

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 283

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.283.....

Witness

Mr. Seamus MacManus,
Mountcharles, Co. Donegal,
and
1105 Park Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

Identity

One of the founders of "The National Council"
afterwards known as "Sinn Fein".

Subject

- (a) National associations 1896-1910;
- (b) Influence of gaelic publications on the national spirit of the day, 1896-99.
- (c) His mission to America as agent of French Gov't. 1898, and events afterwards;

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. ...S. 1376.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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STATEMENT OF SEAMUS MacMANUS,

Mountcharles, Co. Donegal,

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1105, Park Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

I saw here in Donegal the troubles that the people went through during the evictions. I saw the regiments of Redcoats encamped in Conyngham's place and marching to the farms to throw the people out.

At that time the bulk of the people were followers of the Irish Party whose aim was to bring about land reform and a measure of Home Rule for the country. The Party had *Then,* the sympathy and respect of the people and fostered an anti-English attitude. They had not become, as they did after the Parnell split, a tail of the Liberal Party. They had succeeded in ^{getting such power since} ~~inspiring such~~ respect in the House of Commons that Gladstone introduced what was considered at that time a fairly advanced and radical Home Rule Bill.

After the Parnell split Ireland was in a state of apathy and despair. The mass of the people had lost the idea of independence for Ireland and the condition of the country was deplorable before the first rallying of the small number of true ones, the few thinkers who were themselves almost in despair of ever again uniting the people in a struggle for the national idea of a free Ireland.

Dr. Mark Ryan of London and Robert Johnston of Belfast were among the few people who kept the Fenian idea alive. Dr. Ryan was a ^{wonderful} ~~great~~ man who never swerved from his belief in an independent Ireland. He was head of the Irish
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Republican Brotherhood in London. Robert Johnston, ^{a most remarkable personality, Sinn} was on the executive of the Fenian movement and head of the Fenians in the North. He ^{had} talked with men who took part in the Battle of Antrim in 1798, he knew the '48 men, was himself identified with the '67 Rising, was an intimate friend of James Stephens, John O'Mahony and the other Fenian leaders. In his house were to be met all prominent nationalists from time to time. He also knew some of the men who took part in the 1916 Rising. He was thus a connecting link between the four revolutions that kept the spirit of freedom alive throughout more than a century. ^{He lived to the age of 96, Sinn}

The first thing that rallied the national spirit of the country after the Parnell split was the monthly magazine called the Shan Van Vocht which ran from ^{January} 1896 to April 1899. Robert Johnston's daughter Anna (Ethna Carbery) and Alice Milligan ^{founded and Sinn} did all the work of the paper. Not only did they edit it, but they wrote a great part of it and themselves made it up and despatched it to every subscriber throughout the world. They had a list of persons in North and South America, Africa, Australia and India, in whom the old Fenian idea was still alive - Robert Johnston, himself a Fenian, would have given them these names - and the magazine was posted to each of these. I was a regular contributor to the paper from the very first, as were all the national ^{rallied and} writers of note of the time, except Yeats ^{and Katharine Symon Sinn}. The Shan Van Vocht ^{rallied and} fired and inspired all those people at home and abroad who believed in Ireland's complete freedom. The movement which it started grew and grew until it reached /its

its climax in 1916. The paper which struck the first note of hope in Irish hearts was looked forward to with enthusiasm by Irish exiles throughout the world.

The burden of the work was, however, too great for the two girls who had exhausted themselves by their efforts. They asked the young men of the Celtic Literary Society to found a paper and they offered to hand over all their material and their list of subscribers to them.

At that time all that was virile in ^{Dublin} national life was centered in the Celtic Literary Society, of which the most prominent were William Rooney, Arthur Griffith, Denis Devereux, Peter White, Padraig Ó Brocháin, Tom Cuffe and their fellows. They were practical workers. The ^{more} successors ^{in Dublin} of the Fenians proper had deteriorated into dreamers and fantastic schemers and their favourite haunt was Mooney's.

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Griffith, Rooney and Devereux started a weekly paper which they called the United Irishman. It was inspired with the same ideals of Irish freedom and carried on the work of rallying ~~all~~ those who had no faith in the ^{limited} objects for which the Irish Party were working. So little respect did that Party inspire in England since the fall of Parnell that Campbell-Bannerman, who had now become Prime Minister, stated in the House of Commons that "Home Rule ~~is~~ ^{is impossible and unnecessary} ~~is no longer possible, nor was it even necessary.~~ ^{Still}

Some

claims had sunk so low that at a lecture ^{in Oxford} ~~he said that~~ "Ireland's separation from England is impossible and undesirable." ^{Still} ~~separation from England was impossible~~ and Dillon declared

very limited local government measure, mis-called Home Rule that the English Parliament was fighting over on eve of World War I, Ireland would never again ask for anything more.

in the House of Commons that if they got ^{the wretched measure of} ~~the wretched thing that was offered~~ ^{Home Rule} ~~no guaranteed Ireland~~

Shannon

In 1898 I had been a teacher in the National School at Mountcharles for 8 years. One of the rules was that we should not engage in any political activities. I was not a member of the I.K.B., but in a quiet way I organised various national movements, ^{Keeping alive and spreading among the} ~~teaching Irish national songs~~ ^{people the national ideal. Small} ~~to the children, et cetera.~~ ^{eventually} My activities drew the attention of the Authorities who ^{eventually} put a detective on to me. He followed me everywhere I went and on one occasion when he got drunk, some of the ^{un-national} boys found his notebook and seeing my name in it frequently and not being very well able to read the rest of the script, they thought they had confirmation of the opinion some of the local people had about my doings. These thought I was in the pay of the Castle and was setting a trap for the people by inducing them to come out and openly join national organisations. In the course of time, as a result of my work in the national interest, things became so hot for me that I resigned my position in that year (1898).

I was asked by the French Government, with which I got in contact through a channel I do not wish to disclose, to go to Singapore as editor of a weekly paper which was subsidised by them for their own political purposes. I agreed; but before long I got another message to go over to Paris about something more important still. I was told to call on the Editor of ^{Le} ~~the~~ Petit Journal for instructions. This was ^{shortly} ~~some time~~ after the Fashoda affair in which France was ~~so~~ humiliated, and as a consequence of which she was now busy organising her military power in preparation for ~~war of revenge on England~~ ^{since}

I went direct to Paris (without ^{any} ~~consultation with~~ anybody here) and was closeted with the Editor. I think I

/was

was only two days there and saw nobody else except my brother Padraig ^{(Carry active I.R.B. man) Sinn} who happened to be in Paris at the time.

My instructions were that I was to proceed to America

under cover of a mission to establish a newsagency, ^{called The}

^{Wolfe} ^{Sinn} ⁱⁿ opposition to Reuter which Britain controlled. I was to

interview all the militant Irish and find out, in the case

of war between France and Britain, what the Irish could do

and how many men could be raised for fighting. I inter-

viewed the leaders of the militant Irish, chiefly members

of Clan na Gael, John Devoy and Lynam in New York, ^{- the leaders of}

^{Sinn. two} ^{separate and antagonistic bodies of the Clan - with James} Geoffrey Roche in Boston and John Finerty in Chicago. I

got these names from Robert Johnston and my brother Padraig

who was a member of the I.R.B. ^{The Irish-American leaders agreed. Sinn} ^{they said that if France}

could show any way of equipping them and getting them to

any place where they could fight the English, they could

get 100,000 men. At the same time I was proposing this

plan about the agency which was supposed to be an independent

enterprise. The French intended to use it for propaganda

as the British used Reuter. I found all the editors pro-

British and anti-French, ^{largely} ^{entirely} because of the Dreyfus

affair. ~~Several of these editors were Jews and many~~ of

the papers were under the thumb of the Jews financially.

