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NO ARMISTICE.

THE great war that for over four years has convulsed the world is now officially "ended"; but the seven-hundred year old war between Ireland and England goes bitterly on. An armistice has been signed in France; but in Ireland there is no armistice. All the military forces of the enemy are now as ever employed with the utmost rigour against those who are fighting for a free Ireland. The pretence that "peace" has come, as far as this country is concerned, is the most audacious falsehood. Some 200,000 enemy troops, equipped with all the resources which British military ingenuity and efficiency can provide, are located in our midst to hold our country for the enemy. They represent the claim of England to rule this country. Every mean device, every form of lying and treachery, every resource of bribery, every employment of traitors in our midst, every savage repression and petty persecution that can be safely carried out are resorted to by the enemy against all who stand for Irish independence. But the real essential fact at the back of all this is the 200,000 armed British soldiers, slaves employed to enforce slavery. They are England's one real argument in support of her claim to Ireland; and that argument may prove a rotten and worthless one.

For against these soldiers of England stand the young manhood of Ireland, enrolled in the Irish Volunteers to fight for the freedom of Ireland. Not slave soldiers are these men, but Volunteers! Not cowardly conscripts, led to the slaughter because they have not courage to resist the military service they loathe, but men who voluntarily accept discipline and danger in the cause of the country they love. No pale, puny anæmic products of English factory towns, but the pick of Irish manhood, the product of our Irish soil, clean-limbed, strong and wholesome. We, too, are armed and drilled; on any fair field one Irish Volunteer is a match for four of such British soldiers as we have seen in Ireland—creatures rather to be

pitied than hated as the pitiful products and slaves of a capitalistic Imperialism, built on the exploitation of the many for the benefit of the few.

The British soldiers in Ireland represent the claim of England to hold this country of ours for her own use and benefit. The Irish Volunteers represent the claim of the people of Ireland to own their own country. Of the two arguments we think our argument is the sounder.

For the system on which England's "argument" is built up is in a process of disintegration. Everywhere in Europe, Imperialism, and all that it stands for, can be seen cracking and crumbling away. England remains its last stronghold; and even there its days are numbered. The ideal the Irish Volunteers stand for remains intact. The true principles of national liberty have more adherents to-day than at any time since the war started. Our fight for independence must be fought on our own soil; and our willingness to fight for it, not figuratively but literally, our readiness to shed our blood if need be in the enforcement of our claim to liberty, is an essential condition to success. People who are not prepared to fight for their liberty do not deserve to get it. But it is a heartening thought that never since the outbreak of war could we count on so many friends throughout the world as at the present day in our fight for liberty.

During the next fortnight political activities will largely occupy the time of Irish Republicans; but the soldiers of Ireland will not on that account relax their military activities. Important as the General Election is in regard to the securing of Irish freedom, the efficiency of the Irish Volunteers is even more important. When and where that efficiency may be next tested is unknown; the only thing for Volunteers is to be prepared for all contingencies. There is no armistice in Ireland. Our troops are at present like soldiers "in the trenches," confining their offensive to raids on a small scale; but ready, at any time, to take the offensive on a large scale. We have been in the trenches for a long time now; and have



held our own pretty well. We are not going to relax our energies now, for, whatever may happen in France or Belgium, the enemy has not relaxed his energies in this country. And while he remains in occupation of any portion of our country so long will we carry on the war relentlessly.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ORGANISATION NOTES—The Battalion — Duties of Battalion Officers. The Battalion Commandant is responsible for:

1. **ALL** matters affecting the organisation, training, discipline, equipment, and general efficiency of his Battalion.

NOTE—This must be clearly borne in mind.

Whatever sub-division of duties may be made, either by the Commandant himself or provided under the Organisation Scheme, whatever tasks may be assigned to the other Battalion and Company officers, it is he who is ultimately accountable for all Volunteer activities within his Battalion.

2. Arranging for regular meetings of the Battalion Council. (These meetings should be held not less frequently than once a fortnight.)

3. Arranging for proper supervision of the Companies by the Battalion officers.

4. Arranging all the Special Services enumerated in the Organisation Scheme.

5. Preparation of Battalion Orders and the distribution of Brigade and Headquarters Orders.

6. Keeping in close and constant touch with Brigade Headquarters on the one hand and with his Company officers on the other, all of whom he should know personally and understand thoroughly.

Arising out of these duties, it is to be observed that at Battalion Council meetings the Commandant must ensure that each Company Commander hands in a report of the progress of his Company since last meeting, and that a report of each Battalion Council meeting is passed on to the Brigade Commandant. In arranging for supervision of the Companies in the Battalion the following generally will be the procedure. Some Battalion officer must attend each ordinary meeting or parade of the Company at a suitable time. It will not be necessary for the Battalion Officer to remain during the whole time the Company is at work or on parade—the visit merely being in the nature of an inspection. The Battalion Commandant himself must visit at least one Company each week. These two points of reports and supervision will be dealt

with more fully under the Notes on the Battalion Council.

