our command. One point requires to be emphasised—that in case of an attempt to conscript Irishmen, martial law will be proclaimed on *both sides*. The military authorities of the Irish Republic will become the persons to whom *all* Irish Republicans, whether combatants or not, must look for light or leading. Ordinary civilian pursuits and conventional political methods will be practically suspended, and schemes of "passive resistance," based on the theory of normal conditions, must prove unworkable. All those who accept the Irish Republican ideal will be required, if of military age, to enlist in the Army of Ireland, in a fight of self-defence, and all Irish Republicans will be called on to assist and facilitate them. Consequently, every Volunteer officer must contemplate the possibility of finding himself called upon to act as the chief military authority in his district, to undertake the administration of all public affairs during a time of crisis. It is his duty to fit himself for such a contingency, to be able in an emergency to rise to the occasion, to act in a bold and masterful manner with a due sense of his own responsibility to the country and to his fellow-Volunteers.

The good Volunteer should also be a good citizen. His military service is only a part, though a very important part, of his duty to the Irish nation. This point should be remembered in connection with both the contingencies—conscription and a General Election.

The latter contingency does not concern the Volunteers directly as such; but indirectly it has a great bearing upon our work. It is hoped to take advantage of this General Election held by the enemy government to return Irish Republican candidates, standing for the same cause as we stand for, and by this means to help to bring about the realisation of that Irish Republic which we, the soldiers of Ireland, are enlisted to fight for. Consequently, Irish Volunteers will watch the result with intense interest and ardently desire the triumph of the Irish Republicans. As a military body we cannot take part in electioneering work; but that must not be taken as absolving Volunteers from their individual duties as Irish citizens. If any Irish Volunteers imagine that their enlistment in the National Army absolves them from all other duties to the Irish nation they are mistaken. They also owe their support to every movement which makes for the building up of a free and prosperous Ireland—the political Republican Movement, the Language Movement, the movement for the rights of the working classes, and the Irish Industrial Movement. It is true that, as we pointed out before, considering the absolute essentiality and immense importance of our Irish Army at the present crisis, and the need of keeping it at the highest pitch of efficiency and preparedness, it is desirable that Volunteers, and particularly Volunteer officers, should not allow their political activities to interfere with their military duties. But this counsel does not mean that, in a matter of such national import and, perhaps, far-reaching consequences as the triumph of the Republicans at a General Election, Volunteers should neglect their duty as citizens.

In both contingencies the motto of Ireland's soldiers should be "Ready and Steady!" We know not what we may be called on to do; but let us be resolved, whatever form the call takes, to "quit us like men," like good soldiers and good citizens. Each officer should realise how great is the responsibility that may shortly be forced upon him, and should leave nothing undone to make himself fit for that responsi-

bility, not in a feverish or panicky way, but with calm, cool determination. He should also impress upon those civilians who are living in a foolish state of imagined security, the danger that portends and the steps that may have to be taken. Every Volunteer should feel that he is contributing to ensuring the safety of Ireland by punctual attendance on parades, ready obedience to orders, careful study of his duties, proper care of his rifle and ammunition, and keeping himself in preparedness for a prompt answer to mobilisation orders. Ready and Steady!

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ORGANISATION NOTES.—THE COMPANY.—Company Officers—**I.** The Company Captain is responsible for all matters affecting the efficiency, the discipline, the training and the conduct of his Company. Above all, the general organisation of his unit is almost entirely in his hands. He must divide it up into sections and appoint suitable commanders for these sections. He must have before his mind the question of how men are likely to work together, of the probability of, say, a speedy mobilisation and the importance in such a contingency of having Section Commanders living within easy reach of himself and his officers on the one hand and of the men in their sections on the other. Certain duties and activities will be assigned to other officers and men, but his is the obligation to see that these are capably performed. At all times he must remember that it is he who will be held ultimately accountable for every task his Company has to fulfil in peace and in action. He is in sole charge of his unit, subject only to the authority of his superior officers. While realising his ultimate responsibility the Captain must never take upon himself the burden of attending personally to all details that arise in the ordinary work of his Company. Undernoted is a general outline of the duties of the Junior Officers and Section Commanders. It must be the special care of the Captain to see that these duties are properly allotted and executed. It will be found that this division of routine will save the Captain a great deal of trouble and worry, while at the same time training the other officers to shoulder their due responsibility which will prepare them for increased responsibilities as time goes on. In an army like ours, against which the enemy for the time being has the political as well as the military advantage, it is essential

that units should not entirely depend on the existence and energies of one man. The enemy may at any moment remove an officer. It is incumbent on us to have our organisation so developed that another will be fully trained to fill his place and continue his labours.