^{Sinn} ^{One of them called Ochs, a Jew, ^{and editor} proprietor of the New York}

Times, gave me a bitter harangue about the French. ~~Both~~

^{The news-agency} ^{Sinn} proposals fell through. I made my report stating what the

Irish were prepared to do if they got the facilities

necessary.

A number of French officers who had come over to

Ireland ostensibly to take part in the '98 celebrations

were sent for the real purpose of exploring the possibility

of obtaining Irish aid in the event of war with Britain. I had no part in those negotiations.

When I came back to Ireland in the spring of 1899, I brought back £100 that Maud Gonne had given me in America. It was the first result of her triumphal tour ~~of~~ ^{lecturing} under the auspices of Clan na Gael. It was a first instalment for the financing of the new weekly paper, The United Irishman, which started to appear in 1899. She continued to finance it in this manner. There were other contributors in a minor way.

The '98 Commemoration which I have already referred to was an event that helped to revive the national spirit and arouse enthusiasm in the hearts of those who still believed in an independent Ireland. There was an inspiring procession in Dublin in which all public bodies took part, ~~with national banners flying.~~ Out of this sprang the '98 Clubs which brought together the young men and women who cherished hopes of reviving a national movement in Ireland and who were dissatisfied with the aims of the Irish Party. These eventually resolved themselves into Cumann na Gael Clubs.

The Boer War was an event of great importance in Ireland. ~~On the one hand you had people like Colonel Moore, who called himself a nationalist, but who united the militia into an army which he fitted out to fight for England with a green Irish flag and the soldiers going out to fight against the Boers, singing patriotic Irish songs like "The Wearing of the Green" and "The Boys of Wexford".~~

a very few themselves favored England, Moore got Com. naught militia regiments to volunteer to fight the Boers. He "nationalised" them by marching behind green banners and singing rebel Irish songs as they went forth. I had

~~On the other hand the true nationalists' sympathies were of~~
~~and on the side of the Boers, who, like ourselves, were~~

ninety-nine per cent of our people was

/being

~~being oppressed by England and had the courage to stand up~~
~~The wonderful fight put up by the Boers was inspiring to our~~
~~people - and it made them more thoroughly anti-British than~~
~~spirit of freedom in many an Irish heart.~~
 even they had get been *Sum*

The United Irishman continued to do the work begun by Alice Milligan and Ethna Carbery. The odds against ~~them~~ *it* were heavy. The Irish Party had a strong organ in the Freeman's Journal which was ^{rich} ~~well supplied with funds~~ and had a wide circulation. The Leader was ^a ~~another~~ ^{weekly} powerful paper that did ~~a lot of~~ ^{great} good work in the industrial and economic field and appealed particularly to ~~the practical instincts of~~ those people whose highest ideal was the material prosperity of the country. The United Irishman had little money and had to rely mainly on the devotion and self-sacrifice of Arthur Griffith whom I have seen in the miserable office in Fownes Street with his toes through his shoes and his elbows through his sleeves. ~~as~~ There was ^{not} ~~no~~ ^{enough} money to pay him a decent salary. But ~~he~~ ^{from people} did not falter in his efforts and gradually more and more were won over to the point of view he preached.

In this connection the young clergy who had come out of Maynooth deserve a special word of praise. ^{They were highly patriotic *Sum*} They helped to propagate the national doctrine ^{at great risk to themselves} ~~at~~ at a time when we were the Ishmaelites of Ireland. The older clergy were entirely with the wishy-washy Parliamentary Party and we were considered ~~mere~~ ^{by them} firebrands.

Sum
 the eyes of the older, conservative, clergy.

As an example of the courage of these young priests, I would ~~like~~ to recall an incident that took place on the occasion of the Annual Convention of ^{the Irish} National Teachers that met at Sligo in one of the first years of the century. At

/the

the time I was no longer a teacher but was present as an invited guest with ^{Tom} Tomas Concannon and about half a dozen priests of whom I remember the following:- Father Tom Kelly who afterwards died on the Riviera, Father Hynes who became ^(Rector?) Dean of Galway ^{University} College, Father Moran who was later Parish Priest of Clare-Galway, Father Crehan and Father Michael K Connolly. (See appendices A, B and C.)

SluM

I took up the programme ^{as we sat down to} of the banquet ^{with} which wound up the Convention and noted that ^{wound up} ~~there was a proposal to toast the King of England.~~ ^{The first toast was the health of the King} ~~my fellow-guests~~. I called the attention of ~~the others~~ to the matter and a delegation of us went to the President - a Protestant Unionist from North-east Ulster, whose name I can't remember, and pointed out that we could not ^{approve of such} ~~drink the King's health.~~ ^{by lending our presence, approval of any such un-Irish act.} He got alarmed and said he would ^{alter} ~~do~~ that. He called the

SluM

SluM

Vice-President, James McGowan of Dromahair, who refused to ~~cancel the toast~~ ~~yield to a change in the programme.~~ So we all ~~took~~

SluM

Less or twelve of us ^{then} trooped out, creating a ~~great~~ sensation and leaving a ^{long} ~~big~~ blank space at the high table. ^{Next morning} ~~All the papers~~ ^{not only on Dublin but in London} made of it a week's sensation - and a ^{had large headlines and there was a very long controversy ensued} ~~very long controversy ensued~~ about it. There were questions in Parliament about the insult to the King and the matter caused consternation in the Empire!

SluM

~~It is noteworthy that~~ ^{But} never again was the King's health ^{proposed} ~~drank~~ at ^a the National Teachers' Convention. ^{The bad habit of} ~~The incident gave~~ ^{drinking the health of the King of England, which had prevailed, at many an Irish} ~~course to others to follow our example and stop the drinking~~ ^{function} ~~of the King's health on similar occasions.~~ ^{was practically put a stop to, then.} ~~SluM~~

drinking the health of the King of England, which had prevailed, at many an Irish function

The turning point in the national movement, ^{was emphasized} ~~to my mind,~~ ^{by} ~~was~~ the Battle of the Rotunda, which is described in Maud Gonne's book, "Servant of the Queen". I am in substantial agreement with her account of it, ~~except her statement that~~ ~~Redmond resumed his speech to the empty benches.~~

As a result of the exposure in the United Irishman of a secret Corporation conspiracy to give a civic reception to the /King,

King, Maud Gonne, who had returned in haste from Paris, called together by wire Edward Martyn, Alderman Tom Kelly, Arthur Griffith, Henry Dixon and myself on the Sunday (17th May, 1903) preceding the Tuesday on which the Annual Convention of the Irish Party for the inauguration of the Party Fund was to be held in the Rotunda. George Moore was also invited to our meeting, because he had returned to Ireland a short time before and had proclaimed to the world that English civilisation and literature were effete and he would henceforth devote himself to Ireland. When he heard the purpose of the meeting, he announced that he was not a politician and would have nothing to do with it. *He bowed himself out.* That is the story of George Moore's entry into ~~Sinn Féin~~ and his speedy exit from ~~the~~ *Sinn Féin.*

~~The Rotunda meeting became a free fight, as described by Maud Gonne, after she put her question about the reception for the King, and I have still a clear picture in my mind of Joe Devlin, who was a sturdy fighter, standing on the platform with the leg of a chair in his hand, having broken the rest of it on the heads of his opponents. There was not a bench in its place, *all were overturned & broken. Every one soon* and the room was such a mass of wreckage that there was no question of resuming the meeting. The Party, *Leaders* retired to the Gresham Hotel, which was their Headquarters, and they *were* ~~not~~ *unable to* reassemble the Annual Convention until the following August or September. In the meantime the episode had aroused many of the people of the country to a feeling of disgust with the Party, *which they suspected,* that would have been willing to go on their knees to receive the English King.~~

On the Sunday following the Battle we six met again and formed The National Council. Parnoches were started through the country - maybe 40 or 50. At ^{the} our second or ^{third} were third annual Convention, after, we allied our title from National Council to Sinn Féin. The movement gradually gathered strength and expanded. People were

That day we formed the nucleus of Sinn Féin. We made ourselves the Citizens' Advisory Committee - and as such decided to present ourselves on the platform at the Sunday night Convention and demand that Redmond should give welcome to English and French people. The Irish people should give us, Maud Gonne as spokeswoman, and to the Great Cause of our mission & demand Redmond's abdication & compensation on the platform & quickly spread to the audience. Very soon fighting began in the hall, and order was charged from the floor proceedings. Our spokeswoman stated our mission & demand Redmond's abdication & compensation on the platform & quickly spread to the audience. Very soon fighting began in the hall, and order was charged from the floor

of England (who threatened a visit then) ~~then~~

Shank

were beginning at last to realise the futility of the *Irish* Party's efforts. The Party was, however, unwilling to give way and did their utmost to counteract our influence. One weapon that came to be used later was the secret organisation known as "The Ancient Order of Hibernians" which Joe Devlin got hold of and turned to his own purpose.

