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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S.

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 193

Witness

Senator Seamus O'Farrell, 17 Stanford Green, Walkinstown, Co. Dublin.

Identity

Member of "Éire Óg" Branch of
Cumann na nGaedheal from 1907.

Subject

National activities 1907-1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. S.1247.

Form B.S.M. 2.

WS. 193. ORIGINAL

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RChara,

I do not believe I can add any thing of colue to the facts about Baste week, 416, which are already Kusum.

I was a member of the Time of Branch of Camean na u fresheal from 1907. Their Branch afternads became part of Senn Fein. It's meetings were held in Camdian S. Dublin, where the De Luxe anema now stands. The How See. was Sean o'Duthghall (who is call living) and amongst the numbers were Sean of Kaighardh, The late Reada macken (Milled in South breen), michael Tages (non Senator), J. atkens who lives han ou 5. arala Ro. We wer all very Towns at - that time but we did on head to spread the

Sospel of Lum Fein.

about 1910 I went to work on the vanhang and has sedom very long in our place, having to more around from one station to anothe. While stationed in heldare town myself and a chap arrestant surplyed in Statting's provision shop there (where name I cannot at the moment recall) housted a black flag on The sound tomer one night when the loyal population were hanfup and Uman facels in alchahar of same Butil event. We also wanaged on two accasions to plante the whole town with wall bells, mented in Fream with and supplied from outlin, acknip huchmen not to join the British army, any or policeforce. at that peros I also before to unte for the Sonn Fein pages, especially The Fearant in which I published a Chart Server of articles unde the heading "Letters

I now south the man's now, it was the Connect.

from found has in the Gentry I also mote for the hick Stomestrow, many of my letters on national economie matter leng editionally Commented upon by the late 8.4 Rundl (RE) Because of the normy like I have to have it was unparible for me to be a member of The Valuentees when they were formed, but how time to time I met most of the bodes, as for a couple of years (1911 to 1913) I was in outline where with he lets fine Larden I assisted in the production of the heid books! asker full this attitude towards Larden and trade umonesan Caused the majority of the sudden worker. especially the number of his acrion, to box on Sun Fein and to some estent on The Voluntiers as being opposed to their interests. This, in any opinion, was the reason for The formation of the alegen army Councily and some others believed that if an armed

rising did occur and it met with any access it night mean for the workers wo more than a Continuance of low wages with an hich army and police force (without of a British) to act as strike-heathers at the request 7. he Employers Federation. People like R. in Fox who allempted to winte the story of that second Est their unfunction it second- or third-hand from reople who had are of their own to frend. The mysterious the mapping of function olly on the eve of the Rising can only be explained by the fact that the hades of the Nohenteers and Council, had not a lovemon objective prior to the Resul. Counalli's auxecions wee, I think, Shown to be amfounded and he afreed to facil action by to two armed forces against the British.

about 4. 30 pm to the rooms of the hish homeus Bruchere Leoful where he hopes to have a few others who might form a civil police fince to put down botup" The diel not incheale how such a body could effectively act he then parted, Gleffugton Every towards Fortbello Snote, I in the opposite duchan. Led the posters put up, theeping one copy which I gave on bour some Tears of to the hohouse Library where I still is Seleshupton was neve to reach home. The fact of that traped are well known. There was, I course, no meeting in the Franchese haque rooms next day.

What was not be known is that the two men, Francis bekon and we use Lulyne taken and shot at the same time as Skeffuglon, were two of the tools previously med by the bublin Employer ! Tedration in the attempt to " Sward Larkenesm" me Lutyre published à seumilous weekly alled The Docles which had no other purpose than to cloude Lankin . ather Sreflith was not above marking use of him for the same jurpose. He got Space in Sen Jein for some of his show and replies to his attacks were mene often suppressed than published I know, because I took part in that Controversy.

Beyond carrying a few menunger from The Countres to the Took Office and to north King a. I box no achie part in that famous Rising Coming from hook King It. I was evested on surgerion Is willing occupying horkan's public house at the Come of Queen to, near He bridle. I was taken mede quand to the Cly Hall, Parhament D. and Kept These some hours, being, subsequently enabled to slip away through the Cooperation of the tale Luspector lat Thumphy of the selection Dension Dom S.

BUREAU OF MILITARY FISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 193

whom I Knew.

Siamus Frede

9:00 24

17 STANFORD GREEN WALKINSTOWN CO. DUBLIN

8th February, 1949.

An Rúnaí, Bureau of Military History.

A Chara,

I do not believe I can add anything of value to the facts about Easter Week, 1916, which are already known.