II. The First Lieutenant is responsible to the Captain for the work and efficiency of the Right Half-Company.

III. The Second Lieutenant is responsible to the Captain for the work and efficiency of the Left Half-Company.

IV. All that has been said above regarding the position of the Captain in relation to the entire Company applies with equal emphasis to the Lieutenants in relation to their respective Half-Companies. They will be called upon to attend to matters in greater detail than the Captain, but they, too, must exercise care not to perform all minute functions, as such action would have the effect of producing slackness and carelessness on the part of the Section Commanders. As the Captain must help and instruct his Lieutenants in their obligations so must the Lieutenants act towards their Section Commanders. Both the Captain and his Lieutenants must remember that in case of his removal his place, pending election, will be taken by the First Lieutenant, whose place will in turn be taken by the Second Lieutenant.

NOTES ON TRAINING.—Scouting—The key to success as a scout is to have pluck, self-reliance, and discretion. Pluck is not to be acquired by teaching, but it can be developed. Self-reliance is the ability to act on your own initiative, to do the right thing at the right time. It can be acquired by constant practice of the intelligence which the average man possesses. It leads you to make up your mind quickly and with decision, and to carry out your instructions without loss of time. With pluck and self-reliance you acquire that confidence in yourself which leads to success. You can only have confidence in yourself when you know that by practice you are well equipped for the work set before you, and always remember the enemy is as well equipped as you are.

Discretion—Pluck must not be confused with rashness or foolhardiness. It is only fools who try to stop bullets with their heads. Again, some people think that by discretion is meant the getting out of a job when they see its getting too hot. That is cowardice. What is required is the courage to surmount obstacles. Obtain the information required, and, most important of all, to return with the information obtained.

Signalling—We are all aware of the important part which Signalling plays in modern warfare; and if armies better equipped than ours is,

place so much importance on this subject, why should we not take even a greater interest in it. We saw in 1916 how handicapped we were through lack of knowledge of a proper method of signalling, and how in many instances this knowledge would have enabled us to give a much better account of ourselves. Even since that this important branch of military training has not got the attention it deserves from either officers or men. We now ask every individual member of our Army to get interested, follow this article carefully, commit the rules and code to memory, and "dig in" until he has mastered this most fascinating subject.

Signalling is carried on by flag, heliograph, or discs in daylight, and by lamp or whistle, etc., at night.

As it is not recommended to concentrate on one system of signalling, we intend, in these articles, to deal with all methods; considering the Morse System the most important we shall first deal with that, in the following order:—

1. Alphabet. Numerals and special signals.
2. Practice on various instruments.
3. Message Forms.
4. Station Work.

1.—The letters, numerals and special signals in the Morse Code are represented by two elements, known as the "dot" and "dash" or "iddy-umpty." The important thing to remember is that the code consists of the time taken in making the dots and dashes, and the interval between elements and symbols. In no case is any one letter represented by more than four elements, and the letters occurring most frequently are represented by the shortest symbols. A "dash" (umpty) is equal in duration to three dots (iddy-iddy-iddy). After each letter or symbol an interval is made equal in duration to one dash (umpty), and after each word an interval equal to two dashes (umpty-umpty). An excellent way to train oneself in correct time is by using the word "iddy" for the "dash" and "umpty" for the "dot," pronouncing "iddy" as rapidly as possible, and "umpty" slowly, accenting the first syllable. Pay particular attention to the precise lengths of "dots," "dashes" and separating intervals, and maintain a uniform time throughout each message or exercise. In signalling by Morse, the letters, numerals and special signs may be represented by short and long waves of a flag, calls on a whistle, exposures of light, or other methods on the same principle.

(Equipment, Engineering and Musketry are held over till next issue.)

GENERAL NOTES.

The study of war maps is usually much more instructive than the reading of English comments on the progress of the war. The map which we reproduce from the *Daily Mail* in this issue throws a lurid light on the fantastic claims of the British Press with regard to the recent retreat of the Germans. It proves the accuracy of the statement of the Germans that they had retired "according to plan."