When I was organising opinion in favour of Sinn Féin in Donegal at a meeting in Cloghineely, *loop of the A.O.H. conspired* ~~the A.O.H., who were~~ *to meet and beat me on my way back at midnight from a Ceilidh at* ~~armed with stout sticks, would have killed me only for Mac~~ *the College. But I was saved by the fact that Mac* Giolla Bhrighde ~~(Lord Ashbourne)~~ *(Lord Ashbourne)* who was walking with me from the College, *whom I walked into the ambush. Mac of* ~~he himself told me that long afterwards.~~ *of it* *Slurry*

territory in
Our ^{territory in} South Donegal was the first place outside of Dublin where candidates were elected in the Sinn Féin interest to public bodies — *Two fellow-workers and I were elected,* ~~to the District Council on the Sinn Féin platform.~~ *Slurry*

~~After the Battle of the Rotunda, for which we had elected ourselves the Citizens' Watch Committee, we formed the National Council which, in turn, at our second or third annual convention, became Sinn Féin which was thus established as a National Party.~~

Shortly after this the name of the weekly paper was changed to Sinn Féin and we planned to issue a daily paper. Henry Dixon, Tom Kelly and myself were ~~the~~ directors of this. Sinn Féin clubs were established all over the country; there was hardly a village without one. Arthur Griffith was editor of the paper and did everything else too. Secret advances were made to him by the ^{Irish} Party with a view to counteracting the influence of Sinn Féin. It was intimated to him that if he would only ~~give up~~ ^{cease} the opposition that was ~~completely~~ undermining the Party in the country he would be taken into it and made an M.P.

~~The~~ ^{Club} Young Ireland ~~Society~~ was founded by their young men, ^{in hopes to hold young people} ~~as an to draw the younger members~~ from the Sinn Féin movement. They ~~also~~ founded a weekly organ as a counterblast to Sinn Féin. There were a number of ^{clever} intellectual young men behind it, including young Sheehy, ^{Sheffington} ~~The~~ Kettle and ~~Francis~~ Cruise O'Brien. The paper showed considerable literary talent.

A little incident will illustrate the attitude of the real national element towards those who were merely interested in the material development of the country, ~~such~~ as Moran of the Leader, ^{who was} ~~and who were~~ antagonistic to the spiritual side and the work for Irish independence - Moran ^{called} ~~used to call~~ us the "tin-pickers" and constantly taunted us "Why not go out on the streets and throw up the barricades to-morrow?" There was a great Gaelic League parade. They marched through Dublin with ~~coaches and~~ floats carrying tableaux and banners. Moran got in line with his carriage and was allowed to go a certain distance. A body of young men held up his carriage, led the horse and carriage into a side street and sent him home. This was one of the many incidents that aroused ~~great~~ comment and controversy in the press and further advertised the national movement, ~~for~~ Moran had a forceful pen and personality and did great work for the industrial advancement, ~~of Ireland~~.

Although the Gaelic League was founded primarily for the revival of the language, it became the most powerful nationalising influence in the country. Everyone who joined it became fired with enthusiasm for the freedom of the country. Credit must be given to it for bringing the younger people into line with all the ideals of Sinn Féin. In this connection I would like to mention a small but

/memorable

memorable incident that gave great advertisement to the Gaelic League in its early years. Although there was in existence a Society of very earnest, very genuine, but rather ineffective old gentlemen, ^{called The Society for Preservation of} ~~for the promotion of the~~ Irish Language - a printer's error ^{once presented it to the readers of} ~~had translated this into~~ the Society for the Prevention of the Irish Language, ^{the Freeman's Journal, as} it had done very little effective work, ~~and~~ was indeed moribund; the majority of the people of Dublin and in fact of Ireland had no interest in the language, many of them did not even know that it existed. ^{At this early stage, at} ~~there was~~ a great concert held in, I think, the Antient Concert Rooms, ^{and} during the interval ~~and~~ before the curtain was raised, from the gallery came the strains of ~~the Gaelic song~~ "Fainne Geal an Lae" which electrified the audience and puzzled most of them who did not know what the foreign language was. The singers were Padraig Ó Broilcháin, Seamus Clandillon, and I am not sure who the third was, but if Willie Rooney was a singer, it was surely he. Ethna Carbery, ^{was} ~~was among~~ the audience with the Tynan family (with whom she was staying at the time) ~~and she was so thrilled with~~ ^{that she wrote, on returning home, her "A Gaelic Song" beginning} ~~the song that she was inspired to write the poem.~~

"A murmurous tangle of voices,
Laughter to left and right;
We waited the curtain's rising
In a dazing glare of light,
When down through the din came slowly,
Softly, then clear and strong
The mournful minor cadence
Of a sweet old Gaelic song."

(The poem is to be found in her collected poems "The Four Winds of Erin") ~~under the title "A Gaelic Song".~~

Another little incident ^{attitude, then, of the old Unionist class} ~~occurs to me~~ illustrating the ^{general attitude} towards Gaelic and things Gaelic. I went to McPeake, ^{anti-Irish} ~~the~~ editor of the ^{and said,} Evening Mail, ~~which was then~~ ~~and probably still is anti-Irish.~~ I said to him "I know you have no interest in Gaelic or the Gaelic League; but, as

"It is in existence, I think you ought to enlighten your public about it. Commission me to write an article on it". "I will" he said. On the following Saturday he had the sandwichmen out with the posters. Posters were also up on the walls and down on the pavements. "What is the Gaelic League?" There was a rush for the paper which was shortly sold in double the quantity of other Saturdays. Everybody was eager to ~~see~~ ^{read the long-expected,} the shocking exposure of the criminal ^{activities} ~~society~~ ^{of a purely criminal society} called the Gaelic League.

SMM

So effective were the tactics of Sinn Féin becoming, and so degrading were the place-hunting activities of the Irish Party that many ~~of the~~ ^{of Parliament} Members wanted to drop out of the Party but they were prevented by consideration for their livelihood. One had the courage, Charlie Dolan of Leitrim, who resigned ~~his membership~~ and went up for election in the Sinn Féin interest. The country was amazed when he polled one-third of the votes; they had thought Sinn Féin was an insignificant body; ~~that was what~~ ^{as} the Party ~~were~~ ^{was} constantly telling them. I think that election took place in 1908.