In addition each Battalion Commandant must be acquainted with the officers of his Brigade, and should have—

(a) Thorough grasp of the Organisation Scheme.

(b) Knowledge of the communications route through his area.

(c) Understanding from an organising point of view of the geography and topography of his area.

Finally, it is of the utmost importance to develop what I may call a Battalion Outlook. It is a common failing with Battalion Commandants that they think too much of the particular Company in their own immediate neighbourhood. When a Company officer is raised to Battalion rank he must remember that his command no longer consists of one unit but of a group of units, all of equal importance and requiring equal care and attention.

TRAINING NOTES—Scouting—Tracking means following up footmarks. Without tracking scouting would be like bread and butter without the bread. We can see by the absence or presence of tracks whether an enemy is about in the country we are in, and we can follow him up whether he is a small or large force, and so find out his strength and how he is posted, etc. By observing footprints we can ourselves avoid running into ambushes or being cut off. The first thing to learn is to distinguish the pace a horse or a man is travelling. A horse walking leaves pairs of footmarks, each hindfoot coming close to impression of the forefoot. At a trot the impression is somewhat similar, but each pair of footmarks is a great distance from the next, and the ground is more forcibly struck, the toe more deeply indented in the ground than at the walk. At a canter there are two single footmarks, then a pair. At a gallop single footmarks deeply indented. Note the hindfeet are longer and narrower than the forefeet as a rule. With a man walking, the whole flat of the foot comes equally on the ground, the feet a little under one yard apart. Running, the toes are more deeply indented in the ground, and the feet are much more than a yard apart. Note the difference between soldiers' boots, common hobnail boots and ordinary walking boots, and the different impressions they make. Wheel tracks should also be studied until you can tell the difference between the track of a gun, a carriage and a country cart, bicycle, etc., and the direction they were going in. In addition you must also learn to know how old the track is. This is very important, and requires a great amount of

practice and experience before you can judge it really well. So much depends on the state of the ground and weather, and its effect on the trail. If you follow a track, say, on a dry, windy day over varying ground, you will find that when it is on light, sandy soil, it will look old in a short time, because any damp earth you may kick up from under the surface will dry very rapidly to the same colour as the surface dust, and the sharp edges of the footmark will soon be rounded off by the breeze playing over the dry dust in which they are formed. When it gets into damp ground the same track will look much fresher, as the sun will have only partly dried up the upturned soil, and the wind will not, therefore, have bevelled off the sharp edges of the impression, and if it gets under the shade of trees, etc., in damp clay, where the sun does not get at it, the same track which looked a day old in the sand, will here look quite fresh. Having learnt the pace and age of a track, the next thing you must learn is to follow it over all kinds of ground. You can practice this all your life, and you will still find yourself learning at the end of it. If you lose sight of the track you must make a "cast" to find it. To do this, put some object you can see at a distance on the last footprint, then work around it in a wide circle—say 30, 50 or 100 yards away from it as a centre, choosing the most favourable ground, damp ground for preference, to find signs of the onward track. Also, in making a cast, use your own common sense as to which direction the enemy has probably taken.

Musketry—In the last article we dealt with one of the uses of the aim correction. That made use of with trigger-snapping is just as effective as range practice, without the wastage of ammunition, which should not be used unless the recruit thoroughly knows how to take accurate aim. Another test is the triangle of error. Pinning the aim corrector, on a piece of white paper, through the central hole, place the rifle and rest ten yards from the target, and set a correct aim. Then get the man to look over the sight, satisfying himself that it is correct. Then remove the disc, having first marked its position. Placing it on the paper again, the recruit will set a sight by the instructor, moving the disc into position as directed by the man, the rifle to remain undisturbed. When the recruit is satisfied that he has a correct sight, the point will be marked as before. A slight pause for rest, and repeat the test, and second and third. The three points thus obtained will be joined together and form the triangle of error, which gives the constant error, whether it is

incorrect centring, too fine or too full sight. If any two points are more than one-third of an inch apart or more than one-third of an inch from the instructor, the man should not be passed for range practice.

One of the great faults in shooting is trigger-pulling, and one that needs careful watching, the result being a group about 3 o'clock. The correct method: group the small with the three fingers and thumb of the right hand, placing the first joint of the forefinger on the lower part of the trigger, and PRESS, holding the butt well into the shoulder, and restraining the breathing while doing so. The pressure is taken diagonally across the butt, and may be described as an effort to make the tip of the forefinger and the thumb to meet. The instruction is best given from the aiming rest, taking the pressure yourself first, with the recruit's finger resting on your own while doing so. Then, reversing the operation, you can test how far your instruction has been followed, and collect faults. Patience in an instructor is very necessary, as upset to a man's nerves makes him lose interest in his subject.

GENERAL NOTES.