I was a member of the Éire Óg Branch of Cumann na nGaedheal from 1907. This Branch afterwards became part of Sinn Féin. Its meetings were held in Camden St., Dublin, where the De Luxe Cinema now stands. The Hon. Sec. was Seán Ó Dubhghall (who is still living) and amongst the members were Seán Ó hUaighaidh, the late Peadar Macken (killed in Easter Week), Michael Hayes (row Senator), T. Atkins, who lives now on S. Circular Rd. We were all very young at that time, but we did our best to spread the Gospel of Sinn Féin.

About 1910, I went to work on the railway, and was seldom very long in one place, having to move around from one station to another. While stationed in Kildare town, myself and a shop assistant, employed in Slattery's provision shop there (whose name I cannot at the moment recall) hoisted a black flag on the round tower one night, when the loyal population were hanging out Union Jacks in celebration of some British event. We also managed, on two occasions, to plaster the whole

I now remember this man's name; it was McCormick. town with small bills, printed in green ink and supplied from Dublin, asking Irishmen not to join the British army, navy or police force. At that period I also began to write for the Sinn Féin papers, especially The Peasant in which I published a short series of articles under the heading "Letters from a Young Man in the Country". I also wrote for the Irish Homestead, many of my letters on national economic matters being editorially commented upon by the late G.W. Russell (AE).

Because of the moving life I had to live, it was impossible for me to be a member of the Volunteers when they were formed, but from time to time I met most of the leaders, as for a couple of years (1911 to 1913) I was in Dublin where, with the late Jim Larkin, I assisted in the production of "The Irish Worker". Arthur Griffith's attitude towards Larkin and trade unionism caused the majority of the Dublin workers, especially the members of his union, to look on Sinn Féin and, to some extent, on the Volunteers as being opposed to their interests. This, in my opinion, was the reason for the formation of the Citizen Army. Connolly and some others believed that if an armed rising did occur and if it met with any success, it might mean for the workers no more than a continuance of low wages with an Irish army and police force (instead of a British) to act as strike-breakers at the request of the Employers' People like R.M. Fox, who attempted to write Federation. the story of that period, got their information at secondor third-hand from people who had an axe of their own to The mysterious "kidnapping of Jim Connolly" on the grind. eve of the Rising can only be explained by the fact that the leaders of the Volunteers and Connolly had not a common objective prior to the Rising. Connolly's suspicions were,

I think, shown to be unfounded, and he agreed to joint action by the two armed forces against the British.

Being again out of Dublin early in 1916, I returned only on Easter Saturday, and was not aware of the preparations. But as soon as the Volunteers took up their positions, I tried to get in touch with some of those whom I knew. At the rere of St. Vincent's Hospital, I made enquiries from the Volunteers there, and was told that Countess Markievicz was in St. Stephen's Green. there and met her. She crossed over to the College of Surgeons, and gave me about a dozen copies of the Proclamation to get posted up. I turned the corner into York St., going to my mother's home in Bride St. to get paste made, when I overtook the late Francis Sheehy Skeffington. We walked along together, discussing what had occurred. He suggested that I should go next day about 4.30 p.m. to the rooms of the Irish Women's Franchise League, where he hoped to have a few others who might form a civil police force "to put down looting". He did not indicate how such a body could effectively act. parted, Skeffington going towards Portobello Bridge, I in the opposite direction. I got the posters put up, keeping one copy, which I gave on loan some years ago to the National Library, where it still is. Skeffington was : never to reach home. He was "arrested" and subsequently The facts of that tragedy are well known. There was, of course, no meeting in the Franchise League rooms next day.

What may not be known is that the two men, Francis
Dixon and W. McIntyre, taken and shot at the same time as
Skeffington, were two of the tools previously used by the

Dublin Employers' Federation in the attempt to "smash Larkinism". McIntyre published a scurrilous weekly, called "The Toiler", which had no other purpose than to slander Arthur Griffith was not above making use of him for the same purpose. He got space in Sinn Féin for some of his abuse, and replies to his attacks were more often suppressed than published. I know, because I took part in that controversy.

Beyond carrying a few messages from the Countess to the Post Office and to North King St., I took no active part in that famous Rising. Coming from North King St., I was arrested on suspicion by military occupying Morkan's publichouse at the corner of Queen St., near the bridge. I was taken under guard to the City Hall, Parliament St., and kept there some hours, being subsequently enabled to slip away through the co-operation of the late Inspector Pat Murphy of the Detective Division, D.M.P., whom I knew.

> (Signed): SEAMUS O'FARRELL.

> > BUREAU OF MILITARY : ISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21