After that I dropped out of ~~things here~~ ^{activities in Ireland} as I was now living most of my time in America, writing and lecturing. I have lectured on Irish subjects in every State of the Union, in universities, colleges, libraries and churches of all denominations, Baptist, Mormon, Seven-day Adventist and others. ~~I have spent much of my life and a great deal of money in travelling on the United States railways.~~ ^{Though I dropped out of activities in Ireland, I never ceased spreading the doctrine in America, among my Irish friends - and have never ceased informing & enlightening the purely American public (who chiefly constitute my audiences) SMM}

SMM

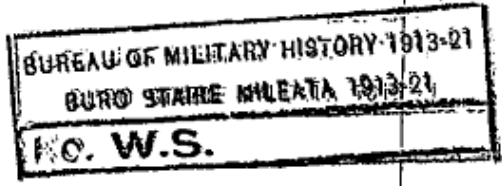
Signed: Seumas Mac Manus

Date: July 16 1949

Witness: Bruce MacTearnaigh

Date: 16/7/49

S. M. Cousins
18/7/49



STATEMENT OF SEAMUS MacMANUSMountcharles, Co. Donegal

and

1105, Park Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

I saw here in Donegal the troubles that the people went through during the evictions. I saw the regiments of Redcoats encamped in Conyngham's place and marching to the farms to throw the people out.

At that time the bulk of the people were followers of the Irish Party whose aim was to bring about land reform and a measure of Home Rule for the country. The Party had then the sympathy and respect of the people and fostered an anti-English attitude. They had not become, as they did after the Parnell split, a tail of the Liberal Party. They had succeeded in getting such power in the House of Commons that Gladstone introduced what was considered at that time a fairly advanced and radical Home Rule Bill.

After the Parnell split Ireland was in a state of apathy and despair. The mass of the people had lost the idea of independence for Ireland and the condition of the country was deplorable before the first rallying of the small number of true ones, the few thinkers who were themselves almost in despair of ever again uniting the people in a struggle for the national idea of a free Ireland.

Dr. Mark Ryan of London, and Robert Johnston of Belfast were among the few people who kept the Fenian idea alive. Dr. Ryan was a wonderful man who never swerved from his belief in an independent Ireland. He was head of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in London. Robert Johnston, a most remarkable personality, was on the executive of the Fenian movement and head of the Fenians in the north. He had talked with men who took part in the Battle of Antrim in 1798; he knew the '48 men;

was himself identified with the '67 Rising; was an intimate friend of James Stephens, John O'Mahony and the other Fenian leaders. In his house were to be met all prominent nationalists from time to time. He also knew some of the men who took part in the 1916 Rising. He was thus a connecting link between the four revolutions that kept the spirit of freedom alive throughout more than a century. He lived to the age of 96.

The first thing that rallied the national spirit of the country after the Parnell split was the monthly magazine called the Shan Van Vocht which ran from January 1896 to April 1899. Robert Johnston's daughter Anna (Ethna Cerbery) and Alice Milligan founded and did all the work of the paper. Not only did they edit it, but they wrote a great part of it and themselves made it up and despatched it to every subscriber throughout the world. They had a list of persons in North and South America, Africa, Australia and India, in whom the old Fenian idea was still alive - Robert Johnston, himself a Fenian, would have given them these names - and the magazine was posted to each of these. I was a regular contributor to the paper from the very first, as were all the national writers of note of the time, except Yeats and Katherine Tynan. The Shan Van Vocht rallied and fired and inspired all those people at home and abroad who believed in Ireland's complete freedom. The movement which it started grew and grew until it reached its climax in 1916. The paper which struck the first note of hope in Irish hearts was looked forward to with enthusiasm by Irish exiles throughout the world.

The burden of the work was, however, too great for the two girls who had exhausted themselves by their efforts. They asked the young men of the Celtic Literary Society to found a paper and they offered to hand over all their material and their list of subscribers to them.

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prominent were William Rooney, Arthur Griffith, Denis Devereux, Peter White, Padraig Ó Broilcháin, Tom Cuffe and their fellows. They were practical workers. The more prominent successors in Dublin of the Fenians proper had deteriorated into dreamers and fantastic schemers and their favourite haunt was Mooney's.

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In 1898 I had been a teacher in the National School at Mountcharles for 8 years. One of the rules was that we should not engage in any political activities. I was not a member of the I.R.B. but in a quiet way I organised various national movements, keeping alive and spreading among the people the national ideal. My activities drew the attention of the Authorities who eventually put a detective on to me. He followed me everywhere I went and, on one occasion when he got drunk, some of the un-national boys found his notebook and, seeing my name in it frequently and not being very well able to read the rest of the script, they thought they had confirmation of the opinion some of the local people had about my doings. These thought I was in the pay of the Castle and was setting a

trap for the people by inducing them to come out and openly join national organisations. In the course of time, as a result of my work in the national interest, things became so hot for me that I resigned my position in that year (1898).

I was asked by the French Government, with which I got in contact through a channel I do not wish to disclose, to go to Singapore as editor of a weekly paper which was subsidised by them for their own political purposes. I agreed, but before long I got another message to go over to Paris about something more important still. I was told to call on the Editor of "Le Petit Journal" for instructions. This was shortly after the Fashoda affair in which France was humiliated, and as a consequence of which she was now busy organising her military power in preparation for war on England.

I went direct to Paris (without consulting anybody here) and was closeted with the Editor. I think I was only two days there and saw nobody else except my brother, Padraig (a very active I.R.B. man) who happened to be in Paris at the time. My instructions were that I was to proceed to America under cover of a mission to establish a newsagency, called The Wolfe, in opposition to Reuter which Britain controlled. I was to interview all the militant Irish and find out, in the case of war between France and Britain, what the Irish could do and how many men could be raised for fighting. I interviewed the leaders of the militant Irish, chiefly members of Clán na Gael, John Devoy and Lynam in New York - the leaders of two separate and antagonistic bodies of the Clan - with James Geoffrey Roche in Boston and John Finerty in Chicago. I got these names from Robert Johnston and my brother Padraig who was a member of the I.R.B. The Irish-American leaders agreed that if France could show any way of equipping them and getting them to any place where they could fight the English, they could get 100,000 men. At the same time I was proposing this plan about the agency which was supposed to be an independent enterprise. The French

intended to use it for propaganda as the British used Reuter.

I found all the editors pro-British and anti-French, largely because of the Dreyfus affair. Many of the papers were under the thumb of the Jews financially. Ochs, a Jew, proprietor and editor of the New York Times, gave me a bitter harangue about the French. The newsagency proposal fell through. I made my report stating what the Irish were prepared to do if they got the facilities necessary.

A number of French officers who had come over to Ireland, ostensibly to take part in the '98 celebrations, were sent for the real purpose of exploring the possibility of obtaining Irish aid in the event of war with Britain. I had no part in these negotiations.

When I came back to Ireland in the spring of 1899, I brought back £100 that Maud Gonne had given me in America. It was the first result of her triumphal tour lecturing under the auspices of Clan na Gael. It was a first instalment for the financing of the new weekly paper, "The United Irishman," which started to appear in 1899. She continued to finance it in this manner. There were other contributors in a minor way.

The '98 Commemoration which I have already referred to was an event that helped to revive the national spirit and arouse enthusiasm in the hearts of those who still believed in an independent Ireland. There was an inspiring procession in Dublin in which all public bodies took part. Out of this sprang the '98 Clubs which brought together the young men and women who cherished hopes of reviving a national movement in Ireland and who were dissatisfied with the aims of the Irish Party. These eventually resolved themselves into Cumann na Gael Clubs.

The Boer War was an event of great importance in Ireland. Like Colonel Moore, a very few who called themselves nationalist

favoured England. Moore got Connaught Militia regiments to volunteer to fight the Boers. He "nationalised" them by marching behind green banners and singing rebel Irish songs as they went forth to fight the Boers! The sympathies of ninety-nine per cent of our people was on the side of the Boers. The wonderful fight put up by the Boers was inspiring to our people, and it made them more thoroughly anti-British than ever they had yet been.