The extended line on the western side of the portion coloured black on the map represents the former German line; the short line on the eastern side of it represents their present position. All the region between (marked black) is devastated; towns and villages are merely heaps of ruins, and food and means of communication are non-existent. The Germans have thus gained a great strategic advantage by abandoning a dangerous salient. By shortening their line they have economised the use of more than a quarter of a million men, while confronting their enemies with difficulties of transport and communications, etc., which must greatly delay any further attempt at an offensive on their part. Volunteers will note the military lessons to be learned from this piece of strategy.

A number of Brigade and Battalion Commandants have been very slow about sending in the amount due for copies of AN TOSLACH. It should be pointed out that this may have serious consequences, as, by increasing the necessity of keeping records, it increases the danger of discovery by the enemy. The paper is produced under circumstances of considerable difficulty

and officers are urged to facilitate us by sending monies due promptly to H.Q.

A considerable number of copies of the Scheme of Organisation have been distributed to the Brigades—enough to secure that every Company should have a copy. Officers and Section Commanders should make themselves familiar with every detail of the Organisation Scheme, and study carefully the notes published in this paper on the same subject. Trouble or confusion which has arisen in some localities was chiefly due to the fact that the official Scheme of Organisation was not adhered to.

One of the great tests of military efficiency is *punctuality*. Volunteers should appear on parade sharp to the moment appointed, and mobilisation orders should be responded to with the same promptness. Negligence in this respect is peculiarly culpable on the part of officers. An officer who frequently turns up late on parade is simply unfit for his office.

We hope in future issues to give some account of battles fought by irregular troops against regular armies in the past, both in Ireland and abroad, particularly those combats whose story contains military lessons for Volunteers.

Reliable information has been received to the effect that both Lord Dudley and Lord Wimborne have been approached by the British Government with regard to accepting the office of "Lord Lieutenant of Ireland." It must not be supposed, however, that this anxiety on the part of the enemy to get rid of French indicates any weakening of the British Government's attitude in regard to Conscription. It is simply due to the threatened publication, through legal proceedings, of an unsavoury scandal in which Lord French and some shining lights of English Society are implicated. It is believed in some quarters that the scandal will be hushed up at all costs and Lord French will remain.

Secret instructions have been sent to the R.I.C. to hold themselves in readiness to cooperate with the military in certain manoeuvres on a large scale, to be carried out all over Ireland on a certain date. These manoeuvres are obviously intended as a rehearsal of Conscription, to familiarise the constabulary with the work of assisting the soldiers to track down the men. Our readers will remember the warning we uttered, in our last issue, with regard to the activities of policemen, some of whom took the

anti-Conscription pledge and many of whom declared their intention of not assisting in enforcing Conscription. It should be remembered that the military schemes of Conscription would be quite unworkable without the assistance of the Constabulary. Volunteer officers should keep themselves informed as to these manoeuvres and the general conduct and activities of the police.

On Thursday, August 8th, a quantity of gelignite weighing 1,000lbs was captured from the enemy by our troops, at Amiens-street Station, in Dublin. Within less than two hours the English troops formed a cordon round the whole North side of the city and conducted a house-to-house search, besides stopping and searching all vehicles, baskets, parcels, etc., but not an ounce of the gelignite was recovered. No publication of the facts was permitted by the Censor, probably lest Irish Volunteers should be stimulated by the example of how to get away with arms and explosives and get them into "safe keeping."

A wireless message sent out by the All-Russia Executive Committee, on August 24th, to every European country was "suppressed by Censor." Portion of it was intercepted and runs as follows:—

England, who is fighting for the freedom of other Nations, has filled the prisons with Irish Prisoners who are detained without judicial investigation and in many cases treated with savage brutality. In the British House of Commons Lloyd George twice denied the facts despite

The All-Russia Executive Committee is one of the chief authorities of Russia, and this intimation that Ireland's case is known and will be supported by the Governments of the new Republics will be welcome to Irish Republicans.

Ná cuirtear aon tsum ins na daoine a bhíonn dá inaínt do chách go bhfuil "an Frinseach chun imtheacht." Tá ráflaí den tsórt son ar siubhal le tamall, ach níl éin nídh socair fós. Ach is cuma ciaca imtheochaidh sé nó fanfaidh sé, fanfaidh conntabhairt na "presála." Namhaid d'Eirinn iseadh an té a bhíonn dá aiteamh ar dhaoineibh "ná fuil aon chonntabhairt ann." Tá conntabhairt mhór ann, agus an fhaid a leanfaidh an cogadh beidh an chonntabhairt cheudna ann.