Those persons who see in the ending of the war merely the victory of one alliance of nations over another alliance of nations have curiously misjudged the situation. The fact is that no military decision was obtained by either side in this war, and that the side which was, from a purely military point of view in the strongest position and had the most victories to its credit, the side whose armies everywhere occupied the territories of the enemy found it necessary to sue for peace and accept the enemy's terms. For there are factors in such a war which nobody, regarding it from the purely military point of view, could reckon on. The main factors in this case were the growth of popular discontent with the German autocracy, the spread from Russia of Bolshevik ideas, and the fact that the discontented persons had weapons in their hands. In the same way, in our fight with England, the occupation of our territory by the enemy, his superior numbers, armament and equipment and other advantages may not prevent his ultimate defeat; for there are factors in the situation which may render all these things of no avail. But if we are to win, one factor is always essential to the situation—the presence in our country of armed men, trained men, ready to act with courage and determination when the time comes.

The significance of the German Revolution is completely missed by English newspapers in their comments on events there. The birth of the Russian and German Republics are the two biggest events that have emerged from the war. Those who see in the German Revolution a sign of demoralisation and collapse are sadly mistaken. It is an event which must have far-reaching consequences. At one bound the powerful German people have placed themselves at the head of a world-movement which is destined to be the main influence in European affairs for many a year to come. We now have a most numerous and powerful race in the centre of Europe, a race of the highest efficiency in all the arts of war and peace, committed definitely to the most extreme and democratic Republicanism—a different brand from the bourgeois Republicanism of France, with its Freemason and capitalistic sympathies. The influence of the French Revolution was felt all over Europe for generations afterwards. It may be confidently predicted that the influence of the German Revolution will be felt long after the last memories of this great war have vanished from men's minds.

Bravo, Cork! In our last issue we had occasion to congratulate that fine Volunteer, MacNellis, on his plucky fight in resisting arrest in Cork—a fight which resulted in the disablement for life of one policeman and the wounding of two others. We intimated that the fate of this brave soldier of Ireland, then in the hands of the enemy, would be carefully watched by his fellow-Volunteers. We are glad to be able to congratulate the Volunteers of Cork on having rescued MacNellis from Cork Prison. This daring exploit, by a half-dozen Volunteers, was skilfully planned and carried out with a courage and efficiency which we would hold up to all Volunteers for imitation. The Cork Corps are to be congratulated on possessing such men. Every incident in connection with the MacNellis affair gives cause for pride and an example for imitation to all Volunteers.

On Monday, November 11th, the foreign garrison and their hangers-on in Dublin celebrated the signing of the armistice by a display of "union jacks" and red, white and blue badges, and the singing in the streets of low music-hall songs, illustrative of their mentality. On that same night, by a curious coincidence, the citizens of Dublin, as distinguished from the foreign garrison, were afforded an opportunity of showing their fidelity to the cause of the Irish Republic and their abhorrence of all that the union jack stands for. A huge audience crowded the great Round Room of the Mansion House for the opening of the Republican cam-

paign at the General Election, and overflow meetings were held in the Supper Room and in the street outside, the open-air meeting, held in defiance of the proclamation, being of mighty dimensions. The foreign garrison, who were parading the streets and demonstrating, were intimidated by this mighty assembly of calm, determined men and women and made no attempt to interfere; but vows of vengeance were evidently registered.

On the Wednesday following the signing of the armistice a band of 700 soldiers, instigated and organised by their officers, armed with various formidable weapons, attacked the Sinn Fein premises in Harcourt Street. The place at the time was guarded by 30 Volunteers, armed with sticks. An attack was anticipated, but not an attack by soldiers and in such force. However, the preparations proved amply adequate, for the little band of defenders, after a stubborn battle, in which heavy casualties were inflicted on their assailants, completely routed the large band of soldiers. None of the defenders were seriously hurt and at no time did the soldiers succeed in effecting an entrance. An attack on Liberty Hall was also easily repelled by a handful of men and women. That same night 120 soldiers were treated in St. George's military hospital for injuries received during the melee. Three of these, including an officer of the Flying Corps, have since died. The publication of these facts in the Press has been strictly forbidden by the Censor. Volunteers will be glad to learn how a little band of Irish Volunteers gave so good an account of themselves against so large a force of British soldiers. No further attempt of any sort has been made by the soldiers or their admirers to interfere with Irish Volunteers or those whom they protect.

A letter has been received by the Commandant of the Dublin Brigade from a lady who desires to remain anonymous, the contents of which will be interesting to Volunteers. She states that on the evening of the attack on Harcourt Street she was on the top of a tramcar in company with a Colonial officer, when, in passing through Harcourt Street, the tramcar was surrounded by an angry crowd who hooted the soldier and threw stones at him, to the danger of the occupants of the car. Suddenly, she says, a body of young men armed with sticks appeared and dispersed the crowd, enabling the car to proceed in safety. She was informed that the young men were "Irish Volunteers", and she desired to convey to the Commandant her gratitude and appreciation of the action of the men and the fine spirit shown