The "United Irishman" continued to do the work begun by Alice Milligan and Ethna Carbery. The odds against it was heavy. The Irish Party had a strong organ in the "Freeman's Journal" which was rich and had a wide circulation. The "Leader" was a powerful weekly paper that did a great good work in the industrial and economic field, and appealed particularly to those people whose highest ideal was the material prosperity of the country. The "United Irishman" had little money and had to rely mainly on the devotion and self-sacrifice of Arthur Griffith whom I have seen in the miserable office in Fownes Street with his toes through his shoes and his elbows through his sleeves. There was not enough money to pay him a decent salary. He did not falter in his efforts and gradually more and more of our people were won over to the point of view he preached.

In this connection the young clergy who had come out of Maynooth deserve a special word of praise. They were highly patriotic. They helped to propagate the national doctrine - at great risk to themselves, in the eyes of the older, conservative, clergy, at a time when we were the Ishmaelites of Ireland. The older clergy were entirely with the wishy-washy Parliamentary Party and we were considered firebrands.

As an example of the courage of these young priests, I would recall an incident that took place on the occasion of the Annual Convention of the Irish National Teachers that

met at Sligo in one of the first years of the century. At the time I was no longer a teacher but was present as an invited guest with Tomás Bán Concannon, and about half a dozen priests of whom I remember the following :- Father Tom Kelly, who afterwards died on the Riviera; Father Hynes who became (Dean - Rector?) of Galway University; Father Moran who was later Parish Priest of Clare-Galway; Father Crehan and Father Michael K. Connolly. (See Appendices A, B and C).

I took up the programme as we sat down to the banquet with which the Convention wound up and noted that the first toast was the health of the King of England. I called the attention of my fellow-guests to the matter and a delegation of us went to the President - a Protestant Unionist from north-east Ulster, whose name I can't remember, and pointed out that we could not, by lending our presence, approve of any such un-Irish act. He got alarmed and said he would alter that. He called the Vice-President, James McGowan of Dromahair, who refused to cancel the toast. Ten or twelve of us then trooped out, creating a sensation and leaving a long blank space at the high table. Next morning's papers, not only in Dublin but in London, made of it a week's sensation, and a long controversy ensued. There were questions in Parliament about the insult to the King and the matter caused consternation in the Empire! But never again was the King's health proposed at a National Teachers' Convention. The bad habit of drinking the health of the King of England, which had prevailed at many an Irish function, was practically put a stop to, then.

The turning point in the national movement was emphasized by the Battle of the Rotunda - which is described in Maud Gonne's book "Servant of the Queen". I am in substantial agreement with her account of it.

As a result of the exposure in the "United Irishman" of a secret Corporation conspiracy to give a civic reception to

the King of England (who threatened a visit then) Maud Gonne, who had returned in haste from Paris, called together by wire Edward Martyn, Alderman Tom Kelly, Arthur Griffith, Henry Dixon and myself on the Sunday (17 May 1903) preceding the Tuesday on which the Annual Convention of the Irish Party for the inauguration of the Party Fund was to be held in the Rotunda. George Moore was also invited to our meeting, because he had returned to Ireland a short time before and had proclaimed to the world that English civilisation and literature were effete and he would henceforth devote himself to Ireland. When he heard the purpose of the meeting, he announced that he was not a politician and would have nothing to do with it - and bowed himself out. That is the story of George Moore's entry into and exit from Sinn Fein.

That day we formed the nucleus of Sinn Fein. We made ourselves the Citizens Advisory Committee, and as such, decided to present ourselves on the platform at the Tuesday night Convention and demand that Redmond state publicly whether he did or did not advocate that the Irish people should give welcome to England's King. When the great meeting was begun four of us, Maud Gonne as spokesman, suddenly stepped from behind the scenes on to the platform - and to the front centre of it - causing consternation and sensation and halting the proceedings. Our spokesman stated our mission and demanded Redmond's statement of purpose. Expostulation and confusion reigned on the platform and quickly spread to the audience. Very soon fighting began on the floor, and next on the platform. Then the platform was charged from the floor. I have still a clear picture in my mind of Joe Devlin, who was a sturdy fighter, standing on the platform waving the leg of a chair in his hand, having broken the rest of it on the heads of his opponents. There was not a bench in its place, all were overturned and broken. Everyone soon fled and the room was such a mass of wreckage that there was no question of resuming the

meeting. The Party leaders retired to the Gresham Hotel, which was their headquarters, and they were unable to reassemble the Annual Convention until the following August or September. In the meantime the episode had aroused many of the people of the country to a feeling of disgust with the Party which, they suspected, would have been willing to go on their knees to receive the English King.

On the Sunday following the Battle we six met again and formed the National Council. Branches were started throughout the country - maybe 40 or 50. At either our second or third Annual Convention, after, we altered our title from National Council to Sinn Fein. The movement gradually gathered strength and expanded. People were beginning at last to realise the futility of the Irish Party's efforts. The Party was, however, unwilling to give way and did their utmost to counteract our influence. One weapon that came to be used later was the secret organisation known as "The Ancient Order of Hibernians" which Joe Devlin got hold of and turned to his own purpose.

When I was organising opinion in favour of Sinn Fein in Donegal at a meeting in Cloghineely, boys of the A.O.H. conspired to meet and beat me on my way back at midnight from a céilidh at the College; but I was saved by the fact that MacGiolla Bhrighde (Ashbourne) was walking with me from the College when I walked into that ambush. MacG himself told me of it long afterwards.

Our territory in South Donegal was the first place outside of Dublin where candidates were elected in the Sinn Fein interest to public bodies. Two fellow workers and I were elected to the District Council on the Sinn Fein platform.

Shortly after this the name of the weekly paper was changed to "Sinn Fein" and we planned to issue a daily paper. Henry Dixon, Tom Kelly and myself were directors of this. Sinn Fein clubs were established all over the country; there was hardly a village without one. Arthur Griffith was editor of the paper

and did everything else too. Secret advances were made to him by the Irish Party with a view to counteracting the influence of Sinn Fein. It was intimated to him that if he would only cease the opposition that was undermining the Party in the country he would be taken into it and made an M.P.

A Young Ireland Club was founded by their young men in hope to hold young people from the Sinn Fein movement. They founded a weekly organ as a counterblast to "Sinn Fein". There were a number of clever intellectual young men behind it, including young Sheehy Skeffington, Kettle and Cruise O'Brien. The paper showed considerable literary talent.

A little incident will illustrate the attitude of the real national element towards those who were merely interested in the material development of the country. Moran of "The Leader", who was antagonistic to the spiritual side and the work for Irish independence, called us the "tin-pikers" and constantly taunted us "Why not go out on the streets and throw up the barricades tomorrow?" There was a great Gaelic League parade. They marched through Dublin with floats carrying tableaux and banners. Moran got in line with his carriage and was allowed to go a certain distance. A body of young men held up his carriage, led the horse and carriage into a side street and sent him home. This was one of the many incidents that aroused comment and controversy in the press and further advertised the national movement. Moran had a forceful pen and personality and did great work for the industrial advancement.

Although the Gaelic League was founded primarily for the revival of the language, it became the most powerful nationalising influence in the country. Everyone who joined it became fired with enthusiasm for the freedom of the country. Credit must be given to it for bringing the younger people into line with all the ideals of Sinn Fein. In this connection

I would like to mention a small but memorable incident that gave great advertisement to the Gaelic League in its early years. Although there was on existence a Society of very earnest, very genuine, but rather ineffective old gentlemen, called The Society for Preservation of the Irish Language - a printer's error once presented it to the readers of the "Freeman's Journal" as The Society for the Prevention of the Irish Language. It had done very little effective work - was indeed moribund; the majority of the people of Dublin and in fact of Ireland had no interest in the language; many of them did not even know that it existed. At this early stage, at a great concert held in, I think, the Antient Concert Rooms, during the interval before the curtain was raised, from the gallery came the strains of "Fainne Geal an Lae" which electrified the audience and puzzled most of them who did not know what the foreign language was. The singers were Padraig Ó Brolchain, Seamus Clandillon, and, I am not sure who the third was, but if Willie Rooney was a singer, it was surely he. Ethna Carbery in the audience with the Tynan family (with whom she was staying at the time) was so thrilled that she wrote, on returning home, her "A Gaelic Song" beginning

"A murmurous tangle of voices,
 Laughter to left and right;
 We waited the curtain's rising
 In a dazing glare of light,
 When down through the din came slowly,
 Softly, then clear and strong
 The mournful minor cadence
 Of a sweet old Gaelic song".

(The poem is to be found in her collected poems "The Four Winds of Erin").

Another little incident, illustrating the attitude, then, of the old Unionist class towards Gaelic and things Gaelic. I went to McPeake, editor of the anti-Irish "Evening Mail" and said "I know you have no interest in Gaelic or the Gaelic League, but, as it is in existence, I think you ought to enlighten your public about it. Commission me to write an

article on it". "I will!" he said. On the following Saturday he had the sandwichmen out with the posters. Posters were also up on the walls and down on the pavements. "What is the Gaelic League?" There was a rush for the paper which was shortly sold in double the quantity of other Saturdays. Everybody was eager to read the long-expected, the shocking exposure of the criminal activities of a surely criminal Society.

So effective were the tactics of Sinn Fein becoming, and so degrading were the place-hunting activities of the Irish Party that many Members of Parliament wanted to drop out of the Party, but they were prevented by consideration for their livelihood. One had the courage, Charlie Dolan of Leitrim, who resigned and went up for election in the Sinn Fein interest. The country was amazed when he polled one-third of the votes; they had thought Sinn Fein was an insignificant body - as the Party was constantly telling them. I think that election took place in 1908.

After that I dropped out of activities in Ireland as I was now living most of my time in America, writing and lecturing. I have lectured on Irish subjects in every State of the Union, in universities, colleges, libraries and churches of all denominations, Baptist, Mormon, Seven-day Adventist, and others. Though I dropped out of activities in Ireland, I never ceased spreading the doctrine in America, among our Irish there - and have never ceased informing and enlightening the purely American public (who chiefly constituted my audiences).

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURÓ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 283

C O P Y

Dear Miss Kissane,

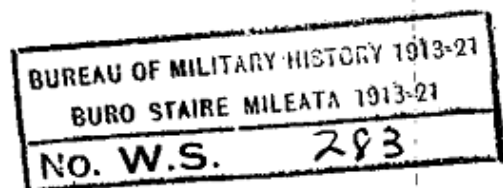
Here's the document, with alterations a few. One place in middle I wrote in half-a dozen lines (p. 9) - to substitute for several pages of your notes which you evidently dropped.

Tomás Bán has been trying to get hold of list of persons concerned in "The Sligo Incident" (as the papers used to call it). He'll write you soon as he hears from Canon Crehan. But I feel pretty certain I gave you correct list. Father Cummins was President of Sligo College then - He quitted the table shortly after us - but as I told you it was because of a draft not a King.

If you come again we'll all be glad to see you.

All good wishes,

(Signed) SEAMUS MAC MANUS



COPY

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

No. W.S. 283

APPENDIX "A".

Re. Comhdháil na Muinnteoíri Náisiúnta
i Sligeach san mbliain 1904?

Lios na Mara,
Gaillimh.

18.7.1949.

A Chara,

Seo chugat dhá leitir ón

- (1) gCanónach Brian O Criocháin, Na Creaga,
Roscomáin, agus
- (2) on gCanónach Mac Branáin, Ateascrach
Cuain, Béal Atha na Sluaighthe, Co.
na Gaillimhe,

maidir leis an gComhdháil a bhí ag na Muinnteoíri
Náisiúnta i Sligeach tuairim na bliana 1904.
D'iarr Seumas Mac Mánuis orm eolus beacht a bhailiú
fá dtaobh an Chomhdháil. Bhí an bheirt shagairt
thuas luaite ag an gComhdháil agus tá siad beo fós
buidheachas le Dia, acht tá an cuid eile beagnach ar
shlighe na firinne.

Fuair an Monsigneur O hEidhin, ex-Uachtarán
Coláiste na hIolscoile, Gaillimh, bás i mí Eanáir na
bliana seo. Ba é an Fr. John Hynes é a bhí páirteach
san drama seo. Tá an Fr. Bernard Crehan agus an Fr.
Malachy Mac Branáin a bhí sa láthair ann anois in a
Canóin agus ina Sagairt Paraiste ins na paráistí thuas
luaite 'A'.

Fuair an tAthair Mac Giollarnath (Forde)
agus an tAthair Micheal O Connaolla bás (R.I.P.)
blianta fada o shoin.

Ta deirbhsiur don Athair Michael O Connaolla
pósta le Padraic O Domhnallain, Ollamh le Gaedhilge
i gColaiste Carysfort, Atha Cliath. Dearfainn go
mbeadh Pádraic agus a chéile in-ann a bheagán nó a
mhórán eolais a thabhairt duit fa an Eachtra seo -
bhi Padraic é féin mar ollamh i gColaist Shligigh
ar feadh bhlianta agus ba ceart go mbeadh "stairneog"
aige mar gheall air.

Bhi an tAthair Tomas O Ceallaigh a bhfuil
tagairt do san liosta seo in a Ollamh le Oideachas i
gColaiste na hIolscoile go bhfuair se bas blianta fada
o shoin.

Bail agus beannacht De ort.

So chara,

(Sgd.) TOMAS U CONCHEANAINN.

Do
Shinead Ni Chiosain.

COPY

APPENDIX "B".

Atheascrach Cuain,
Beal Atha na Sluaighthe.

14.7.1949.

A Thomais, a chara dhíl,

Bhí bród orm do leitir fhághail maidin indiu
mar comhartha go bhfuil tu go maith.

Mo bhrón go bhfuil sé níos eascaidhe a smaoineadh
agus a mhiniughadh i mBeurla mo chuimhne ar an Eachtra
úd i Sligeach fad ó!

I think there were about 12 or 14 of us Gaels at
that Banquet and I think I was the first to notice the
Toast of the King of England on back of the menu card and
asked my neighbours what about this. We sent for
Secretary of I.N.T.O., Mr. James M'Gowan, who said it
was only a matter of form, etc. We said we could not
look upon it in that way & would not accept their
hospitality on such conditions & would have to leave.
We left in a body & on my way out, Mr. P.J. M'Hugh, M.P.
& Mayor of Sligo, put out his hand to stop me & said
there was no need for going out - "He would turn down
his glass & would not drink the King's health but he
would eat his dinner all the same."

The poor Craoibhin (R.I.P.) was also in a fix &
he said he would go out & smoke a cigar when toast would
be on.

We maintained that was not sufficient protest. M'Gowan followed us outside & begged of Fr. Hynes to come back, etc., that the organisation, I.N.T.O., would be ruined, etc., etc.. We said we would only go back on condition Toast would not be proposed. He could not do that he said & we left, very hungry for hotels to get our dinner. We found that all the hotels were filled with teachers who were not at the Banquet at all - I believe the Banquet cost each teacher £1 which was a considerable sum that time. We could not get anything in the hotels & Fr. Forde invited us to the College where a grand supper was made out for us and while in progress the President of the College turned up and said "he would not sit in a draft for two Kings". We gave him a great reception as we knew he left before the toast came off. We there and then established an Irish Republic. (We did not then think of difference between Irish Republic and Republic of Ireland, as in modern times). We made Seumas McManus the first President and I remember I was made Post-Master General because I had been writing letters to the papers about my letters in Irish going wrong and specially one with £3 addressed to Fr. Tom Kelly for Masses which was delivered in about ten days with about twenty Post marks on it.

I do not remember what job you got in the first Republic but you may remember yourself!

We had a most enjoyable night - one of the most

memorable in my life-time.

I only remember Seumas Mac M., yourself, Fr. John Hynes, Fr. Tom Kelly, Fr. Paddy Ford. Fr. Moran - i.e. Canon Moran, R.I.P. - was not there and I am not sure if Fr. Crehan was there. Dr. Martin Kielty was President of the College. I do not think that Fr. Michael Connolly was there either. I cannot remember the name of the Protestant President of the I.N.T.O. but I know Jas. M'Gowan was Secretary. I think the event took place about 1904. It was the last Banquet for years held by I.N.T.O. on occasion of Congress and new Rules & Regulations were enacted for teachers by the so called National Board of Education soon afterwards which evoked great protests & helped to create National spirit.

Yes, I do not think poor Dr. O'Flaherty was in the College that time.

Ag súil go bhfuil tusa & Eibhlín go h-an-mhaith.

'Si mo ghuidhe ar bur son.

Do sean-chara,

(Sgd.) MAOILSEACHLAINN NAC BRANÁIN.

COPY

APPENDIX "C".

Cillbeagnat,
Na Creaga,
Roscomain.

12. 7.1949.

A shean chara dhíl,

Mar tú féin, a Thomais, tá mo chuimhne lag
anois, ach sílim go raibh iad seo ann:-

Fr. Timothy Sharkey

Fr. John Hynes

Fr. Tom Kelly

Fr. Bernard Crehan

Fr. Paddy Forde

Fr. Michael Connolly

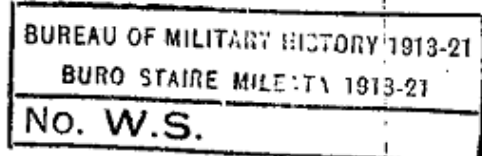
Fr. Malachy Mac Brennan ?

Sílim gur bé Fr. B. Currid a raibh mar uachtarán don
Coláiste an tráth úd. Níl fios agam ce bhi
Uachtaran ar an I.N.T.O. an lá sin. Ba chóir duit
ceist a chur ar an Canónach Malachy mar nílim cinnte
an raibh sé ann. Ta Canónach Currid in a chomhnuidhe
in mBeal na mBuille go foil.

Is deas o Athair Handt an moladh sin! Go
deimhin is iad san a bhí agus atá a tabhairt conghnamh
domsa.

Beir buaidh agus beannacht ort féin agus ar do
bhean cheile.

(Sgd.) BRIAN Ó CRIOCHAIN, S.P.



ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

NO. W.S. 283

NOV 10 1949

Dear Mrs. Kase

Here is the document with alterations
a few. One place in middle I wrote
in half-a-dozen lines - to substitute
for several pages of your notes which
you evidently dropped.

Tommy Craig has been trying to
get hold of list of persons concerned
in "The Ship Incident" (as the papers
used to call it. He'll write you soon as
he hears from Canon Graham. Part I
feel pretty certain I gave you correct
list. Father Cummings was President
of Ship College then - He graduated the
table shortly after us - but as I told
you it was because of a draft not a King.
If you come again will all be
glad to see you

all best wishes

Samuel M. Mearns

2

appendix "A"

1103 na Marea,
Zallim, 18-7-1949

ORIGINAL

A Cara

Seo cuzar da Teoir on

(1) z Canonac Brian O Criodain, Na Creaga, Roscomain

(2) on z Canonac Mac Branain, Acaisceae Quain,
Beal Ara na Sluarzie, Co na Zallime

maidir leis an z Comdail a bi ar Muinntearí
Naisiunta i Slizeac tuairim na bliana 1904.

D'icir Seumas Mac Manus oim eglus
beaer a bailiu fa draob an Comdail.

bi an beaer sazaier tuasluarze ar an
z Comdail agus za siad bes fos taideacias
le dia ar za an cuid eile beaer nac
ar slize na firime.

Fuair an Monzigneor o h Eidin,

Ex Macrahan Colaisce na hIoliseoile, Zallim
bis i mi Eomair na bliana seo - ba e an
trajan Hayes e a bi parrice san draob
Seo. agus an tralachy Mac Branain

za an tr Bernarb Brehan a bi sa loiair ann
annis mo Caidin agus mo Saazaz Paradise
ins na parriszi tuasluarze.

Fuair an beaer nac Zolharner (Ford)
agus an z beaer Miceal O Connalla bas (P),
blianza fada o soim.

za deirbisuir don beaer Miceal O Connalla
postca le Padraic O Donnallain, ollain le zaeditze
i Colaisce Caepprit, draob Clon.

Déarfaim go mbead padraic agus a cainte
 in-ann a bheith na a mionan eolais a tabairt
 duiz fa an t-ádh seo - bí padraic é
 féin mar ollam i zcolaisze Sligiz sa fead
 blianta ~~agus~~ agus beoann go mbead "Stairneir"
 aige mar zoll ~~air~~.

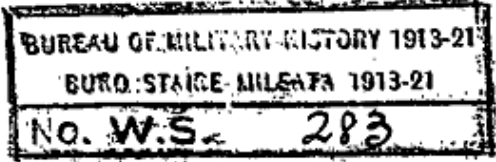
Bí an t-ádhair Tomás Ó Ceallaigh a bfuil
 zairre dó san liosza seo ina ollam le
 oideias i zcolaisze na hIolseoirle go bfuair
 sé bás blianta fadó, ó sóin.

bail agus beannacht de oru.

do cara,

Tomás Ua Concesmarth.

do
Sinead Ní Ciosain



Δέος σοφίας
best of us

Appendix B

Δέος σοφίας **ORIGINA**

bi- byad om 10/11/19
Fáilid mairbh inuim map comas
go fáil uí go maiz.

Mo léim go fáil fé máy eapcaide
A mairbh of a mairbh
mairbh mo ciumne of 10
Cairde uí 1 Slizeic fáil ó!

I think there were about 12 or 14
of us Saels at that Banquet and
I think I was the first to notice the
Toast of the King of England on
back of the menu card and
asked my neighbours what about
this. He sent for Secretary of I.N.T.O
Mrs James McEwan who said
it was only a matter of form etc
he said we could not look upon it
in that way & would not accept

their hospitalty on such conditions
& would have to leave. he left in a
body or on my way out Mr. P.A.

Mr. Hest, my P. Mayor of Slip & Paul,
put his hand to stop me & said
'there was no need for going on.
He would turn down his glass
& would not drink. He keeps
health but he would eat his
dinner all the same.'

The poor weather (R. J. P.) was
also in a fix & he said he
would go out & smoke a cigar
when toast would be on.

he maintained that was not
sufficient protest - Mr. Swan & I
went outside & begged of Sr. Slynnes
to come back etc. that the expenses
of N.T.O. would be ruined etc
etc. he said we would only go back

On condition Toast would not
 be prepared. He could not do that
 he said & we left very hungry
 for hotels to get our dinner. he
 found that all the hotels were
 filled with Teachers who were not at
 the banquet at all - I believe the
 banquet cost each Teacher \$1 which
 was a considerable sum that time.
 He could not get anything in the
 hotels & Sr. Forde invited us to
 the College where a grand supper
 was made out for us and
 while in progress the President
 of the College turned up and
 said "he would not set in
 a draft for two kings" he
 gave him a great reception
 as we knew he left before the

Toast came off. he then then
 established an Irish Republic.
 (he did not then think of
 difference between Irish Republic
 and Republic of Ireland as in
 modern times) he made Seumas
 McManus the first President
 and I remember I was made
Post-Master General. because

I had been writing letters to the
 Posters about my letters which
 going wrong, and specially one
 with £3 addressed to Dr. Tom Kelly
 for Masses which was delayed
 in about ten days with about
 twenty Post Marks on it.

I do not remember what job you
 got in the first Republic but
 you may remember yourself!

he had a most enjoyable
 night - one of the most
 memorable in my life-time.

I only remember Seamus Mac M
 yourself, Fr. John Hynes.

Fr. Tom Kelly, Fr. Paddy
 Ford. Fr. Moran, is not
 here and I am not sure if
 Fr. O'Leary was there. Dr.

Martin Kieley was President
 of the College. I do not think
 that Fr. Michael Connolly was
 there either. I cannot remember
 the name of the Protestant President
 of the F.N.T.O. but I know
 Jas M. Moran was Secretary.
 I think the event took

place about 1904. It was
 the last banquet for years
 held by F.N.T.O. on
 occasion of Congress and
 new Rules - Regulations were
 enacted for Teachers by the
 so called National Board
 of Education soon afterwards
 which evoked great wrath &
 helped to create National
 Spirit.

Yes, I do not think how Dr
 O'Hakerty was in the College that
 time.

17. Paul J. O'Connell
 18. O'Connell J. H. O'Connell
 19. no guide on the part
 of the section Mac O'Connell

ORIGINAL

CILLBEAGNAIG,

Na Creaga,

Rorcomáin.

Appendix C

12. 7. 1949

A Seon Cara Sí

Mar tu fear, a zomair,

Za ma Cuinnse Lag onais, se

Sílun go Raib iad seo ann:

To Timothy Shearney

To John Hyndes

To Tom Kelly

To Bernard Cochrane

To Paddy Forder

To Michael Connolly

To Malachy MacBennan?

Sílun gur be To B Currid a Raib

mar uicéaróir den Coláiste ontais

úd. hil fios a gann cé be uicéaróir

ar den I.N.T.O. an la sin. ba léir duit

ceist a cur ar an Cuinnse Malachy

mar hílun Cinnse an Raib se ann.

Za Cuinnse Currid na Comhábair

- I m-beob-na mbeoite an t-áit

15 deas ó ai Herdt on molo

Sm! go dunnin is loðson

a bí ogus oca a tobairt

Comynon dom sa.

Beer buand 7 beannac

ort xes or do beon Celf

BRION Ó RÍOICÁIN SP?

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY FT.

BURO. STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 283

It Happened In Sligo

Town

By Seamus MacManus

FOR sake of peace among future historians, now should be settled this highly important question.

The writer of this invaluable footnote to history herewith throws his hat in the ring, and against all pretenders asserts his claim. His immediate urge to this challenge arises from the recent request of the Bureau of Military History who wanted his memories of "The Beginnings"—of the times half-a-century ago when the handful of Spademen were Ishmaelites—"traitors in the pay of Dublin Castle," anathematised by "The Party," the papers, and alas, by many of the people for whom they were spending themselves. How many now alive remember the furore created by "The Sligo Incident"?

In one of the first years of this century the Teachers' Annual Congress (I.N.T.O.) was held in Sligo. It would end with a banquet. The newly-elected President, a Protestant Unionist named Hazlett, would preside. The Craobhin was the guest of honour. P. A. McHugh, M.P., Mayor of Sligo, also Father Kieity, President of Summerhill College, were the other two. Among the guests were some young clerics and a few laymen, including the present writer. Immediately we were seated, this writer lifting the printed programme discovered to his horror (for he was hungry) that the first toast was the health of "The King" (presumably the king of the neighbouring island). The violent gasp for breath that he gave drew the attention of his neighbours—to whom he pointed out (for of course he was unable to speak) the calamity that impended. There was hurried consultation. A delegation of three went to Mr. Hazlett at the table's head, and with brazen impudence demanded that the disloyal item be dropped, or we must go. Perturbed, he begged that we resume our seats and he would satisfy us. Unionist Hazlett called the Nationalist head of the local committee, and told him the toast should be cancelled.

He (the Nationalist) nervously pointed out that the sudden cancelling of a toast had been first on their programme; from time immemorial would ruin the I.N.T.O. Very well, we said, our friends and selves would take our leave. But first we spoke to the Craobhin who, disturbed and perplexed, decided. When we're reaching the toast I'll slip off and smoke a cigar. Eight or ten of us, a solid block seated to left of the President, arose and marched for the exit, creating a sensation.

P. A. McHugh begged us to come back, to eat our dinner and turn down our glass when the offence was reached. Pig-headed, the recalcitrants refused all compromise and marched out. Among them the writer recalls: Fathers Tom Kelly, Michael Connolly, Pát Forde, John Hynes (President-to-be of Galway University),

Malachy (now Canon) MacBrennan; Brian (now Canon) Crehan; Tomás Ban O Concannon (only the latter three have, so far, eluded Heaven). Father Forde juggled off the hungry vagabond gang to the College where the prodigals were fed.

AFTER we had partially stilled our stomach's craving, we formed ourselves into a Committee representing the citizens of Ireland, and formally declared Ireland a Republic. And we elected the first Ministry. To his everlasting glory, this writer was, by vociferous acclamation that still sweetly rings in his egotistical ear, chosen President. Father Malachy MacBrennan, who for some months, had been harrying the (anti-Gaelic) Post Office and the papers, with complaints about mishandling of his Irish-addressed letters, was naturally made Postmaster-General. Tomás O'Concannon, who, with his bicycle, had planted a Gaelic League branch in more than half the parishes of Ireland, Minister of Education—and the remaining portfolios as appropriately distributed.

We were to learn that, back in the Banquet Hall, when the time approached for stimulating His August Majesty's health, a large number, following the

Craobhin and Father Kieity, took a walk, a much larger number, turned down their glasses and remained seated, saying "Seats! Seats!" to the small body who stood up with the President—whereupon part of the standees, frightened, flopped, while other part, liking to carry water on both shoulders, crouched—the poor President gave "The King!" hastily threw his drink at his throat, and cried for the Vice-President to propose the next toast, "Ireland!"

Next morning the papers of two kingdoms—one Republic and Our Dominions beyond the Seas—were in mourning for the impious insult inflicted upon the head of an Empire on which the sun had not till last night, begun setting.

There was storm in the House of Commons; and in the painfully shocked Lords, Lord Oranmore asked to be informed if a ring-leader in the unspeakable happening, a person by name of MacManus, was a National Teacher living upon bounty.

Thirteen and ninepence happened a week, videlicet, from His Majesty's Government—and was told, to the great relief of their horrified lordships, that the individual named by the noble lord was no longer in His Majesty's service. Alas!

THE President of the I.N.T.O. resigned his high post.

The Commissioner of National Education issued to the press a circular expressing their horror, and, further, their condemnation of the whole I.N.T.O.—of those who actively exhibited disloyalty and of those who had failed to repudiate the disloyalty of their fellowes. They ordered that every school in Ireland should paste the condemnation on front page of all roll-books. The Resident Commissioner slammed his door in face of a deputation from the I.N.T.O., and announced that he would never again receive deputations from such a disloyal body. As this chronicler's very first Inspector had reported—what all succeeding Inspectors gladly confirmed to his worried Manager—"This man is a fomenter of discontent, disorder and disloyalty—a positive menace to every community on which, even temporarily, he inflicts his presence," the Commissioners now showed they had been raking up the villains records, for they issued a circular warning every teacher in the land that "henceforth severe punishment will be summarily dealt upon any teacher who is found to be a fomenter of disorder and disloyalty in his community."

Finally it was decided by the worried teachers that during the period of all future I.N.T.O. Congresses, banquet included, they must beg of His Imperial Majesty to take care of his own health. And so it has since remained.

Excerpt from "Irish Press" 23/8/49.

Page 4, Cols 4, 5, 6 + 7.

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